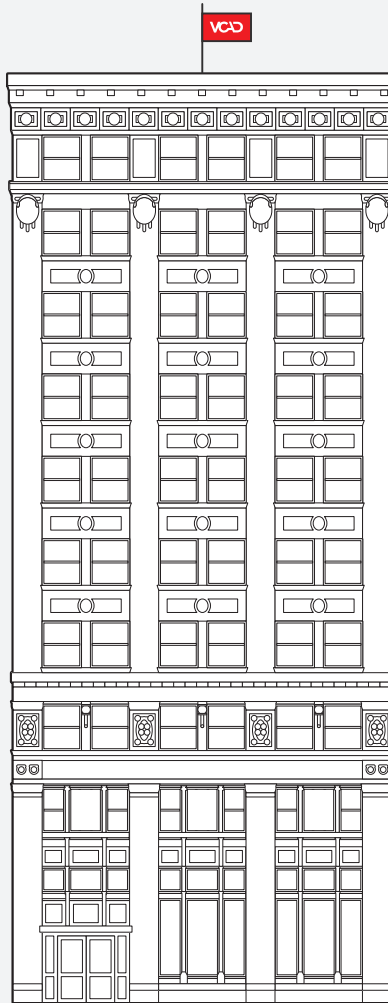


# Student Handbook

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**VCA**

**VISUAL  
COLLEGE  
OF ART AND  
DESIGN**  
OF VANCOUVER



# Student Handbook (Online)

Effective August 1, 2020  
Replaced all previous versions.  
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## **Welcome!**

From our admission process right through to our employment support after graduation, we strive to provide our students with a meaningful educational experience. It is this dedication that gives our graduates the competitive edge in the workplace.

Once you begin your studies, you will become aware of how our learning process will stimulate engage, and challenge you to succeed. You will build an impressive skill set in your area of study and gain the interpersonal expertise that will help make you successful.

Our programs are designed to reflect the requirements of the employers in your chosen career field. Throughout your studies, you will work in ways that will mirror what you will find in the workplace. When you complete your program, you will be ready to begin your career.

At VCAD, you have access to a strong support team that is dedicated to helping you every step of the way.

Your fellow students are also an important part of this team as they are just as serious about their success as you are. Do not hesitate to speak to any of these people if you need help. We are all here for one reason – your success!

We congratulate you on making the commitment to further your education and achieve your career goals. We wish you success throughout your program and beyond!

## **Mission Statement**

### **Visual College of Art and Design of Vancouver**

*VCAD provides accessible, innovative and industry driven education and training that serves the needs of our local communities, by preparing graduates for rewarding careers in the areas of art and design.*

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## **About This Handbook**

This Handbook contains important information about the academic policies of the College as well as the services provided to you while you are a student at the College. It is an excellent source for information about what is expected of you while you are attending school and the steps that can be followed to ensure your success.

Every effort has been made to ensure the Handbook is accurate as of the date of publication. The Handbook is periodically reviewed and updated as necessary to reflect current academic and operational policies and procedures. Changes are effective when made.

Please take time to read this Handbook and ensure that you have signed the last page of this document and returned a copy to the College.

## ACADEMIC POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

### Admissions

#### *Admissions Policy*

All applicants are required to follow a formal application procedure. The application process includes an interview with an Assistant Director of Admission; meeting with a financial administrator, validation that the applicant meets the program admission requirements, and signing of a formal enrolment agreement.

At all times the College is responsible for providing prospective students with accurate information about the programs it offers so that the student can make informed decisions. Admission is based upon the applicant's meeting the prescribed program admissions requirements.

The Campus Director approves admissions to programs

Students are required to provide all of the required documentation to confirm that the student meets the specific program admissions requirements, including proof of age, high school completion, etc.

#### *Admissions Process*

1. **Interview with Assistant Director of Admission:** It is important that the applicants interview and have the opportunity to explore their education and career expectations. Therefore, applicants are interviewed by an Assistant Director of Admission as part of the application process.
2. **Meeting Financial Administrator:** The student must meet with the Financial Administrator. Financial Administrators are trained to assess the students understanding of the financial challenges that face adult learners and to ensure that the student understands the responsibilities that arise from funding study by way of student loan.
3. **Admissions Requirements:** To ensure students have the basic knowledge, skills, and abilities to be successful, each program has established minimum admissions/entrance requirements that must be met in order for the student to be approved for admission. The minimum admission/entrance requirements cannot be waived by either the student or the institution. Specific programs may have additional admission requirements. Admissions/entrance requirements must be met by all students in order to gain admission to any program. The College does not represent or imply that students are guaranteed a job or in the case of international students a work permit on graduation.
4. **Student Enrolment Agreement:** A written Enrolment Agreement conforming to regulatory requirements must be signed by the student and/or by a parent or guardian if the applicant is a minor (not reached the age of 19 in British Columbia). The student must receive a copy of the Enrolment Agreement with the Campus Director's signature once the student has been accepted into the program.

#### *English Language Assessment Policy*

All applicants to the College must demonstrate that they are proficient in the English language in order to be successful in their training. If English was not the applicant's first language (where he/she were educated in another language) and a specific requirement of English proficiency is specified in the individual program, the applicant will need to meet the minimum English Language Proficiency standard as outlined for that individual program admissions requirements.

#### *Accommodations for Students with Disabilities*

The College has an institutional commitment to provide equal educational opportunities for qualified students with disabilities in accordance with provincial and federal laws and regulations, including the Human Rights legislation enacted federally and in each Province.

To provide equality of access for students with disabilities, the college will provide accommodations and auxiliary aids and services to the extent necessary to comply with provincial and federal laws. For each student, these accommodations and services will specifically address the functional limitations of the disability that adversely affect equal educational opportunity.

The Campus Director or his/her delegate shall be responsible for assisting qualified students with disabilities in securing appropriate accommodations, auxiliary aids and services, with the guidance and support of Student Services Office.

The student bears the responsibility of notifying the Campus Director of a disability upon admission. Once the student identifies the specific academic accommodations, auxiliary aids and/or services and discusses them with the Campus Director or his/her delegate, the student will be asked to provide the Director with appropriate documentation to support the request. This documentation from an appropriate professional should reflect the student's present level of disability and how the disability reflects the student's needs in the school's setting. The Director has discretion to determine what type of professional documentation is necessary, and this may vary depending on the nature and extent of the disability and the accommodation, auxiliary aid and/or services requested.

In the event the Director or designee thinks it is appropriate to obtain a second professional opinion concerning the nature and extent of the disability, the College will bear the cost of obtaining that second opinion not covered by the third party payer. The Director will promptly evaluate the request for accommodation once the documentation is received.

Appropriate accommodations, auxiliary aids and/or services are determined following an individualized assessment of each request and discussion between the student and the Campus Director. The Director, in consultation with the Student Services Office, will consider the following factors in determining appropriate accommodations, auxiliary aids and/or services:

- The nature of the student's disability.
- Accommodations, auxiliary aids and/or services that have worked for that student in the past.
- Whether the requested accommodations, auxiliary aids and/or services will allow the student effectively to access and participate in the course or program.
- Whether the requested accommodation, auxiliary aids and/or services will alter the essential requirements of the course or program.
- The school is not required to alter or modify a course or program to the extent that it changes the fundamental nature of that course or program.

The Campus Director or his/her delegate receiving the request for an accommodation, auxiliary aid or service shall provide the student who made the request with written notification of the determination of the request (along with the effective date of any accommodation, auxiliary aid and/or service) within a reasonable time period.

If a situation should arise where the Director needs additional time to assess a request or in providing accommodation, auxiliary aid and/or service, he or she will provide the student with written notification of the status of the request and the proposed date of determination.

### **Attendance**

The College expects regular and punctual class attendance. Punctuality is as important as good attendance. Students are expected to attend every class session, in accordance with their contractual agreement. Student absences will be recorded from the first day the class meets. In case of an absence, it is the student's responsibility to notify the college before the start of classes on the day of absence. The student is also responsible for notifying the third party funder, if applicable, of the absence.

Online students are required to sign into the MyCampus LMS daily. Activity less than 30 minutes will not be counted towards attendance. In addition, online students must complete the required 20 hours or more of work per week and



complete courses as scheduled. Online Students that are unable to complete the required hours per week must contact your instructor immediately.

When a student is unable to attend class, they must demonstrate that there have been unanticipated, extenuating, and mitigating circumstances, which prevented their attendance. These circumstances generally involve illness, personal emergencies, and death in the immediate family. Absences based on illness must be accompanied by a doctor's note, without exception. All absences are recorded regardless of the reason for the absence.

### **ATTENDANCE POLICY**

If a student is going to be absent for any class, they must inform the instructor and Student Services via email. Supporting documents (doctor's note travel documents, etc.) will be required.

Any student who misses four (4) classes (16 hours) of any course will be dismissed from the course and must obtain permission from the College to resume studies.

Students are reminded to pay attention to their myVCAD email accounts for any warnings.

**Note:** Students are required to attend all scheduled classes regularly, including make-up sessions. From time to time, class or work experience schedules may be adjusted to address changing or unexpected circumstances including the temporary interruption of service. In order to ensure students have achieved the required hours of instruction, outcomes, and/or to address an unexpected interruption of studies, the end date of a program may be adjusted accordingly or other schedule accommodation may be made to ensure students receive the required program and contact hours.

#### *Attendance Warnings*

Students whose absences exceed 10% of the total hours of the program of study (including the hours allocated to job search and work experience will be warned in writing.

Students whose absences exceed 15% of the total hours of the program of study (including the hours allocated to job search and work experience will be placed on probation and will be subject to conditions if they wish to continue study.

Students whose absences exceed 20% of the total hours of the program of study (including the hours allocated to job search and work experience) will be dismissed from the College.

The College will place a student on probation should there be a regular routine of poor attendance, particularly where poor attendance is coupled with poor academic performance and/or failure to maintain course completion dates.

#### *Student Loans and Third-Party funding*

The College may be required to report any attendance irregularities to funding agencies. These agencies include the provincial Student Loan Office, Worker's Compensation Board, Human Resources Skills Development Canada (EI), and private insurers. Students funded by any of these agencies may be subject to further attendance requirements imposed by the funder. Poor attendance may affect a student's eligibility for funding. Each province has specific attendance percentages and/or time frames. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of the regulations in their province.

A progress report must be completed and submitted monthly for those student funded by HRSDC. The Student Services/Financial Aid Coordinator or delegate is responsible for completing this report and faxing it to the appropriate case manager on or just before the due date. A copy is to be put into each student's Administrative File.

Students who are funded by student loans and who fail to comply with student loan attendance requirements shall be

withdrawn from eligibility for continued student loan funding. For students receiving HRSDC/LMDA, WCB/WSIB, Private Insurers, or other benefits, or who are funded by an agency that requires the reporting of attendance, attendance warnings, and probation shall be reported to the funding agency and may result in the termination of benefits.

Termination of benefits from a funding agency or student loan funding does not constitute dismissal from the College or program. The student may continue in a program of study if s/he can demonstrate an ability to pay tuition without the assistance of funding and if s/he has not contravened the sections of this policy and procedure requiring dismissal.

#### *Interruption of Studies*

If for any reason a student interrupts their studies by being absent from scheduled classes for more than five (5) consecutive days or by missing a scheduled examination, they must meet with the Campus Director or Designee. Non-attendance does not constitute notice of withdrawal. The College will consider only two reasons as valid for interruption of studies:

1. Medical Reasons - The student must provide a physician's note attesting to the illness and stating the dates that the student was required to be away from college.
2. Compassionate Reasons - The student must provide a letter explaining the circumstances surrounding the absence. A compassionate reason for absence must meet the definition "a suddenly-arising situation beyond the control of the student."

Re-admission will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Students must submit a written letter to the Campus Director or designee requesting re-admission. The student will be responsible for payment of all fees relating to college up to and including the date of termination in accordance with the Refund Policy. Students may not be able to resume their program where they left. The student's scheduling and/or completion dates may also be changed as a result.

#### *Resumption of Studies*

Students who have interrupted their studies by an absence of five or more consecutive days or by missing a scheduled examination must obtain permission to resume classes. Students should make an appointment for a formal interview with the Campus Director or designee as soon as they are sure of their return date.

Students must be in good financial and academic standing in order to be re-admitted. If proper notice was not given of the absence, a student may be re-admitted under probationary terms. An exception may be made if the student has a valid reason for the absence.

### **Attendance Requirements as per Funding Body**

#### *British Columbia*

Students receiving BC Student Loans are considered withdrawn if they:

- a. Miss two consecutive calendar weeks of study (with the exception of the year-end break when schools are permitted to close for up to 3 weeks at the end of the calendar year).
- b. Drop below 60% attendance for 3 consecutive calendar weeks of study.
- c. Have missed sufficient days/hours that they can no longer successfully complete the program within the ministry-approved study period.

#### *Alberta*

As a student, you will be withdrawn based on the following external and internal policies:

Student Aid Alberta requires private educational institutions to withdraw students who have missed 5 consecutive days without contacting the College. As a student, you must contact the College and provide documentation either before or during the absence detailing the reason for absence. Moreover, absences must be deemed as

reasonable based on the excuse, as defined by Student Aid Alberta. If you miss 5 consecutive days without contacting the College with a reasonable excuse, Student Aid Alberta must be notified of your withdrawal and will result in immediate termination of funding. The date of determination for withdrawal will be the 1st day of the 5 unexcused absence days. For example, if a student is absent from Monday to Friday, the withdrawal date will be taken as the Monday.

- Regardless of College approved absences (reasonable excuses) if you have missed 10 consecutive days, Student Aid Alberta will be notified of your withdrawal and this will result in the immediate termination of your funding. The date of determination for withdrawal will be the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the 10 unexcused absence days.
- During your time as a student, should you have excessive absences that prevent you from successfully completing your program within the scheduled study period (by the contractual end date), Student Aid Alberta will be notified of your withdrawal and will result in immediate termination of funding. In this case, the effective date of your withdrawal is the last day that you were in attendance.

When a student is unable to attend class, they must demonstrate that there have been unanticipated, extenuating, and mitigating circumstances, which prevented their attendance. Excused absences include personal illness or illness of a close family member when the attention of the student is required, death of an immediate family member, accident or other unforeseen circumstances making it impossible for a student to attend class, funeral, personal appointments for acute or preventative health care, and court appearances. Excused absences must be accompanied by written proof upon returning to the College. All absences are recorded regardless of the reason for the absence.

Please note: this excuse must be presented before the absences or during the 5 consecutive class days missed. (If you provide a reasonable excuse after the College has reported you as withdrawn because of missing 5 days, funding may be reinstated as long as you will still be able to complete studies by the original end date listed on your application).

#### *Manitoba*

Students receiving Manitoba Student Aid are considered as a withdrawal if they have been absent for more than a cumulative absentee rate of 10% of the total class hours per course regardless of the reason. The minimum attendance requirement is 90%.

#### *Ontario*

All students receiving OSAP or other provincial loans are required to adhere to applicable OSAP regulations and conditions, including active participation and satisfactory scholastic progress. Students will be disqualified from eligibility for OSAP or government loans and withdrawn from loan arrangements if they are absent for more than five (5) days. Withdrawal from OSAP eligibility is automatic and does not require written notification. In addition, all students receiving OSAP must achieve satisfactory scholastic progress at their institution (a minimum of 65 per cent in each course) while maintaining all of the conditions stated above.

#### *Quebec*

Students are expected to adhere to the Active Participation Policy and to attend all scheduled classes as anticipated in the Enrollment Contract in order to achieve the learning objectives of their program of study. Regardless of reason, every absence is counted. Every campus maintains daily attendance records and the College staff may verify student attendance at any time during the student's scheduled College hours.

Students who must be absent due to illness or personal emergencies must call the College on the day that they are absent stating the reason for the absence and the anticipated date of return. Students are expected to advise their Instructors in advance if they know they will be away.

The College is required to report any attendance irregularities to funding agencies. The student must be aware that verification of attendance is required by certain professional associations or funding providers. These agencies

include the Quebec Financial Aid, Emploi Québec, Service Canada (EI), private insurers and professional associations. **Absence from College for any reason may affect a student's funding or certification eligibility.**

#### *Maximum Time Frame*

The maximum time frame for all instructor lead programs is defined in terms of the scheduled length of time to complete each program. The maximum time allowed to complete the required number of credit hours is equal to that of 150% of the regular class schedule.

- A program running 48 weeks, a student may complete the program in 72 weeks.
- A program running 60 weeks, a student may complete the program in 90 weeks.
- A program running 72 weeks a student may complete the program in 108 weeks.

Determining the percentage of the total units attempted that were successfully completed monitors incremental progress. Students must demonstrate at least 100% completion rate in order to graduate without exceeding the maximum permissible number of attempts. The time lapsed during an authorized leave of absence is not considered when calculating the maximum time frame. Funding agencies will be notified of any extensions that go beyond expected end dates.

#### **Cheating and Plagiarism**

Cheating is the purposeful, willful, and concealed use of unauthorized sources for a test, exam, or other forms of academic work. The College enforces a zero-tolerance cheating and plagiarism policy. Any student who cheats or plagiarizes material for academic grading will be penalized. This generally means that they will be expelled from the College.

Cheating is any act of academic dishonesty.

Plagiarism is the act of representing someone else's work as your own.

Acts or behaviors, which constitute cheating, include, but are not limited to, the definitions listed below:

1. Submitting the same work or part of the same work, for credit in two different courses without the prior agreement of the instructors involved;
1. Bringing (and using) unauthorized and/or concealed materials/aids into a test or exam situation. (Aids include, but are not limited to, calculators, electronic organizers, cell phones, cameras, crib notes, notes, books, electronic recording devices, photocopied materials, etc.).
2. Presenting oneself as another student for a class, test, or exam;
3. Unauthorized sharing of material (copying, or allowing others to copy) during a test or exam.
4. Unauthorized communication with another student in a test or exam;
5. Submitting another person's work as your own, or providing work for another person to submit as his/her own;
6. Falsifying or misrepresenting academic records;
7. Gaining, or attempting to gain access to an examination or test, or a part thereof, without permission from the instructor;
8. Deliberately preventing, or attempting to prevent, the fair access by other students to all types of learning resources;
9. The act of copying for the purpose of providing advantage to yourself or another student will not be tolerated. (Copying is defined as any act of duplicating or reproducing information from another student by any means to obtain advantage for you. The methods used could be visual, oral, notes, printed matter or electronic means.)
10. Plagiarism includes using another person's essential style and manner of expression. Any act of representing others' work as your own is a dishonest act. This includes, but is not limited to, homework, written papers, exams, lab assignments, published work, circuit design, software, etc. This includes copyrighted materials. Students should give credit explicitly and clearly, as well as appropriate reference, to ideas, thoughts, and writings of another, whether the source is oral, from a written source such as books or journal articles, or from the Internet. By not placing direct quotes in quotation marks and footnoting the source, and by not footnoting indirect reference

to another's ideas, a student has disguised the fact that the ideas and thoughts, or even exact words, come from another source first. (When in doubt, consult with the Instructor for the course.);

11. Collaboration is the act of two or more students working jointly on any assignment when the Instructor has not permitted this act. This may include, but is not limited to, homework, papers completed outside of class hours, in-class assignments, lab exercises or reports. Collaboration also includes writing an assignment or paper for another student;
12. Theft or solicitation of another student's assignment or paper, grade books, unadministered tests or other academic work/material will result in immediate expulsion; and
13. Intentionally helping or attempting to help another student to commit any act of academic dishonesty.

Violations that threaten the academic integrity of the College may be subject to disciplinary action as described in the Disciplinary Process. Sanctions may include but are not limited to:

- Award of zero marks for the piece of work or examination;
- Award of a fail grade for the whole course;
- Academic Probation;
- Suspension;
- Expulsion.

Student appeals can be made in writing, in accordance with the Dispute Resolution Policy.

### **Student Services**

Students can also seek assistance from Student Services Coordinators. The Student Services Coordinator plays an important role in keeping the student body positive, informed and engaged. They deliver new student orientation, plan campus life activities and other non-academic issues that may arise. For any concerns or suggestions relating to your classes, schedules, school events, and general academic inquiries, students are encouraged to reach out to Student Services.

### **Tutoring**

Student Tutoring drop-in sessions are free to any VCAD student. Tutors can help students enhance their study skills, improve their grades and deepen their understanding of course material.

### **Guest Speakers**

Each term, VCAD invites several Guest Speakers from various industries who conduct workshops for our students. These are free lectures, and information about upcoming guest speakers will be included in the weekly student newsletter

### **Accessibility Services**

VCAD provides accommodations to qualified students requiring accessibility services. The Student Services Department assists qualified students requiring accessibility services in acquiring reasonable and appropriate accommodations and in supporting equal access to services, programs, and activities at VCAD. Students who seek reasonable accommodations should notify the Academic Advisor of their specific limitations and, if known, their specific requested accommodations. Students will be asked to supply medical documentation of the need for accommodation. Classroom accommodations are not retroactive, but are effective only upon the student sharing approved accommodations with the instructor. Therefore, students are encouraged to request accommodations as early as feasible with the Academic Advisor to allow for time to gather necessary documentation.

### **Student Support Program**

As of April 16, 2020, all students currently registered in a B.C. post-secondary institution have access to free, confidential counselling and community referral service, conveniently available 24/7 via app, by phone (1-877-857-3397) and online at [Here2Talk.ca](https://www.here2talk.ca).

Here2Talk is a Government of B.C. initiative that connects post-secondary students in B.C. with mental health support when you need it. No appointment needed.

Here2Talk aims to support overall wellbeing and mental health by providing students with the following:

- **24/7 support.** Confidential emotional support, including crisis intervention, available night and day via phone and chat.
- **Experienced professionals.** Access to counsellors who have experience dealing with the common challenges faced by students.
- **No appointment needed.** Call in or start a chat via app or web.
- **Free to students.** Access to professional mental health and wellbeing support at no additional charge for students currently registered with a B.C post-secondary institution.

Here2Talk can help address common student concerns such as:

- Tensions with family members, friends, or instructors
- Feelings of isolation, loneliness or depression
- Stress, anxiety, frustration, or uncertainty related to studies or post-grad plans
- Creating balance between competing personal and academic priorities
- Building better communication and time management skills
- Adapting to a new campus culture, learning style or city
- Referrals to more specialized resources within your community

### **Student Association**

VCAD encourages and supports student leadership through the Student Association. The purpose of the Student Association is to: provide a forum to discuss student issues, facilitate the exchange of ideas and information among students, act as a liaison between students, faculty, and administration; support school clubs and work collaboratively with these organizations, provide leadership opportunities for students within the school, promote school spirit among the student body, and create a sense of connectedness with the school that will result in student success.

### **Student Clubs, Organizations, and Activities**

VCAD encourages students to get involved by contributing to the development of the school culture. There are clubs to join and opportunities to suggest ideas for new clubs or to become a club leader.

### **Career Services**

The Career Services Program is available to students who graduate from their program of study for a period of up to **six months** from their program completion date. In order to be eligible for this assistance, students must have fully participated in the Graduation Exhibition. To remain compliant with the Regulator the College cannot guarantee any student employment after completion.

The College may assist graduates in finding employment by:

1. Presenting Career and Employment Strategies workshops. Completion of this workshop may be a graduation requirement;
2. Assisting with the preparation of personal marketing tools such as resumes, cover letters, business cards, thank you letters and Internet profiles;
3. Coaching in interview skills and self-directed employer contact;
4. Photocopying and printing of personal marketing tools subject to College policy;
5. Providing access to computer equipment for job readiness and job search activities.

The College expects that graduates who are seeking employment with the assistance of the Employment Specialist will:

1. Maintain regular contact with the Employment Specialist at pre-arranged intervals;
2. Have current and approved personal marketing tools on file with the Career Services Department;
3. Be actively marketing themselves and not relying solely on the College;
4. Be striving to develop employer contacts;

5. Be regularly attending group sessions arranged by the College.

Note: Career Services for online students are conducted remotely.

### **Copyright**

Campuses comply with the copyright laws as applied to educational institutions. The use of and/or photocopying of copyrighted material in violation of the copyright laws by instructors, students, alumni and staff is prohibited. This standard applies to printed, software, audio, video materials and web-based information.

Canadian copyright legislation states that only the creator or rights-holder has the right to reproduce his or her own work. Copyrighted works include but are not limited to: documents, graphics, sounds, video, and software on company computer systems or from the Internet.

### **Course Drops/Withdrawals**

The College's policy on withdrawals and refunds adheres to the guidelines provided by the regulatory bodies governing within that province. Students wishing to withdraw from study must meet with a Student Services Representative, and submit a letter of withdrawal delivered via email or by registered mail to the Campus Director stating the reason for withdrawal and withdrawal date. A copy of the letter will be retained in the student's administrative file.

If a student ceases to attend the College without providing written notice of withdrawal, the College will consider the student absent. In accordance with Student Loans and funding agency requirements, the student's absence will be reported as "withdrawn". Please see the section above that pertains to your province.

### **Course Repeat Procedure**

It is important to note that each course/module within a program of study must be successfully completed in order to achieve graduation. For some students it may be necessary to repeat a course during their program. Not all programs allow students to repeat a course and some externally regulated programs have specific repeat policies. Students are allowed to repeat a failed course twice to a maximum of three (3) attempts per course. Externally regulated programs may have different requirements; see the student handbook for those programs. Should the student fail a course they may receive the first repeat at no cost. Subsequent attempt will be charged the full cost of the course, as well as any other incidental cost. The Campus Director will make a determination based on the circumstances.

Students may only repeat a course if class space is available (courses requiring an outside examination are excluded). All repeated courses will appear on the student's academic transcript; however, only the most recent attempt will count toward their grade point averages. Please remember that repeating a course is a privilege that the student must earn. The repeating of a course is permitted if a student meets the conditions outlined below. All conditions must be met:

1. Complete an interview with the Campus Director, Student Services Representative, or designee;
2. The student has demonstrated good attendance;
3. The student has been punctual for class;
4. The student has demonstrated significant effort;
5. The student has completed all the requirements for the course and simply was unable to achieve a passing score on the first attempt;
6. The student has met all other graduation requirements.

### **E-Resources and Materials**

Students will be granted an access license to e-resources, which includes e-books that may be subject to an expiration date. Once any course has been attended all e-books related to that course become non-refundable.

Note: E-book(s) for each course will be made available on the first day of class after attendance has been taken. If you have trouble accessing your e-book(s) please contact your campus Student Services

The course materials, e-books and resources for students are accessible through the college's LMS. Students are responsible for ensuring that their devices are in proper working order and that they are fully charged before the start of each school day.

Students' programs may include the use of e-copy textbooks and learning guides, as needed. The College reserves the right to make changes to the adopted text or to the text edition or version used at any time. As with any material, errors may occur in textbooks and learning guides used by the College. The College makes every effort to identify errors and provide errata to students. In the event that errors are discovered in internally generated textbooks or learning guides, the College has a protocol for correction. If errors are discovered, the instructor should be advised.

All students and instructors receive an organizational email address as well as access to the Learning Management System (LMS) and all related course e-resources. When communicating with other students or staff, all students are required to use only the email address provided.

### Device Requirements

Students require high speed internet to access courses. Devices will be made available for students.

Note: For online student technical assistance please contact your Student Services Administrator. The Student Services Administrator will assist with e-textbook access, LMS MyCampus login, and other online course resource assistance.

*The Student Service Administrator does not provide assistance for issues relating to student devices or internet connection.*

### Grading

The College uses a letter grade or percentage to indicate academic performance. Students are given a letter grade for each course and work experience completed or attempted. Grading may be based on assignments, projects, and examinations. All grades are available for student review by request; however, we strongly encourage students to keep track of the grades they receive in order to resolve any discrepancies that may arise. Individual courses may have different passing requirements. Students should ensure that they understand what is required for each course.

Descriptor	Percentage	Letter Grade	Grade Point Value
Excellent	90-100%	A+	4.0
	85-89%	A	4.0
	80-84%	A-	3.7
Good	76-79%	B+	3.3
	72-75%	B	3.0
	68-71%	B-	2.7
Satisfactory	64-67%	C+	2.3
	60-63%	C	2.0
	55-59%	C-	1.7
	50-54%	D	1.0
Failure	0-49%	F	0

Non-Grade Point Designations \*

P – Pass

W – Withdrawal



I – Incomplete

IP - In progress

*\* Not calculated in grade point average, unless specified otherwise.*

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### Pass (P)

A “Pass” grade is given for students who successfully complete a course that is designated by only a pass or fail mark (i.e. Practicum). A “Pass” grade is given for students who successfully completed an accredited course that is transferrable to their program upon entry into the college. A “P” grade counts toward graduation but is not factored into the cumulative GPA.

### Withdrawal (W)

Students who withdraw before 33% of the course has elapsed will receive a grade of “W” (Withdrawal), which will not be factored into the cumulative grade point average.

### Fail (F)

Students who do not complete all required components of a course, or who receive an average of less than 65% in a course will receive a fail. Students who withdraw beyond 33% of a course or who do not complete all of the required assignments in any course will be given an “F” or an “I” at the discretion of the Director of Education.

### Incomplete (I)

An “Incomplete” grade will not be factored into the cumulative grade point average and does not remain on the student transcript provided all required assignments are satisfactorily completed within 30 days after the course has ended. Should an “Incomplete” be left unresolved past 30 days, it will automatically become an “F” and remain on the transcript.

### In Progress (IP)

An “In Progress” notation is given for students who are in the process of completing a course or program component at the time of the transcript issue.

All final grades should be submitted by the instructor 72 hours after the last day of class.

### *Grade Disputes*

Students who feel they have received an erroneous grade must appeal that grade to their instructor a maximum of three (3) business days after the start of the following term. If the student and instructor do not reach a resolution, the student may appeal to the Academic Director of their program. The Academic Director, after consultation with the instructor and student, will make a determination. The student, if still unhappy with the decision, may appeal in writing to the Education Coordinator, who will make the determination.

The student, if still dissatisfied may then follow the steps outlined in the Dispute Resolution Policy in the Student Handbook, beginning with a written appeal to the Campus Director.

### *Appealing Academic Termination*

Any student wishing to appeal an academic termination may do so in writing to the Campus Director. The student must submit a letter to the Campus Director within ten (10) days of the dismissal letter. The written appeal must state the mitigating circumstances that contributed to the termination. The written appeal must be supported with appropriate documentation of the mitigating circumstances and an explanation on how the circumstances have been remedied or changed. The Campus Director will review a student’s appeal and determine whether the student’s circumstance(s) and academic status warrant consideration for reinstatement or some other determination. The Campus Director will report to the student by letter up to ten (10) days of receipt of the student’s letter of appeal. The time necessary may be longer if the appeal is of a complex nature. Where the

Campus Director upholds the decision to academically terminate a student, the student may request the Coordinator of Student Relations & Regulatory Affairs review the matter. The outcome of this appeal process is considered final.

Examples of mitigating circumstances include death in the immediate family, hospitalization of a student, documented medical problems, and other special circumstances such as independently documented work-related transfers, natural disasters, and family emergencies. Mitigating circumstances are generally events that are outside the student's control and are unavoidable.

A student who is granted an appeal may be reinstated and, if otherwise eligible, receive financial aid; however, the student will be placed on probation for that semester.

#### *Re-entry after Academic Termination*

A student terminated for violating the policies must appeal in writing to the Campus Director for re-entry before the start of the term in which s/he wishes to return. In addition, any student who ceased attendance and whose grades in the last semester of attendance caused him or her to meet the minimum standards must go through the same appeal process. The appeal procedure described in the preceding section applies.

If the appeal is granted, the re-entering student will be placed on probation during the term of return. The student must meet the minimum standards required to continue in the program. The student must successfully retake courses previously failed so that the recalculated GPA and successful completion percentage meets or exceeds the minimum requirements. Some form of academic evaluation must be conducted by the Campus Director to determine that the student has the desire and the academic ability to progress satisfactorily in the program. A student is allowed one and only one re-entry appeal after being academically terminated.

#### *Honors*

The College wishes to acknowledge those students who achieve excellence in their schooling. Recognition of academic excellence is by way of an Honors diploma. Graduating students achieving a program overall average of 90% will earn an Honors distinction.

#### **Graduation**

Graduation ceremonies are held at least annually and semi-annually in some locations. In order to receive an invitation to participate in the Graduation Ceremony, students must:

- Complete all requirements of the academic program as set out in the program outline by the graduation cut-off date;
- Ensure that all tuition and other fees have been paid in full.

#### ***VCAD Graduation Requirements***

- Successful completion of all program courses with a CGPA of 2.0
- Successful submission of an industry standard professional portfolio to be presented at the quarterly Graduation Exhibition.

#### **Homework**

It is understandable that students will have other responsibilities, obligations and commitments while in school. It is important, however, that students do not lose sight of their academic goals.

In addition to attending school as scheduled, students are required to complete additional hours of personal study time.

As in any business environment, effective performance requires planning and consistent execution. Students are expected to make effective use of their time by preparing for their "workday" in advance. Homework may consist

of reviewing course material completed that day, making notes, completing assignments and preparing for the next day by reading ahead.

Excellent study habits lead to excellent work habits. We encourage students to continually improve their study habits while at the College.

### *Projects and Course Assignments*

Most courses require completion of one or more projects or other assignments. While the requirements for assignments vary widely, all students are expected to present projects and course assignments for marking in a format that would be acceptable in the workplace. The instructor will provide all course requirements.

### **Participation**

The College fosters an environment that closely resembles the work place. We believe that it is important to teach not only academics, but also the attitudes that are required for a successful career.

Students should be prepared to participate in the following ways.

1. Login to the MyCampus LMS daily.
2. Complete all projects, homework, tests, quizzes and exams as assigned and on time.
3. Participate in and contribute to online discussions and live sessions.
4. Be pro-active and responsible for their success and seek help when it is required (i.e. academic, financial, budgeting, guidance, etc.).
5. Demonstrate a commitment to their studies.
6. Progress at a satisfactory rate throughout the program.

### **Recording in the Classroom**

Students need the instructor's permission to record the lesson/lecture. Recording may be permitted solely if the student wishes to record the lesson and use it privately, i.e. not upload or share the recording.

If the student has a disability and needs to record the lesson because of the said disability, he or she has the right to do so according to the regulations agreed upon regarding the disability. Any form of recording cannot take place until the student has completed the Permission to Record Agreement available from the Campus Director, Student Services Coordinator, or Director of Education.

Note: All online live sessions are recorded by the instructor and may be posted to the MyCampus LMS.

### **Prior Learning Policy**

#### *Advanced Standing*

Course credit for up to 50% of a program of study can be credited by way of advanced standing. Advanced standing (transfer credit) is based on credit received for the completion of an equivalent course at another institution.

Advanced Standing may be awarded by meeting the following guidelines:

- Students must submit all transfer documentation pertaining to their program before the first day of class;
- Transfer must be transcript based (original transcripts or certified copy) and supporting documentation must be provided (course description, course outlines, etc.);
- The transcript the student is basing their challenge on must be no more than 12 months old;
- Course equivalency must have been authenticated and signed off by current Instructor who has reviewed the course description of the module;
- Courses that are used to apply for advanced standing must have been awarded a grade of 65% and GPA of 2.0, unless otherwise stated;

- Only non-senior courses can be transferred unless otherwise approved by the Campus Director upon consultation with the Program Coordinator or Program Head (if applicable);
- It is the student's responsibility to submit the appropriate documents for course transfer.

### *Credit for Prior Learning*

With approval of the Campus Director, up to 30% of a program of study can be credited by way of a Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) at the time of application to a program. Prior learning is defined as skills acquired through self-study or work experience. High school work experience programs are not eligible. Challenge exams must be administered by a College employee, and the results returned to the student within two (2) business days of receiving the application.

Course challenges based on prior learning can only occur for those courses that have a comprehensive final exam. Students may be awarded credit by meeting the following guidelines:

- Students must submit all challenge requests pertaining to their program before the first day of class;
- Advanced level courses cannot be challenged, unless otherwise approved by the Campus Director after consultation with the Program Coordinator or Program Head (if applicable)
- A student may only attempt a challenge examination once per course per program.
- Current industry certification may be acceptable as credit for prior learning.
- The student must receive a grade of 65% or better for a successful challenge.
- It is the student's responsibility to submit the appropriate documents to challenge a course.

There is a \$50 assessment fee for each course for which prior learning is requested. Payment must be made before the assessment will be administered.

### **Standards of Academic Progress**

Students are expected to maintain satisfactory academic progress throughout their program. Programs and courses have minimum passing requirements. Course outlines indicate minimum passing requirements. Be sure you review your course outlines thoroughly.

In the event that a student is not meeting academic or other program requirements, the College uses a process of increased engagement. This process includes, at a minimum, the following four steps:

1. Meeting with the Instructor or other staff member. At this step, the staff member will discuss his or her concerns. The outcome of this discussion will be recorded and the notes placed in the student's file. It is expected that the student will implement agreed upon changes, necessary to ensure that all academic and other program requirements are met. If no change is seen, the staff member will proceed to the next step.
2. Commit to Success Plan or other written action plan. At this step, the Instructor meets with the student to specifically identify the issues that keep the student from meeting academic or other requirements. These issues may include poor attendance, unsatisfactorily completed projects or assignments and so on. Once these issues are identified, the Instructor will work with the student to create an action plan for addressing each of these issues and will set a date for a review of progress. A copy of the document is given to the student with an original is retained in the student's file. The Campus Director is notified that the plan is in place. The student is expected to have adhered to the action plan for improvement and to have shown significant improvement by the scheduled review date. If no change is seen, the College may choose to proceed to the next step.

3. Probation. At this step, the student must meet with the Campus Director or designee. The Campus Director or designee will set out the terms and conditions of probation and will set a review date. A copy of the probation document will be given to the student with an original document is retained in the student's file. On the scheduled date, the student must again meet with the Campus Director or designee to review his or her progress in meeting the terms of probation.
4. Dismissal. In the event that the student has not met all of the terms of probation, the Campus Director may choose to allow the student to continue on probation or withdraw the student from the program. A student's study privileges at the College will immediately cease. Refund Policy would apply.

### **Student Records**

Student records will be maintained on campus. Besides "hard" paper copies, the colleges retain electronic information containing student enrolment and account information. Student records must include the Enrolment Agreement, enrolment application, proof of meeting admission requirements, the students' transcripts and credential awarded if applicable, and financial records including payment records, student loan documents and any refund, student dispute, and/or dismissal information. A record management system is in place and includes a secure off-site back up.

The College maintains complete student records allowing students legislated and reasonable access to these records. Copies of student records are made available to current and former students at a reasonable cost. Full student records are kept for years 8 years. After 8 years, these records are reduced to include only the Enrolment Agreement, transcript, and a copy of the Diploma/Certificate if issued, and retained for a period of 25 years. Only authorized individuals have access to the files in each department on a "need-to-know" basis.

The College applies and complies with privacy policies and student record management, use, and retention policies that are consistent with the applicable provincial and federal protection of privacy legislation as well as registration and/or accreditation obligations. These policies apply to the collection, storage and disclosure of students' private information, as well as to ongoing business and operational record keeping and analytics. Colleges maintain student records and provide for their safe storage, with final records accessible for future reference.

#### *Official Transcripts*

Students will receive one official copy of their Diploma &/or Certificate upon graduation mailed to their home address. This official copy is at no charge to the student. Additional copies of official College Diplomas and/or Certificates will be provided upon request at a cost of **\$25 per transcript**. Diplomas & Certificates required for admission to other institutions will be sent directly to the admitting institution at a cost of **\$25 per transcript**. International Diplomas & Certificates will be sent via courier. The student is responsible for courier charges.

### **Test and Exam Rewrites**

Upon appeal to the instructor a student may rewrite only final exam when they have received a mark below the mark required unless specifically barred from doing so by the curriculum. The instructor meets with the student and reviews the material, the student's study habits, motivation, time management, and sets a date to rewrite the evaluation. The student must wait a minimum of 24 hours and no more than 3 days before rewriting an exam or project. A minimum passing score will be recorded for the course regardless of the score actually achieved in the re-write unless the exam is an exam provided by an external certifying agency. In this case, the exam rewrite policy of the external certifying agency will apply.

Only one rewrite attempt will be permitted. In the event that a student is unsuccessful on the re-write, s/he must meet with the Campus Director or designee to discuss the options available for continuing in the program of

study. A maximum of 3 (three) re-writes will be allowed throughout the course of the program. There may be an exam cost associated with rewrites in some programs.

## **CAMPUS REGULATIONS**

### *Instructional Hours*

Classes are scheduled in two, three or four hour blocks, morning or evening,

Morning classes may be between 9:00am-12:00pm MST

Evening classes may be between 6:00-9:00pm MST

Students arriving late will need to inform their instructor immediately.

Breaks should last no longer than 15 minutes. Under no circumstances should a class be ended prior to its official ending time. This includes examination days. We are required by our Regulators to provide all of the instructional hours indicated in a course or program outline. These are compliance issues, which are taken very seriously.

### **Personal Appearance**

As a career college, we expect students to behave and dress as they would in a professional work environment, following accepted norms of appropriateness.

Some examples of inappropriate attire for both men and women include torn or soiled clothing, see-through, bare-midriff shirts/blouses, low-cut, open-back clothing and extremely short dresses, skirts, or shorts. Students enrolled in business programs are asked to wear proper business attire. We encourage students to dress for their professional success.

### **Security**

The College takes every step possible to provide a secure learning environment. Students must also take steps to ensure the security of their work and property. Please follow these simple guidelines:

- Never give out your password or other personal information that would allow someone to log into the College network using your identity;
- Never leave a “logged in” computer unattended;
- Report any suspicious or unsafe activity to a staff member;

### **Statutory Holidays**

The College observes statutory holidays as noted below. Colleges will not have classes on these days. Please be aware that some statutory holidays fall on weekends, which means that the following working day is taken as the holiday.

- New Year's Day
- BC Day
- Family Day
- Good Friday
- Victoria Day
- Canada Day
- Labour Day
- Thanksgiving Day
- Remembrance Day
- Christmas Day

### **Student Identification**

The College's Student Identification Card contains a student number and program information.

A requirement to produce it, as identification will occur for the following:

- Obtaining student loan documents
- Obtaining tuition receipts, transcripts, and other College documents

**There is a \$25.00 replacement fee for lost or stolen Student Identification Cards.**

### **BACKING UP WORK**

Students are reminded to back up their assignments and projects at all times: USB, external hard drive, iCloud, Drop box, Sky Drive, etc.

### **LOGGING OFF**

Students are reminded to always log out when leaving a computer. This is to protect the Students account from being used by others.

## **COLLEGE POLICIES**

### **Disciplinary Process**

One or more of the following sanctions may be imposed on any student found to have violated the Student Code of Conduct or any of the policies, rules or regulations of the College.

1. Warning – a notice in writing to the student that the student is violating or has violated the College regulations.
2. Probation – a written reprimand for violation of a specific policy or an action with conditions set for continued enrolment at the College. Probation is set for a designated period and includes the probability of more severe disciplinary sanctions if the student is found to be in violation of any College regulation during the period of probation.
3. Suspension – Separation of the student from the College for a designated period of time, after which the student is eligible to return. Conditions for re-admission may be specified.
4. College or Campus Expulsion – Termination of the enrolment and expulsion from the campus or from any campus within the College.

The above list is not meant to be progressive or exhaustive and the College reserves the right to impose the sanction it deems appropriate.

Other than expulsion, disciplinary sanctions will not form part of the student's permanent academic file. Documentation of disciplinary sanctions will, however, form part of the student's confidential administrative file. If deemed appropriate, depending on the sanction, sponsoring agencies and the Student Loans Branch will be notified of the sanctions.

### **Dispute Resolution Policy**

Campus Directors maintain an open door policy with regards to any questions, comments, or concerns those students may have while attending the College; as such students are free to contact their Campus Director.

When an issue is raised the following policy and procedure should be followed.

The student making the complaint may be represented by an agent or a lawyer.

Written reasons for the determination will be provided to the student within 45 days after the date on which the complaint was made.

## **Procedures**

### **Informal Resolution Process**

#### **Local Resolution (Campus Based)**

1. If a student has a concern about another student, the course/module, an assignment, an examination, or any other classroom related matter, the student should meet with the instructor. In most cases it is best to address the concern directly and with the person involved. If the matter cannot be resolved, the student is directed to the Campus Director.
2. If the concern involves an instructor, the college, the facilities, financial matters, a College employee, health related matters, or a concern of a serious nature, the student should meet with the Campus Director. The Campus Director may refer the student to a designee for further discussion or exploration of the issue. The campus-based process involves meeting with the student, discussing the student's concern, and recording the concern and the student's desired resolution on the Student Activity Form. Relevant parties may be contacted during this process.
3. A Student Activity Form is completed and signed by both the student and the Campus Director or designee as a means of capturing the content of the conversation, concerns, agreements and/or action to be taken, if any. The Student Activity Form is given to the student and a copy is filed in the student's administrative file.
4. If the Campus Director or designee and the student come to a satisfactory resolution during the meeting, the resolution plan is implemented, and the Campus Director or designee will follow up to ensure the resolution plan satisfactorily resolves the concern.

#### **Formal Resolution Process:**

##### **Local Resolution (Campus Based):**

In order to facilitate a timely and accurate resolution, students, in their best interests, are encouraged to initiate the Formal Resolution Process within 10 days of the date the events that gave rise to the complaint.

1. In the event that a student's concern has not been resolved through the Informal Resolution Process, the student may initiate a formal complaint or expression of concern through the Formal Resolution Process.
2. In order for the Formal Resolution Process to begin, the student must put their concern or complaint in writing in the form of a letter and/or the Student Concern Outline Report. The student must set out the areas of concern/complaint, their intention that they follow the formal dispute resolution process, their recommendation for resolution and what steps they have taken to date to address or resolve the issue. This will initiate the Formal Resolution Process. Additional comments can be attached to the Student Concern Outline Report as necessary.
3. The Campus Director or designee will investigate the student's concern/complaint and meet with the student to seek resolution and/or seek additional information around the concern/complaint from the student as soon as is practicable and normally within 5 days.
4. The Campus Director or their designee will investigate the student's concern/complaint and will respond in writing the outcome of the investigation with recommendations within 10 days of the receipt of the complaint letter.
5. If the student accepts the conclusions/recommendations for resolution, the matter is deemed resolved and the agreement is set out in a Student Activity Report signed by the Student and the Campus Director. A copy of the student's complaint/letter, together with the response will be retained in the student's file. The student will receive a copy of this report.
6. All correspondence regarding the dispute will ordinarily be under the Campus Director's signature.

##### **Regional Resolution:**

1. If a resolution is not forthcoming at the campus level, the student may contact the Regional Vice President/Regional Director or designate for the region in which their campus is located.



2. The student must submit a written signed letter to the Regional Vice President/Regional Director or designate detailing the events that have happened to date, efforts made to resolve the concern and their desired resolution.
3. If possible, the Regional Vice President/Regional Director or designate may meet with the student to discuss options for resolution. The Regional Vice President/Regional Director or designate will investigate the student's concern/complaint and will respond in writing the outcome of the investigation with recommendations within 10 days of the receipt of the complaint letter unless the circumstances of the investigation dictate otherwise. If so the Regional Vice President/Regional Director will keep the student informed. The Student Relations Office will conduct an investigation and review of the complaint/concern and inform all parties of the progress of the investigation and review. The time necessary to complete an investigation will be dependent on the complexity of the matter.
4. If the student accepts the conclusions/recommendations for resolution, the matter is deemed resolved and a copy of the student's complaint/letter, together with the response will be retained in the student's file, with a letter sent to the student describing the agreed to outcome.

### **Campus Support Resolution:**

1. Campus Support will not act on a complaint or student concern where the student has not first explored resolution at the campus and regional levels. The primary and most important contact is the Campus Director. If a resolution cannot be found at the campus level or through the Regional Vice President/Regional Director, the student may pursue the matter further by sending an email to the Student Relations Office at **BCStudentRelations@campus-support.ca**. The email must include the student's concern and the actions taken to date, including any informal or campus based efforts to resolve the complaint or concern. The student must set out what they consider as the desired outcome or resolution.
2. The Regional Compliance Manager will contact all relevant parties to gather information regarding the concern.
3. The Student Relations Office will conduct an investigation and review of the complaint/concern and inform all parties of the progress of the investigation and review. Campus support investigations usually take 15 days. The time necessary to complete an investigation will be dependent on the complexity of the matter.
4. Once the investigation is complete, the Regional Compliance Manager will respond to the student in writing setting out the investigation conclusions and, where appropriate, make recommendations for resolution.
5. If the matter is deemed resolved the Regional Compliance Manager will document the resolution process and advise all concerned parties in writing of the resolution. The student may be required to sign a release form. A copy of the student's complaint/letter, together with the response will be retained by the Student Relations Office.

### **External Resolution:**

If the concern cannot be resolved and the student wishes to take the matter further, the student and College agree that the complaint can only be advanced further by way of third party arbitration; the cost of which will be paid wholly by the institution and the final decision must nonetheless be provided within 45 days of receipt of the original written complaint.

### **Harassment and Non-Discrimination**

The College is committed to providing a positive learning environment where the individual differences of all students and staff are valued and respected. The College neither condones nor tolerates any discrimination or harassing behaviour that undermines the dignity, self-esteem, and productivity of any student or staff member.

The College considers harassment and/or discrimination by any student or staff member to be a serious breach of human rights, which requires immediate resolution. Such resolution may include disciplinary measures up to and including dismissal or expulsion.

#### *Discrimination and Intimidation*

Discrimination and intimidation as it applies to the College is defined as refusing to participate in classroom and/or other activities because of the race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, political belief, religion, marital status, family status, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, gender, age or criminal conviction of any person.

#### *Harassment*

Harassment for the purposes of this policy is defined as any unwelcome remarks, behaviours or communications based on race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, political belief, religion, marital status, family status, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, gender, age or criminal conviction which causes offence or humiliation to any person.

#### *Sexual Harassment*

Sexual harassment is unwelcome sexually oriented conduct which may be verbal, physical or by innuendo.

#### *Personal Harassment*

Personal harassment is defined as unwelcome remarks, behaviours or communications directed toward an individual or group of individuals which misuses authority or abuses the power one individual or a group of individuals has over another individual or group of individuals and has the effect or purpose of seriously abusing, threatening, demeaning or intimidating the individual or group of individuals.

#### *Unwelcome Conduct*

Harassment and/or discrimination is unwelcome conduct where:

1. Submission to such conduct becomes explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of the learning environment; or
2. Submission or rejection of such conduct is used as a basis for educational decisions; or
3. Such conduct has the purpose or effect of interfering with educational performance; or
4. Such conduct creates an intimidating, hostile or offending educational environment.

### **Privacy and Access to Information**

Students have a right to have their private information protected. All staff shall take steps to protect the privacy of students' personal information that may be provided to colleges in the course of our business. It is everyone's responsibility to ensure the confidentiality and security of students' personal information under our custody and control. This commitment applies to current, past and prospective students.

#### *Disclosure of Records*

All information, ideas, or documents disclosed or submitted by the student as part of his/her education program at the College is disclosed or submitted upon the understanding that the only obligation that the recipient has with respect to such information, ideas, or documents and any use of the same, is limited solely to claims for infringement of valid patents or failure to comply with copyright laws.

Colleges may disclose student information and provide notice/confirmation to authorized funding and sponsorship agencies for students receiving student assistance. This information may include, but is not limited to, the student's continued enrolment, withdrawal, attendance and/or graduation from the program for which s/he was granted student assistance.

In the case of international students, the College will disclose to Citizenship and Immigration Canada information related to the student's withdrawal/dismissal and attendance. Colleges use student information for research

analyses, employment assistance, student satisfaction reports, institutional effectiveness and student follow-up, account payment, and/or contacting students to inform them about additional educational or alumni opportunities. In addition, students' names and personal identification information, the name of their program and the tuition paid may be forwarded to accrediting bodies such as the Private Training Institutions Branch (PTIB) for the purposes of administering the Training Completion Fund etc. This information has to be collected by accrediting and regulatory bodies in compliance with, and in the manner authorized under relevant *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Legislation*. Colleges may disclose information from the student's academic file on a need-to-know basis. Any disclosure of information to third parties can only be made with the written consent of the student or as authorized by provincial or federal law.

#### *Inspection of Records*

The College respects the privacy and protection of personal information and do not disclose personally identifiable information about students or employees to unauthorized third parties without consent consistent with Provincial personal information protection legislation. Student records may also be reviewed on a confidential basis by authorized third party authorities such as accreditation, student assistance or authorized government officials, and/or part of compliance or operational requirements.

Students who wish to inspect and review their education records should submit a written request to the Campus Director. The request should identify as precisely as possible the records s/he wishes to inspect. If the requested records are subject to inspection and review by the student, the Campus Director will make the necessary arrangements for access within a reasonable period of time, but in no case more than ten (10) business days after the request was made, and will notify the student of the time and place where the records may be inspected. The Campus Director will ensure the presence of a college official during the inspection and review of a student's records.

When a record contains personally identifiable information about more than one student, the student may inspect and review only those records that relate to them personally.

#### *Correction of Records*

Students have the right to correct their record when they believe it is inaccurate, misleading or constitutes a violation of their privacy rights. Students who wish to correct or modify their records must confer with their Campus Director. As part of the request, the student should identify the specific part to be changed, and indicate why it is inaccurate, misleading or constitutes a violation of his/her privacy rights. The Campus Director will determine if the claim to change the information is legitimate and notify the student in writing that the record has been amended, with a summary of the specified modifications.

The appropriate officials of the College will investigate the matter and, if circumstances warrant, proceed to investigate all work and files of the student.

### **Student Code of Conduct**

The College community is composed of individuals with varied interests and diverse opinions. A student, by voluntarily joining the College, assumes responsibility for abiding by the standards that have been instituted pursuant to our mission, processes, functions, goals, and as expressed in this policy. To function properly, members must exhibit a respect for the individual and collective rights of all those within the community. Students who violate these principles or the rights of others are subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the Disciplinary Process. The College reserves the right to discipline any student it deems necessary to protect the safety and/or the integrity of the learning environment of the College.

#### *Respectful and Fair Treatment - Student Conduct Policy*

The College recognizes its students as responsible and dedicated men and women who are preparing for career employment. An integral part of their career and professional development is the expectation that they conduct themselves during the education process in the same manner as will be expected in all employment situations. As members of the College, students have responsibilities and duties commensurate with their rights and privileges. Any student who is found to have violated the Student Conduct Policy is subject to disciplinary sanctions up to and including suspension or permanent dismissal, as described in the Disciplinary Process. The College applies the principles of procedural fairness in the application of these policies.

#### *Elements/Violations*

Violations that threaten the health, safety or educational environment of the College will result in immediate dismissal. Such dismissal will forgo the formal disciplinary process as outlined in this handbook. Behaviors that violate the Student Code of Conduct include, but are not limited to:

- 1 Persistent or gross acts of willful disobedience or defiance toward college personnel;
- 2 Assault, battery, or any other form of physical abuse of a student or college employee;
- 3 Fighting;
- 4 Verbal abuse of a student or college employee;
- 5 Conveyance of threats by any means of communication including, but not limited to, threats of physical abuse and threats to damage or destroy college property or the property of other students or college employees;
- 6 Any conduct that threatens the health or safety of one's own self or another individual. Threats to commit self-harm and/ or actual incidents of self-harm by any student are a violation of this code;
- 7 Harassment by any means of any individual, including coercion and personal abuse. Harassment includes but is not limited to, written or verbal acts or uses of technology, which have the effect of harassing or intimidating a person;
- 8 Any form of unwanted sexual attention or unwanted sexual contact;
- 9 Violations by guest of a student on college property. Students are responsible for the actions of their guests;
- 10 Theft, attempted theft, vandalism/damage, or defacing of college property or the property of another student, faculty or staff member;
- 11 Interference with the normal operations of the college (i.e., disruption of teaching and administrative functions, disciplinary procedures, pedestrian or vehicular traffic, or other college activities);
- 12 Use of cell phones and pagers during scheduled classroom times;
- 13 Unauthorized entry into, or use of, college facilities;
- 14 Forgery, falsification, alteration or misuse of college documents, records or identification;
- 15 Dishonesty, including but not limited to cheating, plagiarism, or knowingly supplying false information or deceiving the college and/or its officials;
- 16 Disorderly, lewd, indecent, or obscene conduct. This would include but is not limited to any type of clothing or materials worn or brought onto the premises by any student or guest deemed to be lewd, indecent or obscene as determined by college officials;
- 17 Extortion;
- 18 Breach of peace on College property or at any college sponsored or supervised program;
- 19 Use, sale, possession or distribution of illegal or controlled substances, drug or drug paraphernalia on college property, or at any function sponsored or supervised by the college. Being under the influence of illegal or controlled substances on college property, or at any college function is also prohibited. Anyone under the influence of alcohol or cannabis products, will be subject to immediate probation and/or termination. In the case of cannabis consumption for medical purposes, students will be required to provide official medical documentation prior to usage, to the Campus Director.
- 20 Failure to satisfy college financial obligations;
- 21 Failure to comply with direction of college officials, faculty, staff or security officers who are acting in the performance of their duties;

- 22 Any form of “hazing” and any act that endangers the safety of a student, or that destroys or removes public or private property, for the purpose of initiation, admission into, affiliation with, or as a condition for continued membership in a group or organization. “Hazing” includes any method of initiation or pre-initiation into a student club or any pastime or amusement engaged in with respect to such a club that causes, or is likely to cause, bodily danger, physical harm, or personal degradation or disgrace resulting in physical or mental harm, to any student or other person attending the college;
- 23 Any in-college or off-campus act considered inappropriate or as an example of misconduct that adversely affects the interests of the College and/or its reputation;
- 24 Any violation of the institutions’ policies on the responsible use of technology including but not limited to:
  - a. The theft or abuse of computer, email, Internet or Intranet resources
  - b. Unauthorized entry into a file, to use, read, or change the contents, of for any other purpose
  - c. Unauthorized transfer of a file
  - d. Unauthorized downloading of copyrighted materials in violation of law
  - e. Unauthorized use of another individual’s identification and/or password
  - f. Use of computing facilities to interfere with the work of another student, faculty member, or college official
  - g. Use of computing facilities to send obscene or abusive messages
  - h. Use of computing facilities to interfere with normal operation of the college’s computing system
- 25 Abuse of the College’s disciplinary system, including but not limited to:
  - a. Failure to obey the summons of a disciplinary body or college official
  - b. Falsification, distortion, or misrepresentation of information before a disciplinary body or college official
  - c. Disruption or interference with the orderly conduct of a disciplinary proceeding
  - d. Attempting to influence the impartiality of a member of a disciplinary body prior to and/or during the course of the disciplinary proceeding
  - e. Verbal or physical harassment and/or intimidation of a member of a disciplinary body prior to, during, and/or after the disciplinary proceeding
  - f. Failure to comply with the sanction(s) imposed under the student conduct policy
  - g. Influencing or attempting to influence another person to commit an abuse of the disciplinary system
- 26 Harassment based on sex, race, colour, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, age, disability or any other criteria protected by state, federal or local law;
- 27 Conduct disruptive to the positive learning environment at any of the colleges that fall under the College.
- 28 Acts of dishonesty, including but not limited to:
  - a. Giving false information to any official, Instructor, or staff member.
  - b. Forgery, alteration, or misuse of any College document, record, or instrument of identification.
  - c. Computer piracies—copying software, copyright infringement, and unauthorized computer entry.
  - d. Signing in to someone’s account or gaining access to networks data or information to which you do not have explicit permission.
- 29 Disruption of teaching, administration, disciplinary proceedings, and other College activities.
- 30 Physical abuse, verbal abuse, threats, intimidation, harassment, including but not limited to, sexual harassment, coercion and/or other conduct, which threatens or endangers the health or safety of any person.
- 31 Expressions of discrimination, bias, or racism such as certain jokes, even if people find them humorous, if these jokes are based on negative stereotyping that is, or could be, perceived as offensive and hurtful to someone.
- 32 Conduct which is disorderly, lewd, or indecent; breach of peace; or aiding, or abetting, another person to violate the Student Code of Conduct.
- 33 Aiding, encouraging, or inducing another to commit a violation to the Student Code of Conduct.

The possible consequences of any misconduct will depend on the nature and severity of the misconduct. If provincial or federal laws have been broken, charges will be laid.

## CONSEQUENCES OF MISCONDUCT

Except where noted above, one or more of the following sanctions may be imposed on any student found to have violated the Student Code of Conduct or any of the policies, rules or regulations of the College.

- 1 Warning – a notice in writing to the student that the student is violating or has violated the College regulations.
- 2 Loss of Privileges – denial of specific privileges (such as Internet access) on a permanent basis or for a designated period of time.
- 3 Probation – a written reprimand for violation of a specific policy or an action with conditions set for continued enrolment at the College. Probation is set for a designated period and includes the probability of more severe disciplinary sanctions if the student is found to be in violation of any College regulation during the period of probation.
- 4 Suspension – Separation of the student from the College for a designated period of time, after which the student is eligible to return. Conditions for re-admission may be specified.
- 5 College or Campus Expulsion – Termination and withdrawal from the student's program of study

The above list is not meant to be progressive or exhaustive and the College reserves the right to impose the sanction it deems appropriate.

## FINANCIAL

### General Information

Provincial governments in Canada provide financial assistance to students in the form of provincial student loans or a combination of Canada Student Loans, provincial student loans, and possibly grant funding. The amount and type of assistance awarded is based on need as assessed by the provincial authority. Students must qualify in order to be eligible for funding. Applications for Student Loans are available from the Student Financial Planner (SFP) at each campus. The SFP at the campus can assist with review for accuracy and completeness before the application is submitted to the Funding Agency. If financial assistance is awarded, the amounts disbursed to the College on the student's behalf are applied to the student's outstanding balance as set forth in the Student's Payment Plan.

The College expects students to pay their tuition according to arrangements made with the SFP prior to registration. Students are financially responsible for all charges incurred after the Enrollment Contract has been signed. All fees are payable as specified in the student's payment plan.

### Awards

Occasionally students will be offered scholarships to be applied toward program fees based on eligibility criteria. Students will complete the Scholarship Application Form and the Scholarship Statement of Understanding. Once completed, the Assistant Director of Admission will submit the Scholarship Application and Statement of Understanding to the Campus Director or designate, who will provide recommendations before submitting it to their Regional Director.

Exceptions:

- a. International students who enroll through a Recruiting Agency are not eligible for Scholarships
- b. Students whose tuition is sponsored by an outside agency (Employment Insurance, Workers Compensation Board, Human Resources Development Canada, etc.) may not be eligible
- c. Exceptions will be considered on a case-by-case basis

### **Student of the Month**

Each month a student is nominated by instructors and staff for demonstrating professionalism in their classrooms, excellent attendance, integrity and leading by example in academia. Students receive a certificate and will be featured in the Campus Newsletter.

### **Tuition Fees and Payment**

Students are informed of all fees related to a program of study during the admission process. Students are responsible for repaying their loan(s) and complying with the terms of their enrolment contract and student loan agreement with student loan authorities. If a student withdraws from studies or ceases to be a full-time student, the student could be in an over-award situation with the student loan program. Students are required to speak to the Financial Administrator and/or student loan authorities in the case of withdrawal, dismissal, changing their course load or undertaking any other major change in course of study.

In the event a student does withdraw or is dismissed from a program the College is required to report this to the appropriate student assistance office and required to refund tuition fees in accordance with the stated refund policy. In the event there is a student tuition refund, the refund is applied to outstanding student loans with student loans authorities.

All tuition and other fees must be paid in full prior to the academic end date specified on the Enrollment Contract.

Students who do not pay fees as agreed or do not make satisfactory arrangement to pay tuition and other charges will be suspended or dismissed from the College.

### **Tax Receipts**

Tuition receipts for income tax purposes (T2202) will be available in February of each year. These receipts will show only the lesser of the portion of tuition used or the tuition payments made in the previous calendar year. Students are welcome to make copies of the tax receipt for their own records and for future tax purposes. To ensure that all students receive their tax receipts, the Administration and Financial Departments require an up-to-date mailing address for every student. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that the school is notified of any change to his or her mailing address.

### **Tuition Refund Policy**

Refund entitlement is calculated on the total fees due under the contract, less non-refundable (registration/application) fees.

1. If the institution receives tuition from the student, or a person on behalf of the student, the institution will refund the student, or the person who paid on behalf of the student, the tuition that was paid in relation to the program in which the student is enrolled if:
  - a. the institution receives a notice of withdrawal from the student no later than seven days after the effective contract date and before the contract start date;
  - b. the student, or the student's parent or legal guardian, signs the student enrolment contract seven days or less before the contract start date and the institution receives a notice of withdrawal from the student between the date the student, or the student's parent or legal guardian, signed the student enrolment contract and the contract start date; or
  - c. the student does not attend a work experience component and the institution does not provide all of the hours of instruction of the work experience component within 30 days of the contract end date.
2. The institution will refund the tuition for the program and all related fees paid by the student or a person on behalf of the student enrolled in the program if the student is enrolled in the program without having met the admission requirements and did not misrepresent his or her knowledge or skills when applying for admission.

3. If a student does not attend any of the first 30% of the hours of instruction to be provided during the contract term, the institution may retain up to 50% of the tuition paid under the student enrolment contract unless the program is provided solely through distance education.
4. Unless the program is provided solely through distance education, if the institution receives a notice of withdrawal from a student:
  - a. more than seven days after the effective contract date and
    - i. at least 30 days before the contract start date, the institution may retain up to 10% of the tuition due under the student enrolment contract, to a maximum of \$1,000.
    - ii. less than 30 days before the contract start date, the institution may retain up to 20% of the tuition due under the student enrolment contract, to a maximum of \$1,300.
  - b. after the contract start date
    - i. and up to and including 10% of the hours of instruction to be provided during the contract term have been provided, the institution may retain up to 30% of the tuition due under the student enrolment contract.
    - ii. after 10% but before 30% of the hours of instruction to be provided during the contract term have been provided, the institution may retain up to 50% of the tuition due under the student enrolment contract.
    - iii. and after 30% of the hours of instruction to be provided during the contract term have been provided, no refund is required.
5. Unless the program is provided solely through distance education, if the institution provides a notice of dismissal to a student and the date the institution delivers the notice to the student is:
  - a. equal to or before 10% of the hours of instruction to be provided during the contract term have been provided, the institution may retain up to 30% of the tuition due under the student enrolment contract.
  - b. after 10% but before 30% of the hours of instruction to be provided during the contract term have been provided, the institution may retain up to 50% of the tuition due under the student enrolment contract.
  - c. after 30% of the hours of instruction to be provided during the contract term have been provided, no refund is required.
6. If the institution provides the program solely through distance education and the institution receives a student's notice of withdrawal or the institution delivers a notice of dismissal to the student and:
  - a. the student has completed and received an evaluation of his or her performance for up to 30% of the hours of instruction to be provided during the contract term, the institution may retain up to 30% of the tuition due under the student enrolment contract, or
  - b. the student has completed and received an evaluation of his or her performance for more than 30% but less than 50% of the program, the institution may retain up to 50% of the tuition due under the student enrolment contract.
7. Refunds required under this policy will be paid to the student, or a person who paid the tuition or fees on behalf of the student, within 30 days:
  - a. of the date the institution receives a student's notice of withdrawal,
  - b. of the date institution provides a notice of dismissal to the student,
  - c. of the date that the registrar provides notice to the institution that the institution is not complying with section 1(c) or 2 of this policy, or
  - d. after the first 30% of the hours of instruction if section 3 of this policy applies.
8. If an international student delivers a copy of a refusal of a study permit to the institution, sections 1(a), 1(b), 4, 7, and 8 of this the copy of the refusal were a notice of withdrawal, unless:
  - a. the international student requests an additional letter of acceptance for the same program that was the subject of the refusal of a study permit,
  - b. or the program is provided solely through distance education.
  - c.



### **Refund of Consumables**

Where a student withdraws or is dismissed from their program they are entitled to 100% refund of any as yet to be received consumables that have been prepaid.

### **Refund of application/registration fee - before training begins**

If a student terminates a student contract before the vocational training begins, the college is entitled to any application/registration fee paid by or on behalf of the student. The college must refund any application/registration fee that has been paid by or on behalf of the student if

- (a) a college terminates a student contract before the vocational training begins, or
- (b) the vocational training does not begin on the commencement date set out in the student contract.

### **Refund of non itemized resources and materials**

Will be based on the same calculations as per tuition refund policy

### **Refund of registration fee - before training begins**

If a student terminates a student contract before the vocational training begins, the college is entitled to any registration fee paid by or on behalf of the student.

The college must refund any registration fee that has been paid by or on behalf of the student if

- (a) a college terminates a student contract before the vocational training begins, or
- (b) the vocational training does not begin on the commencement date set out in the student contract.

### **Payment of refunds**

A refund of a student's tuition must be paid

- (a) to the student, or
- (b) in the case of a student who has an outstanding student loan in respect of the vocational training for which the refund is being provided, to the lender that made the student loan.

If a college receives payment of a student's tuition from a government, agency or person other than the student, any refund of the student's tuition must be paid to the government, agency or other person.

If a college is required to refund a registration fee or tuition, the refund must be paid not later than the earlier of the following 30 days from the day the student contract is terminated.

## **College Policy and Procedure Changes and Revisions**

The policies, procedures, rules and regulations outlined in this student handbook are currently in effect at the College at the time of this publication.

The College reserves the right to revise and/or change these policies, procedures, rules and regulations, either individually or collectively, at any time when it deems such revision to be in the best interest of the College and its students.

Students will be notified of changes via postings at the campus. All such revisions and/or changes to policies, procedures, rules and regulations, either individually or collectively, supersedes those outlined in this handbook.

## Student Handbook Agreement Acknowledgement

I have received a copy of the Student Handbook.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND AGREEMENT

I acknowledge that I have received and reviewed my student handbook, which contains important information on the College's policies and procedures. I understand that I am obliged to act in accordance with these policies and procedures and at all times conduct myself in a professional manner that contributes to creating a positive learning environment.

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Student Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

***Return this signed copy to the Campus Director.***

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<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND AGREEMENT</b>
--------------------------------------

I acknowledge that I have received and reviewed my student handbook, which contains important information on the College's policies and procedures. I understand that I am obliged to act in accordance with these policies and procedures and at all times conduct myself in a professional manner that contributes to creating a positive learning environment.

Student's Name: _____ Student Number: _____
Student's Signature: _____ Date: _____

***Please keep this copy for your records.***

## Emergency Contact & Medical Information

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

(LAST)

(First)

Please fill in the information below. It will be kept in confidence in your file. If any of the information should change during your course of studies, please be sure to inform Student Services.

### EMERGENCY CONTACT 1

Name:

Phone Number:

Relationship:


### EMERGENCY CONTACT 2

Name:

Phone Number:

Relationship:


Do you have any illnesses or medical conditions? (circle one)

NO

YES Please specify:

--

Are you currently taking medication? (circle one)

NO

YES Please specify:

--

**PLEASE SUBMIT THIS FORM TO STUDENT SERVICES**

# CONSENT TO USE OF IMAGE AGREEMENT

I consent to the use of my name, portrait, picture, video, voice recording, or photograph as part of the school's website, print collateral such as brochures and pamphlets, print ads, radio or television commercials, social media, and/or online marketing initiatives is slated for release within 3 years from the date of enrollment.

These publications will be used with the intention of increasing student engagement as well as enrollment for the upcoming fiscal year. It will serve the following purpose(s): to provide prospective students with a glimpse of the school's curriculum, training, and/or campus life; engage existing students through various online and social media platforms; and promote school events.

I understand that these publications, ads, and other collateral will be made available online on VCAD's website, social media, and other related online, print, and media platforms.

I agree that I shall have no claim against Visual College of Art and Design of Vancouver (VCAD), Vancouver Career College (Burnaby), or its employees, its contractors, its subsidiaries, or its agents or against anyone accessing this communications product, whether online, in print, or by any other means.

I confirm that I am over 19 years of age and that I have not given anyone the exclusive right to use my name, portrait, picture, or photograph.

Event Description:

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Date:

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Name (printed):

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School / Campus:

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Program:

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Home Phone:

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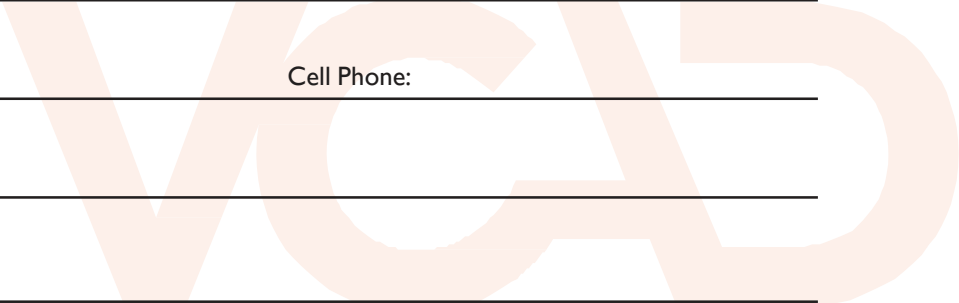
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Signature:

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The Visual College of Art and Design reserves the right to make changes to the programs at any time without prior notice.  
Please consult our website for the most up-to-date course listings.