THE BUSINESS, TECHNOLOGY & ART OF ANIMATION AND VFX

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MAGAZINE

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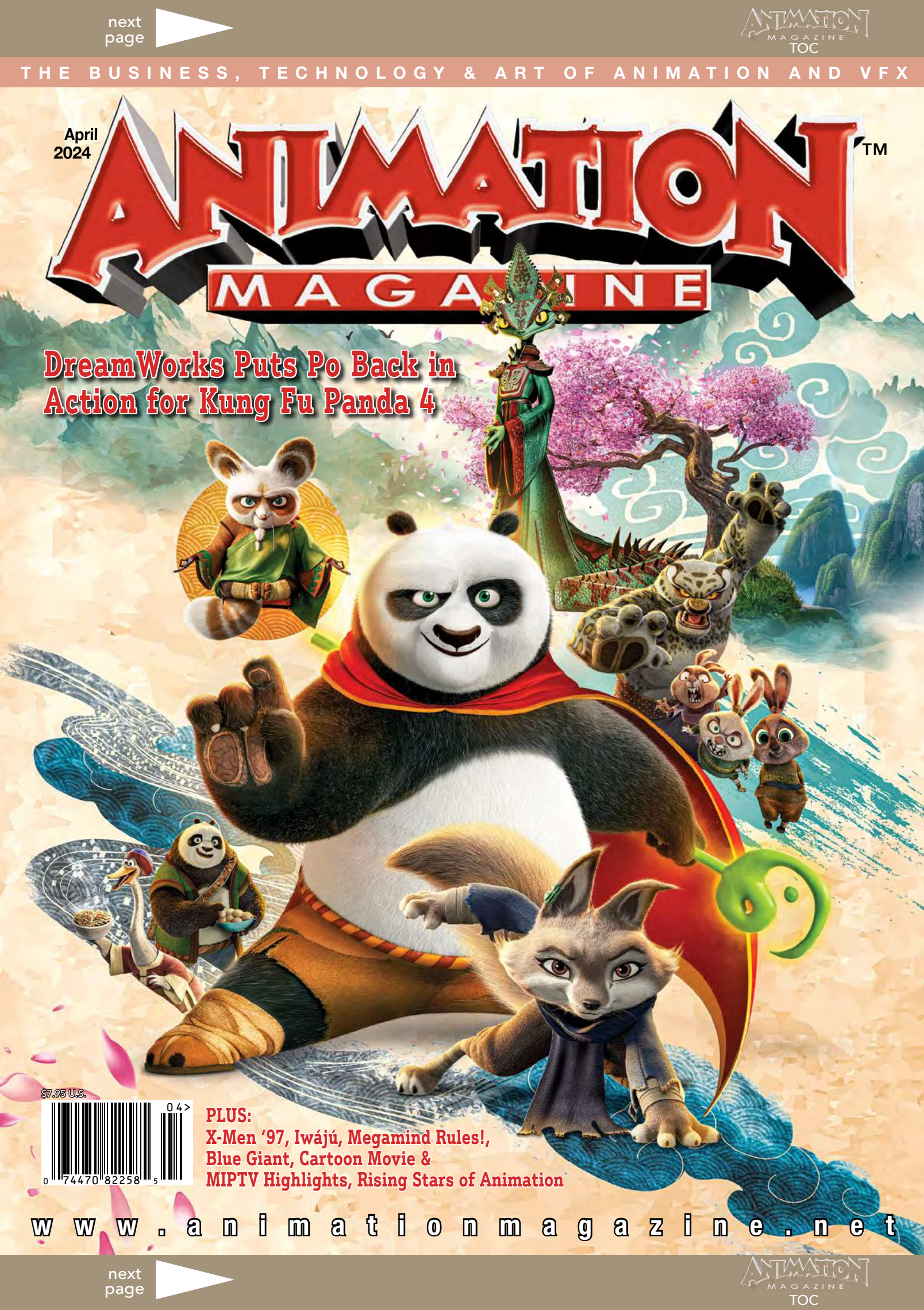
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www.animationmagazine.net

Get Ready for a Real Animation Eduction with L.A. Film School

If you have ever considered getting a hands-on education in animation and visual effects in the heart of Los Angeles, you should consider The L.A. Film School's rich programs. **Kenneth Norman**, animation and vfx program specialist and **Bre Roberts**, program manager of the animation online program at The Los Angeles Film School, answered a few of our questions about their school:

Can you tell us a bit about The L.A. Film School's Current Animation and VFX offerings.
We offer four animation concentrations at The Los Angeles Film School. On our Hollywood campus, we provide Visual Effects and Game Art. We offer Character Animation, Environment and Character Design, and Visual Effects for our online students.

What makes the concentrations stand out from other similar fare?
Our Animation degree has some unique features that set it apart from others. First, our faculty members have at least four years of experience working in the animation industry, making them a valuable asset to our program. Many faculty members maintain active employment within the industry while teaching, allowing them to bring our students the most up-to-date learning experience. Second, our curriculum is designed based on the pipelines currently used in the animation industry. Our program's design is another unique feature as we begin with a flipped curriculum for online concentrations, emphasizing the quality of the final output. Initially, we focus on camera, composition, and rendering using production-quality assets to build confidence, give students a better understanding of the high-quality assets they should aim to produce, and demonstrate their ability to create such assets.

What are some of the most popular classes in your program?
Courses where students have the most artistic freedom to explore their ideas are the most popular. Story-driven animation, Crowd Animation, Visual Effects for Games and Film, and Character Design are among our students' most popular courses in our animation degree program. Students love opportunities to bring their own stories to life.

What are the most important skill sets that will be taught in your program?
The Los Angeles Film School's Animation concentrations aim to equip students with diverse skills to succeed in the animation industry. Here are some key skill sets commonly taught in animation concentration programs:
Animation Principles: Understanding the core twelve principles of animation and how to implement them into 3D animation.
Character Design: Creating visually appealing and unique characters that fit within the context of the animation project.
3D Modeling and Animation: Utilizing industry-standard software for creating 3D models and animating characters and scenes.
Visual Effects (VFX): Incorporating visual effects into animations or live-action films to enhance the overall visual appeal.
Rigging: Understanding the process of creating skeletons and controls for 3D character models, enabling realistic movement.
Texturing and Lighting: Learning to apply textures to 3D models and effectively use lighting to enhance the visual quality of animations.
Industry Software Proficiency: Becoming proficient in industry-standard animation software such as Autodesk Maya and Unreal Engine.
Portfolio Development: Crafting a strong portfolio showcasing various final projects and demonstrating proficiency in the student's chosen career interests and styles.

Professional Development: Understanding the business aspects of the animation industry, including networking, job searching, and staying updated on industry trends.

What kind of advice would you offer prospective students who want to enroll in your program?
Your well-being should always come first. Trying to learn something new without a balanced lifestyle can significantly impact your concentration and health. Your mind and body need nourishment, sleep, and emotional support to absorb new learning content effectively. Our student advising team is available when life inevitably happens during our students' 36-month experience within The Los Angeles Film School.
The key to learning is to communicate appropriately and be open-minded. Most students come from a standardized learning background where they complete a project, accept the grade, and don't necessarily follow up on what they could have done better. They should think of college as more of a mentorship and push to understand the relevance behind what they are learning and how it aids them in their goals.
Find an organizational and time management paradigm that works for you. Set a particular time and place to work in your home. Understand you're not perfect, and we all slip up. Learn from

it, course correct, and rebalance your time.
Remember, every person you meet is an opportunity to connect and network. We offer multiple community events on campus and online, including game nights, seminars, and art jam sessions. Surrounding yourself with people who have similar interests will keep your motivation and engagement high. These connections could help you find opportunities after graduation as well. ◆

For more info, visit www.lafilm.edu

THE LOS ANGELES FILM SCHOOL®

THE WORLD IS WAITING

At The Los Angeles Film School it's all about you. Your dreams, your creations, your future. What are you waiting for?

WWW.LAFILM.EDU

SCHOOL & CAREER GUIDE

several years in a row.
Cañada College: From here, you can go anywhere!

Chapman University
Dodge College of Film & Media Arts
Orange, California, USA
chapman.edu/dodge
Phone: (714) 997 6765
Email: dodgecollege@chapman.edu
Degrees/Certificates offered: Animation and Visual Effects BFA
Number of students in animation program: 125
Cost of program: $64,580 per year
Head of animation: Ruth Daly, Director of Animation and VFX
Head of admissions: Priscilla Campos, Director of Admissions
Time of year offered: Fall start
Application deadline: At this time, there are no deadlines. The school currently operates on a first come first serve
Equipment available: A virtual production stage with LED wall; labs that are open 24 hours a day with Adobe Suite, Nuke, Unreal Engine, Maya, Blender, Houdini, Zbrush and Substance Suite

Clemson University
Digital Production Arts
Clemson & Charleston, SC
clemson.edu/dpa
Email: dpa@clemson.edu

Cleveland Institute of Art
Cleveland, OH
cia.edu
Phone: (216) 421 7418

College of DuPage
Glen Ellyn, IL
cod.edu
Phone: (630) 942 2800 (Main); (630) 942 3000 (Student Services)
Email: campuscentral@cod.edu
Columbia College Chicago
Interactive Arts and Media
Chicago, IL
colum.edu/iam
Phone: (312) 369 7750
Email: admissions@colum.edu
Degrees/Certificates offered: Animation (BA), Computer Animation (BA and BFA), Game Art (BA), Game Design (BA), User Experience and Interaction Design (BA), Programming (BA and BS), Traditional Animation (BA and BFA)
Number of students in animation program: 320
Cost of program: Columbia's tuition and fees – $31,026 for '22-'23 – are among the most affordable of all private arts and media colleges in the nation.
Head of animation: Joseph Cancellaro
Head of admissions: admissions@colum.edu. (Undergraduate); gradstudy@colum.edu. (Graduate)
Time of year offered: Students typically begin in the fall semester, but may be able to start in the spring or summer semester as well.
Application deadline: Apply by Wednesday, March 29, 2023, to receive an admissions decision prior to May 1.
Equipment available: Wacom tablets, computer towers, Stop-Motion Lab, Maquettes Lab

Columbus College of Art & Design
Columbus, OH
ccad.edu
Phone: (614) 224-9101
Email: admissions@ccad.edu

Daemen University
Amherst, NY USA
daemen.edu
Phone: 800-462-7652
Fax: (716) 839 - 8229
Email: admissions@daemen.edu
Degrees/Certificates offered: BFA in Animation
Number of students in animation program: 86
Cost of program: $31,000 per year
Head of animation: Mike Jones
Head of admissions: Megan Beardi

Time of year offered: First year Fall; Transfer Fall and Spring
Application deadline: Rolling admission
Equipment available: Three state-of-the-art animation labs running Maya, Harmony, Storyboard Pro, etc. All lab workstations have 16" Cintiqs. The senior lab has 17 workstations with 22" Cintiqs. Traditional 2D animation desks lab. Plus a greenscreen room, sound lab, stop-motion lab and a 60 seat screening room. Industry based instructors with over 65 years of professional experience.
Notes: A number of Daemen University graduates are working for major animation studios throughout the United States.

The DAVE School - The Digital Animation & Visual Effects School
Orlando, FL
dave.nuc.edu
Phone: (407) 385-1100; (407) 449-0346
Email: admissions@daveschool.com
Degrees/Certificates offered: Game Production Diploma Program
The Game Production diploma program is designed to give each student practical exposure to complete each of the major disciplines needed for game art content creation. This includes games produced by both major game studios working on AAA titles and independent production houses working on mobile gaming and other applications. Students will learn the proper tools and techniques used by industry professionals.
Visual Effects Diploma Program
The Visual Effects Production diploma program gives students a broad range of skills which allows them to pursue jobs in the computer graphics industry, including feature film and television effects, game art, print advertising, architectural visualization and military simulation.
Virtual Production Diploma Program
Include both Game Production and Visual Effects Productions Diplomas
Number of students in animation program: 100

Delaware College of Art and Design
Wilmington, DE
dcad.edu
Phone: (302) 622 8000
Fax: (302) 622 8870
Email: info@dcad.edu
DePaul University
Jarvis College of Computing and Digital Media
Chicago, IL
cdm.depaul.edu
Phone: (312) 362 8381
Email: admission@cdm.depaul.edu
DigiPen Institute of Technology
Redmond, WA
digipen.edu
Phone: (866) 478 5236
Text: (425) 414 3633
Email: outreach@digipen.edu
Drexel University
Philadelphia, PA
drexel.edu
Phone: (215) 895 2000; 800 2 DREXEL [373935]
Email: enroll@drexel.edu

East Los Angeles College
Monterey Park, CA
elac.edu
Phone: (323) 265 8650
Elite Animation Academy
Orlando, FL
eliteanimationacademy.com
Phone: (407) 459 7959
Email: twest@eliteanimationacademy.com

Emile Cohl Atelier
Los Angeles, CA
cohl.art
Phone: (323) 315 2323
Email: contact@cohl.art
Degrees/Certificates offered: MFA
Number of students in animation program: 17-30
Cost of program: $44,305 (First-Year Tuition and Fees)

Head of animation: Sheila M. Sofian
Head of admissions: Neelam Savla
Time of year offered: August-May

Expanded Animation Research + Practice/ University of Southern California
Los Angeles, CA
expandedanimation.usc.edu
Phone: (213) 764-3332
Email: expandedanimation@cinema.usc.edu
Degrees/Certificates offered: MFA
Number of students in animation program: 17-30
Cost of program: $44,305 (First-Year Tuition and Fees)
Head of animation: Sheila M. Sofian
Head of admissions: Neelam Savla
Time of year offered: August-May

Fashion Institute of Technology
New York, NY
fitnyc.edu
Phone: (212) 217 7999
Email: fitinfo@fitnyc.edu

Ferris State University
College of Business
Big Rapids, MI
ferris.edu
Phone: (231) 591 2000
Email: cob@ferris.edu

Forsyth Technical Community College
Winston-Salem, NC
forsythtech.edu
Phone: (336) 723 0371

Fullerton College
Fullerton, CA
fullcoll.edu
Phone: (714) 992 7000
Email: pdimitriadis@fullcoll.edu

Full Sail University
Winter Park, FL / Online
fullsail.edu
Phone: 800-226-7625; (407) 679 6333
Email: admissions@fullsail.com

Gnomon
Los Angeles, CA
gnomon.edu
Phone: (323) 466 6663
Email: info@gnomon.edu
Fax: 323.466.6710

Grossmont College
Digital Art Program
El Cajon, CA
grossmont.edu
Phone: (619) 644 7000
Hampshire College
Amherst, MA
hampshire.edu
Phone: (413) 549 4600
Email: admissions@hampshire.edu
Kansas City Art Institute
Kansas City, MO, U.S.A.
kcai.edu/academics
Phone: 800-522-5224
Email: animation@kcai.edu
Degrees/Certificates offered: BFA Animation
Number of students in animation program: 120
Cost of program: $40,000
Head of animation: Doug Hudson
Head of admissions: Darcy Deal
Time of year offered: Fall & Spring Semesters
Application deadline: May 1, 2023
Equipment available: Adobe Creative Suite, Cinema 4D, Blender, Maya, Dragonframe, dedicated stop-motion studios, Edelkrone motion-control systems, traditional animation lightbox lab, digital pencil testers, sound mastering studio, Oculus Rift S, Rokoko Smartsuits Y
Notes: Starting with classical, experimental and analog techniques and then advancing through contemporary 2D & 3D digital/hybrid industry standards, students are exposed to the

full range of approaches without any one taking precedence over another.
Instead, we lead our students to carve their own path through our unique mentor-based studio-instruction model. While creating, learning and collaborating alongside peers and dedicated faculty, our approach allows students to accumulate and master the necessary skills while receiving personal support from professionals and world-class visiting artists.
Our department produces animators who define rather than recite, lead instead of follow, and go on to enjoy fully sustainable creative careers.

Kennesaw State University
Kennesaw, GA, USA
https://find.kennesaw.edu/master-degrees/art-design/
Phone: 470 578 6138
Email: graduatearts@kennesaw.edu
Degrees/Certificates offered: Master of Arts in Art and Design (MAAD):
Art Education – 100% Online
Digital Animation – 100% Online
Museum Studies – 100% Online
Number of students in animation program: N/A
Cost of program: https://www.kennesaw.edu/admissions/graduate/financial-information.php
Head of animation: Pete Hriso (Graduate Coordinator)

Laguna College of Art + Design
(LCAD)
Laguna Beach, California, USA
lcad.edu
Phone: 949-376-6000
Fax: 949-376-6009
Email: admissions@lcad.edu
Degrees/Certificates offered: Animation, Drawing + Painting, Drawing + Painting w/ Illustration Emphasis, Drawing + Painting w/ Sculpture Emphasis, Entertainment Design, Experimental Animation, Game Art, Graphic Design + Digital Media, Graphic Design + Digital Media w/Action Sports Emphasis, Graphic Design + Digital Media w/Illustration Emphasis, Illustration.
Number of students in animation program: 186
Cost of program: $35,650/year
Head of animation: Dan Boulos - Animation and Glen Miller - Experimental Animation
Head of admissions: Christopher Brown
Time of year offered: Fall and Spring
Application deadline: Rolling
Equipment available: Adobe PhotoShop, Adobe Premiere, Adobe After Effects, Adobe Animator, Toon Boom Storyboard Pro, Toon Boom Harmony, OpenToonz, Maya, ZBrush, TVPaint.

Lansing Community College
Lansing, MI
lcc.edu
Phone: (800) 644 4522; (517) 483 1957
Email: lcc-recruitment@lcc.edu
Lesley University
Cambridge, MA
lesley.edu/animation
Phone: (617) 868 9600
Email: admissions@lesley.edu
Living Arts College
Raleigh, NC
creative.living-arts-college.edu
Phone: (919) 488 8504

Los Angeles Academy of Figurative Art
Van Nuys, CA
laafa.edu
Phone: (818) 708 9232
Email: contactus@laafa.edu

The Los Angeles Film School
Los Angeles, California, U.S.A.
lafilm.edu
Phone: (323) 860-0789; Toll Free: 888-688-5277
Email: animation@lafilm.edu
Degrees/Certificates offered: The Los Angeles Film School offers a Bachelor of Science in

Animation with a concentration in Visual Effects or Game Art on campus and Visual Effects, Environment & Character Design or Character Animation for online students. The concentrations focus on the 12 principles of animation used by professional studios and students learn to apply that knowledge to their creations. Additionally, they build on the real-world animation pipeline in an experiential learning environment.
In 2023, the Film Program introduced new programming in the Animation/VFX Program that allows shared classes with the Film Program, so students can develop on-set skills for visual effects artists and supervisors. The L.A. Film School also partners with several virtual production studios, giving students access to real-time production processes while also expanding the students' professional networking opportunities. Additionally, concentrations are 120 credit hours and typically take 36 months (about 3 years) to complete.
Number of students in animation program: The animation program, in four concentrations, consists approximately of 600 students.
Cost of program: Due to the variability of costs associated with each degree, please visit lafilm.edu
Head of animation: Campus: Robert Rowles, Associate Program Director; Online: Ken Norman, Program Director
Head of admissions: Ernesta Mensah
Time of year offered: Monthly
Application deadline: Year-round open enrollment
Equipment available: Los Angeles Film School's Animation TechKit® includes animation student's own MSI GE76 Raider laptop with Unreal Engine, Python, Autodesk Maya, Pixologic ZBrush and Nuke. Animation students also receive the entire Adobe Creative Suite, as well as a Wacom 16 Cintiq, Stealth Trooper backpack, gaming mouse and headset.

Loyola Marymount University
School of Film and Television
Los Angeles, CA
sftv.lmu.edu
Phone: (310) 338 2700
Email: sftv_info@lmu.edu

Lynn University
Boca Raton, FL
lynn.edu
Phone: 800 994 LYNN [5966]
Email: admissions@lynn.edu

Miami Animation & Gaming International Complex (MAGIC)
at Miami Dade College
Miami, FL
magic.mdc.edu
Phone: 305 237 3560
Email: magic@mdc.edu
Degrees/Certificates offered: Industry-focused "Animation & Game Art" and "Game Development & Design" academic programs; college credit certificate in "Virtual and Augmented Reality Technologies"
Number of students in animation program: 768
Cost of program: $7,093.20
Head of animation: Mauricio Ferrazza
Head of admissions: Sandye Palacios
Time of year offered: Fall Term
Application deadline: Registration begins April 5, 2023
Equipment available: MAGIC is a 9,000 square feet, state-of-the-art facility designed to mirror a working animation studio. The entire facility is wireless and committed to achieving a nearly paperless status. The open lab space features 30 workstations, each with a Cintiq HD 2200 Touch. Students have access to a creative tool set that allows them to draw characters, convert the work to vector art, and work with 3D animation, compositing, modeling, simulation and rendering.
The pre and post production suite includes an audio engineering booth for recording sound. The motion-capture studio has a greenscreen, motion-capture equipment and motion tracking. All classrooms have workstations equipped with industry standard technology

and software. One classroom has 36 stations where students engage in project-based learning infused with the latest in the creative industries, animation, video game development, VR and AR technologies.
Notes: MAGIC was inaugurated in 2015 and is the first facility of its kind at a public higher education in Florida. Modeled after a feature production studio, MAGIC has positioned itself as a new animation and gaming industry hub and has gathered enthusiasts, studio executives, software specialists, artists and others from around the country to collaborate in different initiatives.
In 2018, The Aspen Institute and the Siemens Foundation awarded the MAGIC program at Miami Dade College with the Siemens-Aspen Community College STEM Award, in recognition of the outstanding preparation and education the program provides students seeking careers in science, technology, engineering and math.

Michigan State University
School of Journalism
East Lansing, MI
comartsci.msu.edu
Email: jrn@msu.edu
Phone: (517) 3555-1855
Degrees/Certificates offered: Animation and Comics Storytelling Minor; Digital Storytelling Bachelor of Arts with Animation Concentration
Number of students in animation program: 300
Cost of program: In-state tuition $15,000+ for two semesters, out of state tuition $41,000+ for two semesters
Head of animation: Professor Stacey Fox
Head of admissions: Dr. Kari Lopez
Time of year offered: Year-round, all online
Application deadline: April 27, 2023 for Fall semester
Notes: The animation program at MSU is all online. With courses in 2D, 3D and stop-motion animation as well as scoring music for animation. Each course is offered twice a year in Fall or Spring and all courses are offered in the summer. The program is open to any enrolled undergraduate student.

Middle Tennessee State University
Murfreesboro, TN
https://www.mtsu.edu/
Phone: (615) 898-5196
Fax: (615) 494-8694
Email: kevin.mcnulty@mtsu.edu
Degrees/Certificates offered: B.S. in Animation; B.S. in Video and Film Production, concentration in Motion Graphics
Number of students in animation program: 220
Cost of program: $9,754 in-state/$28,256 out-of-state for academic year tuition; in-state tuition available in certain states through the Academic Common Market (https://www.mtsu.edu/acm/programs.php) and major school offered to qualifying students in the Regional Scholars program (https://www.mtsu.edu/financial-aid/scholarships/regional-scholars.php).
Head of animation: Kevin McNulty
Head of admissions: admissions@mtsu.edu
Time of year offered: Semester-based, four-year Bachelor of Science degree.
Application deadline: Fall applications are accepted through July 1 (must submit all admissions materials by December 1 for freshman guaranteed academic scholarships and February 15 for transfer guaranteed academic scholarships for the following fall). Spring applications are accepted through December 15.
Equipment available: Three high-end computer labs (Boxx and Dell) dedicated exclusively to animation, render farm, 24-inch and 32-inch Wacom Cintiq Pros, new XR stage (utilizing Disguise VX2 Media Server and Mo-Sys Startracker), Blackmagic Pocket Cinema 6K Pro cameras, 4K cameras, DSLR cameras, light kits, drone cameras, audio kits, greenscreens, HTC Vive, Oculus Rift, PlayStation VR, Hololens, Magic Leap, Virtuix Omni, large-scale LED video wall systems, video/film production studios, Autodesk Maya, Toon Boom Harmony, Autodesk Mudbox, Arnold, RenderMan, Zbrush, Adobe CC software, Unreal Engine, Unity, Red Giant Suite, Cinema 4D,