

PRE-COLLEGE ARTLAB

Frequently Asked Questions

Application Eligibility & Requirements

Who is eligible to apply? High school students who will have completed their freshman year through students who will have just completed their final year in high school are eligible to apply.

What are the application requirements and is there a portfolio requirement? Each student is required to submit an online application. While there is no requirement to submit examples of artwork, we do encourage applicants to share examples of their work which may be uploaded online in the applicant's PCAL portal once the application is submitted.

Can students attend PCAL more than once? Yes, students may participate in the PCAL program more than once and are eligible to receive college credits for each successfully completed session. They are only eligible to receive one scholarship to apply toward the BFA degree program.

Payment and Scholarship Information

Are there scholarships available and how are they awarded? All students who submit their application by March 1st will be considered for a scholarship to attend PCAL on a first come, first served basis. The scholarship amounts may vary from year to year and are based on the student's application and date of application submission.

What is the cost of the program and fees, and do you offer payment plans? The program cost is \$2,500 and covers all fees, including three college credits, housing, meals, and art materials. Once a student is accepted and pays their \$300 deposit, they may pay the balance due in installments, provided the balance is paid in full by May 1st.

How does the B.F.A. scholarship work and can I get more than one if I attend PCAL more than once? Each student who successfully completes the PCAL program and who is accepted to KCAI's B.F.A. degree program will be eligible to receive an annual, renewable \$1,000 scholarship. If the student's PCAL studio is Interdisciplinary, the scholarship is \$2,000. This will be in addition to the KCAI merit-based scholarship, and any state and federal aid for which the student may qualify based on the FAFSA. Students who successfully complete the PCAL program more than once are only eligible for one annual, renewable \$1,000 scholarship or \$2,000 scholarship, depending on the studio.

Program Information

Am I guaranteed a spot in my first choice of studio if I'm accepted? Studio placement is determined on a first come, first served basis once we receive an accepted student's non-refundable \$300 deposit, until the program is full. Space is limited and we recommend students pay their deposit as soon as possible, as the program will most likely fill quickly.

How many college credits are offered, what is your grading and attendance policy, and do you provide transcripts? Due to the rigor of the curriculum and the contact hours required for the three college credits, participants are expected to attend all classes. One excused absence will be allowed, and exceptions may be considered on a case-by-case basis with appropriate documentation. Grades are on an A-F scale, based on attendance, participation, performance, and completion of projects. Students who complete the program may request official transcripts through KCAI's transcript provider, National Student Clearinghouse.

How much free time will students have? Free time will be provided each day, typically for an hour between afternoon classes and dinner, as well as an hour between evening classes and/or social activities and bedtime.

What if I need accommodations in my classes or in campus housing? We will provide a form for students and/or parents to submit to communicate any accommodations a student may need. Documentation will be required by May 1st for Session 1 and June 1st for Session 2 and once received, our Student Support staff will follow up as appropriate. As the courses are visual art in nature, students may not be required to complete any written assignments. The Interdisciplinary studio will require a writing component, but no tests will be required. For further information regarding accommodations, please email pcal@kcai.edu.

What is the daily schedule like? While students will spend most of their time in their chosen studio area, evenings will rotate through independent time in their chosen studio and workshops in a variety of other mediums. Weekends will be dedicated to workshops in a variety of areas, an Art History experience with staff at The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art and social activities.

A typical day may include:

8-9am – breakfast in Wylie Dining

9am-12pm – morning class

12-1pm – lunch in Wylie

1-4pm – afternoon class

4-5pm – free time on campus

5-6pm – dinner in Wylie

6-7:30pm – evening class

7:30pm-9pm – studio time

9-10:30pm – free time on campus

10:30pm – lights out

Campus Life Information

What is campus housing like and how are roommates selected? Students who participate in PCAL and live on campus will be housed in the Barbara Marshall Residence Hall. The rooms in this building are "semi suites" and typically consist of two bedrooms that house 2 students each and with a common bathroom in between them. Students are assigned to rooms based on their self-reported gender identity in combination with their birth gender. We will do our best to assign roommates who mutually request each other. Otherwise, roommate assignments will be intentionally made based on the information submitted in the housing survey which will be due May 1st for Session 1 and June 1st for Session 2.

What should students staying on campus bring with them? Students staying on campus will need to bring twin long bedding, a pillow, and towels. In early May, we will provide recommendations for additional items to bring to campus.

What if I have a food allergy? Information about food allergies and dietary restrictions will be collected after the student has completed the application process and been accepted into the PCAL program. PCAL meals will be held in Wylie Dining, KCAI's campus dining center, and will feature a wide variety of food options that should meet most needs. If students have questions about how their needs may be met, or have severe food allergies, they are encouraged to email pcal@kcai.edu in advance of attending the program. This will allow for an opportunity to discuss the student's specific needs and be in contact with Wylie Dining staff, if necessary, to ensure the student's needs are met while they are here for the program. If a student's needs cannot be met by the food options at Wylie Dining, other options can be explored in advance of the student's arrival.

Are there RAs in the residence hall? Each floor in the Barbara Marshall Residence Hall will have at least one RA, but sometimes more. RAs are current KCAI students who are working with the PCAL program to serve as mentors and be resources to the students.

Is there a commuter option and does it provide a discount? Students living with family within commuting distance have the option to commute to the program each day. There will be a \$300 discount off the program cost and students will need to be dropped off each morning at 8:30am and picked up each day at 9:15pm, except for Sunday, June 14th and Friday, June 26th for Session 1, and Sunday, July 19th and Friday, July 31st for Session 2. Commuters will be provided all meals.

Can I bring medications and is there an on-site nurse? Students are welcome and encouraged to bring any prescription and/or over the counter medications they will need for the duration of the program. Students are expected to manage storage and administration of medications while they are attending the PCAL program as staff cannot assist with this. KCAI does not have a health center on campus, but if students get sick or hurt, PCAL staff will work with parents/guardians and/or emergency medical services to ensure students receive care and are safe.

What if I need accommodations in my classes or in campus housing? We will provide a form for students and/or parents to submit to communicate any accommodations a student may need. Documentation will be required by May 1st for Session 1 and June 1st for Session 2 and once received, our Student Support staff will follow up as appropriate. As the courses are visual art in nature, students may not be required to complete any written assignments. The Interdisciplinary studio will require a writing component, but no tests will be required. For further information regarding accommodations, please email pcal@kcai.edu.

Can students leave campus during the program? Students are only allowed to leave campus with prior written permission from a parent or guardian. Great times to consider taking a student off campus are Friday, Saturday or Sunday, between 4-9pm.

Do you pick up/drop off students at the airport? While we cannot pick up or drop off students at the airport, we will provide information for shuttle services in early May. We will also assist students with scheduling a shuttle service to the airport for their departing flight.

Can I stay on campus on Friday, June 26th or Friday, July 31st if my flight leaves the following Saturday? Students departing on Saturday are welcome to stay on campus Friday night and we will provide dinner and light breakfast. A questionnaire will be sent closer to the start of the program with more details.

Campus Information

How do I find my classes, and will there be a campus tour? We will provide campus tours for students on Sunday, June 14th for Session 1 and Sunday, July 19th for Session 2, and our staff will be on hand to assist with guiding students to their class locations.

Is there on-site security? KCAI has its own Security Department, and their office is in the lobby of the Barbara Marshall Residence Hall. The Security Desk is staffed 24/7 and is always a resource for students should they have questions or find themselves in need of assistance.

Can students bring a car to the program? Yes, students may bring their own car, and we will provide on campus parking. Students who bring a car will be required to leave their car key with our security team and will only be allowed to leave campus with prior written permission from a parent or guardian.

2026 Payment Deadlines and Refund Policy:

May 1, 2026 - program fee balance due

Refund Schedule

Refund requests must be submitted in writing by the following deadlines:

Session 1

June 7, 2026 - 100% program fee refund available

June 8-13, 2026 - 50% program fee refund available

June 14, 2026, and after - no program fee refund

Session 2

July 11, 2026 - 100% program fee refund available

July 12-18, 2026 - 50% program fee refund available

July 19, 2026, and after - no program fee refund

Due to the rigorous nature of the program, there will be one excused absence. Additional absences may result in being released from the program with no refund of the program fee. Unexcused absences may result in being released from the program with no refund of the program fee. Exceptions may be made on a case-by-case basis.

2025/26 Timeline:

October - application opens

December - decision and scholarship notification begins

March 1 - application deadline for scholarship consideration and priority studio placement

April 1 - PCAL guide, daily schedule, and housing/commuting & required forms available

May 1 - full program payment due

May 1 - housing/commuting & required forms deadline for Session 1

June 1 - housing/commuting & required forms deadline for Session 2

June 14 (Session 1) - PCAL move in, 9am-12pm (commuting students may check in at 11:45am for lunch & afternoon/evening activities)

June 26 (Session 1) - PCAL final exhibition and check out, 4-7pm (optional Friday evening stay)

July 19 (Session 2) - PCAL move in, 9am-12pm (commuting students may check in at 11:45am for lunch & afternoon/evening activities)

July 31 (Session 2) - PCAL final exhibition and check out, 4-7pm (optional Friday evening stay)