



EducationUSA Canada Spotlights

Columbia College Chicago

In Chicago, Illinois

[Columbia College Chicago](#) is an arts and media college, firmly based in the liberal arts, dedicated to rigorous [academics](#), hands-on learning, collaboration, and career preparation. With more than 120 years of deep experience, Columbia encourages students to take creative risks, develop an authentic voice, and author the culture of their time.

Columbia offers an inclusive learning community and an educational philosophy that weds theory with practice. Columbia gives [students](#) the opportunity to practice and perfect their craft from day one while grounding them in a liberal arts curriculum. In Chicago—one of the most vibrant, forward-thinking cities in the world—students have access to an array of cultural and professional experiences.



Columbia's main goal is to prepare students for employment beyond a specific job, focusing instead on preparing students for a lasting career and fulfilling life. Students not only have the opportunity to pursue programs taught by industry leaders, but they also acquire the skills necessary to lead productive lives wherever their interests and abilities take them. Columbia focuses on career preparation both in and outside the classroom—through rigorous academics, the [Portfolio Center](#) (a team of counselors who assist students in strategizing their career plan and building a personal brand and portfolio), Industry Events, internship programs, and one of the largest arts and media alumni networks in the world.

In addition to having a strong liberal arts core and focused courses in individual majors, the curriculum is bolstered by a faculty of award-winning, working professionals. These practicing professionals expose students to valuable insights, viewpoints, and a realistic understanding of contemporary industry landscapes. Columbia also has an [Honors Program](#), which provides a rich array of specially designed courses that emphasize more independent research and applied learning. [Majors](#) include Acting, Art, Cinema Art and Science, Photography, Writing, and more.



Columbia's student body reflects the city of Chicago and the world. Our students come in all shapes, sizes, ages, sexes, colors, races, creeds, cultures, and abilities, creating a robust variety of perspectives on campus. When not in class, showing at campus galleries, publishing in Columbia's award-winning magazines, or performing on stage, students take an active role in the College's more than 85 social and academic organizations, and interact with Chicago's creative community.