

# CAREER AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE



School of the Art Institute  
of Chicago

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CAREER AND  
PROFESSIONAL  
EXPERIENCE

## CAPX Vision

Students and alums use their unique strengths, education, and experiences to achieve their career goals and thrive.

## CAPX Mission

We **prepare** students and alums through career education and **connect** them to diverse professional experiences.

**Within 6 months after graduation, 94 PERCENT OF THE CLASS OF 2024 IS EMPLOYED OR PURSUING POST-GRADUATE EDUCATION.\***

\*This percentage is based upon survey respondents.

### EMPLOYERS

Alphawood Exhibition  
(Wrightwood 659), Blick Art  
Materials, LLC, Blueline Simulations,  
Boys and Girls Clubs of Chicago, Burberry,  
Chicago Public Schools, Chinese American  
Museum of Chicago, CB2, DreamArc Studios,  
FCB Chicago, Frank Lloyd Wright Trust,  
Haitian American Museum of Chicago,  
Marvel Entertainment, Ogilvy, School  
of the Art Institute of Chicago, Art  
Institute of Chicago, YMCA of  
Metropolitan Chicago, and  
many more.

### TOP INDUSTRIES

Advertising, Design, Fashion,  
Higher Education, Internet  
& Software, Journalism,  
Non-Profit, Performing,  
and Fine Arts.

### JOBS

Architectural Designer,  
Art Teacher, Associate Designer,  
Curator, Fashion Designer, Filmmaker,  
Junior VFX Designer, Lead Illustrator,  
Motion Designer, Neon Technician,  
Photographer, Robotics Instructor,  
Sculptor, Senior Consultant,  
Textile Material Assistant,  
UI/UX Designer, Welder,  
and many more.

### CONTINUING EDUCATION

Berklee College of Music,  
California Institute of the Arts,  
Columbia University, Harvard  
University, Maryland Institute College  
of Art, New York University,  
Northwestern University, Pratt Institute,  
Rhode Island School of design, Royal  
College of Art, School of the Art  
Institute of Chicago, The New  
School, and University  
of Chicago.

"My education at SAIC prepared me for the art world with theoretical knowledge and CAPX provided me with all of the necessary resources to help me find my dream job."

TANYA MALHOTRA (SFA 2022)

# STUDENTS

## We Are Preparers and Connectors

CAPX is your home for career education. We offer a wide range of programming to assist you in developing the skills, experience, knowledge, and confidence you need to navigate your creative future.

We can help you:

- Connect with job and internship opportunities, including those posted specifically for SAIC students and alums through Handshake.
- Prepare and refine résumés, proposals, cover letters, artist statements, and portfolios.
- Discover your strengths through career and work personality assessments.
- Pursue exhibition, residency, fellowship, and funding opportunities.
- Learn about contemporary practices in emerging creative industries, freelancing, and self-employment.
- Network with SAIC alums and professionals.

## PREPARE

### ADVISING

**CAPX works with all degree-seeking undergraduate students, graduate students, and alums at all professional levels** and tailors advising to serve individual needs, identifying strengths and values. Our professional staff, faculty, and student peer advisors provide personalized advising sessions to help prepare students to pursue rewarding career paths.

#### Undergraduate Students

CAPX provides career advising, programming, and resources on professional development opportunities for undergraduate students from their first year through graduation and beyond.

#### Graduate Students

CAPX offers career advising and facilitates workshops for graduate students on preparing to apply for college teaching positions, writing grant proposals, and more.

#### Transfer Students

CAPX helps transfer students gain experience and prepares them for their creative lives after graduation. Our advisors provide guidance based on each student's unique experiences and future goals.

#### International Students

CAPX provides career education and, in partnership with International Affairs, helps students navigate government regulations.

### CAREER READINESS PROGRAMS AND RESOURCES

CAPX collaborates with departments across SAIC, faculty, employers, and alums on a range of programs, including practical workshops, panels, and classroom presentations focused on developing professional skills and strategies to prepare students for life after graduation. In addition, students and alums have access to virtual resources, such as:

#### Big Interview

Get comfortable with interviewing. Big Interview is a virtual mock interview platform for all experience levels.

#### Strengths Assessment

The CliftonStrengths® assessment discovers dominant talents that can be incorporated to internship and job search strategies and career ventures.

#### GoinGlobal

GoinGlobal is a resource for finding internship and job opportunities globally. Their search engine helps identify U.S. employers hiring international talent and sponsoring H-1B visas.

#### CreativeStudy

CreativeStudy is a resource for artists and designers that provides live webinars, videos, practice exercises, and podcasts designed to navigate business practices that are crucial to successful creative careers.



SAIC alums and industry experts participate in CAPX career education programs. Left: SHENEQUA, MDes, 2017, Artpreneur at Weave Your Dreams into Realty LLC. Right: James Connolly, BFA 2010, Collection Manager at Roger Brown Study Collection.

## CONNECT

CAPX connects SAIC students and alums with organizations, studios, and companies in Chicago, throughout the U.S., and around the world. CAPX works closely with organizations to provide a wide variety of opportunities for students and alums.

### Handshake

Handshake is a college-to-career platform that includes CAPX-approved internships; full-time, part-time, and contract and freelance jobs; and on-campus jobs. Students and alums can also use Handshake to schedule advising appointments, register for events, and access resources for career readiness.

### Jobs and Internships

CAPX works closely with employers at the forefront of creative industries to provide career and internship opportunities for students and alums. Over the years, we've partnered with more than 2,000 local, national, and international employers and internship providers.

### Internship & Career Fair

CAPX hosts an in-person fair in the fall and spring semesters with more than 40 employers in attendance at each event. All students and alums are invited to connect with leading companies and organizations from across the country to explore internship and job opportunities.

Employers who have attended include: 6018North, Afro-Audacity Animation, Art Institute of Chicago, Ballet Chicago, Chicago Artists Coalition, Chicago International Puppet Theater Festival, Chicago Maker Space, Chinese American Museum of Chicago, Hairpin Arts Center, Kehoe Designs, Museum of Science and Industry, Oak Brothers Historic Restoration, Swedish American Museum, and zpd+a Architects.

"It was an awesome event! Students showed how talented, driven, and curious they are. It was great to connect with so many students."

EMPLOYER WHO ATTENDED THE INTERNSHIP & CAREER FAIR

# INTERNSHIPS

Students participate in internships in Chicago, from coast to coast, and around the world, including artists' studios, design firms, publishing houses, museums, galleries, architecture firms, tech startups, gaming and software developers, social service and community organizations, fashion houses, and more. Recent internship sites include Art Institute of Chicago, DuSable Museum of African-American History, Experimental Sound Studio, Field Museum, Gensler, Kavi Gupta Gallery, Leo Burnett, Leslie Hindman Auctioneers, Museum of Contemporary Art, NBC Universal, and Pivot Design.

“I love working at World Business Chicago! I did a lot of graphic design work and got a chance to be part of some significant events. The internship also allowed me to expand my network.”

GRAPHIC DESIGN INTERN AT WORLD BUSINESS CHICAGO

## INTERNSHIP COURSE CREDIT

Students can earn credit for their internships by enrolling in one of the following courses:

**Professional Practice:  
Internship as Professional  
Experience 3900**

Open to juniors and seniors

Offered during fall, spring and summer semesters

Credits, 3.0

Fulfills professional practice, studio, off-campus requirements

**CAPX Internship  
4001**

Open to sophomores, juniors and seniors

Offered during fall, winter, spring, and summer semesters

Credits, 3.0 or 1.5  
Winter 1.5 credits only

Fulfills studio and off-campus requirements

**CAPX Internship  
5001**

Open to graduate students

Offered during fall, winter, spring, and summer semesters

Credits, 3.0 or 1.5  
Winter 1.5 credits only

## SAIC INTERNSHIP STIPEND FUND

The SAIC internship stipend fund supports students pursuing valuable internships that are unpaid, underpaid, or high-cost. During select fall, spring, and summer semesters, SAIC is able to provide \$2,500 stipends to eligible students thanks to generous donors. To be considered for the award, students submit an application that describes their financial need and how the internship will help prepare them for their life after art school.



Britton Farrell, MA Arts Administration and Policy 2023, Development Intern at Hyde Park Art Center and internship stipend recipient.

## For More Information

### CAREER AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE (CAPX)

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 @saiccareers

 @saic-capx

## *Handshake*

<http://saic.joinhandshake.com>



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