

# CAREER AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE



School of the Art Institute  
of Chicago

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CAREER AND  
PROFESSIONAL  
EXPERIENCE

Career and Professional Experience (CAPX) prepares students and alums through career education and connects them to diverse experiences to build sustainable, creative lives.

## Note from the Dean

Over the past year, CAPX aligned its programs and resources with its new mission, and we are excited to share the ways we prepare and connect our students for life after graduation. Our world looks very different than it did one year ago, and CAPX is dedicating its efforts to support and empower students and alums by focusing on the development of virtual platforms for professional connections, social justice, and financial security.



- **Virtual platforms:** The restrictions mandated by the global pandemic have required that we change aspects of our operations. By moving our programs to virtual platforms, we increase accessibility and the number of students who connect with career advisors, alums, and industry experts.
- **Social justice:** Our staff, faculty, and peer advisors are committed to developing programming and support specifically for our students and alums who are affected by social- and race-based structural inequalities.
- **Financial security:** CAPX works directly with our community of employers to provide internships and jobs for our students and alums, and fosters both in-person and remote opportunities. Programming will provide the skills necessary to apply for jobs and internships, as well as practical advice from experts regarding developing a creative practice.

With this renewed focus, we will continue to work towards the CAPX vision—a future where all students and alums use their strengths, education, and experiences to build creative lives that positively impact Chicago and the global creative community.

**Rosalie Shemmer**  
Dean

*"I left so excited about the possibilities after graduation. So happy to know this wonderful resource [CAPX] is available to me from here on out."*

ANDREA HERRICK (MFA 2021)

*"SAIC's Art Education program prepared me for my first career as a high school art teacher, which I loved for nine years. When I was ready for a career change, CAPX was there with free support that helped me grow into a self-employed practicing textile artist. I'm forever grateful."*

HEIDI PARKES (BFA 2005)

## PREPARE

**1,481** advising appointments

### CAREER EDUCATION PROGRAMS

**79** programs

**1,215** attendees

### CLASSROOM VISITS

**61** classroom visits

**694** students reached

## CONNECT

**47** experts for Expert Exchange

### HANDSHAKE

**3,165** employers

**2,945** jobs

**1,569** internships

### INTERNSHIP AND JOB EXPO

**59** employers

**483** student attendees

## POST-GRAD OUTCOMES

**UPON GRADUATION, 95 PERCENT OF THE CLASS OF 2019 IS EMPLOYED OR PURSUING A POSTGRADUATE EDUCATION.\***

*\*This percentage is based on a 72 percent knowledge rate of the undergraduate class of 2019.*

### COMPANIES

Apple, Chicago Public Library Foundation, Dolce Vita, In These Times, Jurassic Studio, Kaleidoscope, Kavi Gupta Gallery, Landor, Latin School of Chicago, Legacy Marketing, Lillstreet Art Center, McMaster-Carr, National Museum of Mexican Art, Publications International, Rebirth Garments, Salesforce, Schafer Condon Carter, Squid Books, Strawdog Theatre Company, United Airlines, Wheeler Goodman Masek & Associates, Wndr Museum, ZPD+A Architects, and many more

### TOP INDUSTRIES

Architecture/Urban Planning, Arts and Entertainment, Design, Education, Fashion and Textile, Marketing and Advertising, Museums and Libraries, Nonprofit/Philanthropy

### CONTINUING EDUCATION

Cornell University, New York University, Parsons, Rhode Island School of Design, Royal College of Art, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, University of London

### JOBS

Animator, Architect, Art Instructor, Artist, Assistant Art Buyer, Cinematographer, Collections Management Assistant, Community Manager, Costume Designer, Creative Director, Curator, Designer, Editor, Exhibition Manager, Furniture Maker, Graphic Designer, Illustrator, Junior Designer, Operations Specialist, Overseas Advertising Producer, Photographer, Product Designer, Social Media Associate, UX Designer, and many more

# STUDENTS

## We Are Preparers and Connectors

CAPX is your home for valuable career advising. 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 to:

- Connect with job and internship opportunities posted specifically for SAIC students and alums through Handshake
- Prepare and refine résumés, proposals, cover letters, artist's statements, and portfolios
- Discover your personal strengths through 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

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

#### Undergraduate Students

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

#### Graduate Students

CAPX helps graduate students navigate from their studio- and research-focused lives at SAIC to professional employment. We offer career advising and facilitate workshops 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

Pursuing professional opportunities as an international student comes with its own unique challenges; CAPX provides career education and, in partnership with International Affairs, helps students navigate government regulations.

### CAREER EDUCATION PROGRAMS

For our Career Education Programs, we collaborate with our colleagues, student groups, faculty, employers, and alums inside and outside of the classroom to prepare our community for life after graduation.

#### Big Interview

On this free, virtual platform, build your confidence for the interviewing process through skill-building exercises and valuable feedback from our career advisors—all from the comfort of your own home.

#### Strengths Assessment

The CliftonStrengths® assessment helps students discover their dominant talents from the way they naturally think, feel, and behave. Nearly 500 students took the assessment this past year, incorporating their insights into their internship and job search strategies and creative ventures.



SAIC alums participate in Career Education Programs and Expert Exchange. Left: Cortney Lederer (MA 2009), art consultant, CNL Projects. Right: Roosevelt Pittman (MA 2014), senior environmental artist, High Voltage Software

# CONNECT

We connect students with alums and professional networks; assist them with developing professional portfolios and an online presence; and help them apply for internships, jobs, and other professional opportunities.

### Handshake

Handshake is an innovative college-to-career platform that's home to all CAPX-approved, for-credit internships; full-time, part-time, and freelance jobs; volunteer or contract positions; and campus jobs. Students and alums can also use Handshake to schedule advising appointments and register for events.

### Expert Exchange

Held every week during the fall and spring semesters and throughout the summer, Expert Exchange offers students and alums the opportunity to consult with creative professionals and business leaders about careers in art and design. Expert Exchange is virtual, allowing experts from around the world to meet with SAIC students and alums.

### 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.

### SAIC Internship and Job Expo

Our annual flagship program brings together 60 employers from the Chicago area and beyond. Last year, nearly 500 students and alums connected with leading companies and organizations to explore job and internship opportunities.

Employers we've partnered with include Walt Disney Animation Studios, EXPO Chicago, Gensler, Goodman Theatre, Marvel Entertainment, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Proenza Schouler, the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, Wix Design Playground, and many more.

Expo will be held virtually in fall 2020, allowing more employers, students, and alums to attend.

*"Thanks again for your great class visit. CAPX is truly an amazing and important resource for students."*

**NELLY AGASSI, FACULTY**

# INTERNSHIPS

Our internship providers give students opportunities in Chicago, from coast-to-coast, and around the world. CAPX internship providers include 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. Some of the top organizations where students complete internships include 826CHI, Experimental Sound Studio, the Field Museum, Full Spectrum Features, the Hyde Park Art Center, Rebirth Garments, and VSA Partners.

*"This internship was great! It was better than I could have ever imagined, and I learned so much, improved my research and public speaking skills, and was able to contribute to the museum in meaningful ways."*

**STUDENT INTERN AT THE INTERNATIONAL MUSEUM OF SURGICAL SCIENCE**

## INTERNSHIP COURSE CREDIT

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

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

A weekly, two-hour class that includes a minimum of 110 hours of on-site work experience, this course allows students to explore designing a creative career. Tools include assessing personal strengths and interests, researching potential employment opportunities, developing job application materials, and strengthening interview skills.

### **CAPX Internship 4001/5001**

There are four main components to the CAPX 4001 and 5001 internships: initial seminars, an individual midterm meeting, a site visit, and a final seminar. Students work 140 hours to earn three credits per semester and are assigned a faculty advisor who offers career advice and awards course credit.

## SAIC PARENTS COUNCIL INTERNSHIP FUND

Thanks to the generous support of the SAIC Parents Council, in collaboration with CAPX, this annual award of \$2,500 is available to students who complete unpaid, underpaid, or high-cost internships. Students apply for the award by submitting their résumé and an essay that describes how their internship aligns with SAIC's core values and will help prepare them for life after art school.



Chicago Mosaic School Internship

# EMPLOYERS

SAIC students and alums are talented artists, designers, and scholars who are eager to bring their fresh perspectives and innovative, interdisciplinary training to the workplace. Over the years, CAPX has partnered with more than 2,000 local, national, and international employers and internship providers to facilitate just that, and we're thrilled to invite you to join this distinguished network.



Handshake is our primary tool to facilitate professional connections. In the past few years, this platform has rapidly become the new standard for connecting students and alums with jobs, internships, and other professional opportunities. Currently, there are more than 700 US universities and 14 million students and alums present on the network, including 100 percent of Fortune 500 companies. We encourage you to visit our employer site at [saic.joinhandshake.com/employers](http://saic.joinhandshake.com/employers) for more information.



## EMPLOYERS MAY ALSO CONNECT WITH SAIC STUDENTS AND ALUMS BY PARTICIPATING IN THE FOLLOWING:

### Expert Exchange

Expert Exchange offers students the opportunity to consult individually with creative professionals and business leaders. It's an excellent opportunity to offer your valuable insight and career advice to our community.

### SAIC Internship and Job Expo

You can represent your company or organization by participating in our annual SAIC Internship and Job Expo.

For more information, contact us at [saic-capx@saic.edu](mailto:saic-capx@saic.edu).

*"The students' portfolio work shows a high level of thought, creativity, and execution."*

**STACY SEARCY, SIMEONE DEARY DESIGN GROUP, INTERNSHIP AND CAREER EXPO ATTENDEE**

# For More Information

## CAREER AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE (CAPX)

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 **Handshake**



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