Columbia gives students the opportunity to practice and perfect their craft from day one while grounding them in a liberal arts curriculum. Students participate in hands-on, experiential learning in the heart of Chicago—one of the most vibrant, forward-thinking cities in the world. Columbia encourages students to venture off campus and become part of the culture of Chicago.

Columbia’s main goal is to prepare students for a successful career in the arts. Students can pursue creative programs taught by industry professionals still working in the field today. Combined with a rigorous core curriculum, they also acquire a variety of transferable skills that will help them succeed wherever their interests and abilities take them.

Columbia focuses on career preparation both in and outside of the classroom, but especially through the Career Center (a team of advisors who assist students with resumes, cover letters, portfolios, personal branding, and finding internships and jobs). Industry nights, “Here to Hire” events, and alumni networking are just some of the many career building programs hosted on campus throughout the year.
Columbia's student body reflects the city of Chicago and the world. Our students come in all shapes, sizes, ages, genders, races, ethnicities, sexual orientations, 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.

Columbia offers a variety of majors like Acting, Film & Television, Music, Visual Art, Graphic Design, Photography, Fashion, Journalism, and more. Columbia also offers an Honors Program, which provides a rich array of specially designed courses that emphasize more independent research and applied learning.

Columbia is test optional, and has rolling admissions that open late August. Columbia also offers scholarships for international students.

Do you think Columbia College Chicago might be a good fit for you? Apply today!