

Policies & Regulations

*We don't expect our students to fit the mold.
In fact, we want to help them break it.*

ADMISSIONS

FIDM Students are unique. That's why we take all of the individual achievements and qualifications of our applicants into consideration. While some FIDM candidates are recent high school graduates, others have previously received an Associate of Arts Degree, a Bachelor's Degree, or graduate degrees from other colleges. Many potential students decide to attend FIDM after years in another industry, while those with experience in our key industries come to FIDM for additional training to further their careers. Whatever a candidate's educational and professional background, they can be assured that they will be considered on their own merit by our Admissions department, because diversity only adds to the creative environment we're passionate about at FIDM.

Whenever possible, campus visits and personal interviews are encouraged for all candidates. However, out-of-state students may interview by telephone and international students may apply through the mail (see application at the back of this catalog). Students may also apply online at www.FIDM.edu. Candidacy for admission to all Associate of Arts, Professional Designation, and Associate of Arts Advanced Study Programs is based on an initial application and satisfaction of the following requirements:

- 1. Submission of high school/secondary school transcript(s) and, if applicable, all college/university transcript(s).**

All candidates must possess or be a candidate for a high school/secondary school diploma or general equivalency diploma (GED). Applicants not meeting these criteria should refer to the Ability to Benefit section of this catalog.

- 2. Submission of three recommendations from professionals such as faculty, counselors, school administrators, or employers.**
- 3. Submission of Admissions Essay.**

- 4. Submission of portfolio requirement for certain majors. Contact the Office of Admissions or access entrance requirements at www.FIDM.edu.**

- 5. Submission of application fees: initial non-refundable \$25 application fee and \$200 final application fee (non-refundable upon acceptance to FIDM).**

Admission to Associate of Arts Advanced Study Degree Programs

Limited to candidates who possess a prior academic degree in a related discipline. Prior FIDM degree required for admission to the Fashion Design Advanced Study Program. Candidates must also meet the general education core requirements or possess a U.S. accredited degree in the discipline in which they wish to pursue advanced study.

Admission to Associate of Arts Professional Designation Degree Programs

Limited to candidates who have a U.S. accredited degree, or its equivalent, and wish to add a new field of specialization. Information about specific prerequisite coursework and approved professional experience may be obtained from the Office of Admissions.

Admission to Bachelor of Science Business Management Degree Program

Prior FIDM degree along with Education interview and evaluation required for admission to the Bachelor of Science Degree Program.

Out-of-State Admissions

Students residing outside of the State of California may waive the requirement of a personal interview by contacting an Out-of-State Admissions Advisor (by telephone, in writing, or online) to arrange for a telephone interview. An additional \$200 application fee is due prior to acceptance.

International Student Admissions

International students may apply online at www.FIDM.edu. The following additional requirements may need to be satisfied by international students:

- 1. ESL classes** — FIDM is a professionally oriented college and currently coordinates English as a Second Language (ESL) classes at the Los Angeles and San Francisco campuses.
- 2. TOEFL** — Applicants whose first language is not English are required to take the test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). The minimum TOEFL score for admission to FIDM is 483 (or 160 computer-based, or 65-74/75 Internet-based). The TOEFL may be arranged by contacting the U.S. Consul in the applicant's country of

residence or by writing to: TOEFL, Education Testing Services, Box 900, Princeton, New Jersey 08540 USA. An international admissions fee, listed on the tuition schedule, is payable 30 days after enrollment. FIDM's TOEFL school code is #4457.

3. Transcripts — All international transcripts must be translated, and some transcripts may require certification by an official agency.

4. Letter of Financial Support — The college is on the approved list of the U.S. Department of Justice for non-immigrant students and is authorized to issue certificates of eligibility (Form I-20). International students are required to supply a Letter of Financial Support verifying that they are able to meet their financial obligations. International students residing out of the country are not required to attend personal interviews. International students should not depend on part-time employment for financial support while attending college. Industry experience may be gained by applying for practical training during the second year of enrollment.

Junior Admissions

The Admissions Department provides high school juniors an opportunity for early consideration and acceptance to FIDM. Admissions Advisors interview students and recommend ways in which the applicant can prepare for admission to FIDM while in the senior year of high school. Activities are planned to assist students to prepare for entrance into the college. Interested students can visit us at www.FashionClub.com.

Acceptance

Applicants will be notified about acceptance to the college at the conclusion of the second personal interview. At this time, prospective students complete enrollment forms and pay the non-refundable application fee.

Out-of-State students will be notified of their acceptance and receive enrollment papers by mail upon FIDM's receipt of all required forms and application fees. The enrollment procedure is concluded when the completed forms and remaining admissions fees are returned to the college.

Ability to Benefit

Admission to FIDM requires that the applicant be a high school graduate or successfully complete the General Equivalency Diploma (GED) exam. Applicants who do not meet this requirement may be considered for special admission under the U.S. Department of Education's Ability to Benefit policy. The applicant must be 18 years of age, and pass an independently administered Ability to Benefit test approved by the Secretary of Education, U.S. Department of Education.

FINANCIAL AID

Applicants needing financial assistance are encouraged to inquire about the financial aid programs administered by the college. In addition, applicants should consult their high school counselors about any grants or scholarships available. Numerous local, state, and national scholarship competitions provide many scholarship opportunities. Employers and fraternal, alumni, and civic organizations with which the students or their parents are affiliated may be another source of financial assistance and should be explored.

While applicants are encouraged to seek grants and scholarships, students should not rely upon them as the sole means of financing their education.

Application Procedure

It is the student's responsibility to ensure that processing of the financial aid package is complete before clearance for registration. It is FIDM's responsibility to administer assistance programs in such a manner as to ensure strict compliance with regulations governing financial aid.

To be considered for financial aid, students must first notify their Admissions Advisor, Student Advisor, or the Financial Aid Office directly of their intent to apply for financial assistance. It is the student's responsibility to complete and return all documents requested by the Student Financial Services Office. Applicants should check the status of their application to insure proper processing. Federal aid programs are awarded on a fiscal year basis, beginning July 1 and ending June 30. Thus, an applicant may need to apply for aid more than once during an academic or calendar year. Important: Federal Aid applications for State Grant programs are available in January of each year. The filing deadline is March 2.

General Guidelines

Students receiving any type of aid must make satisfactory academic progress toward the completion of a specific educational program. Failure to do so may result in the termination or reduction of financial aid. Proof of attendance, on a quarterly basis, is required before any aid may be disbursed. Student eligibility for a maximum award requires full-time (12 units per quarter) attendance at the college. Aid is given on a first-come, first-served basis. All financial aid must be awarded before the student may register for classes.

Federal Financial Aid Programs

Federal Pell Grant

Money received from this program is a grant and does not have to be repaid. Aid is disbursed quarterly. This program is designed to provide financial assistance for students determined by the federal government guidelines to be eligible for financial aid. FIDM receives an Institutional Student Information Record (ISIR) which is used to determine a student's eligibility.

Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant (SEOG)

This grant is available to students who demonstrate extreme financial need and is used to augment aid from other assistance programs. Funding received from this program does not need to be repaid. Aid is distributed quarterly.

Federal Academic Competitiveness Grant (ACG)

This grant is available to recent high school graduates attending FIDM on a full-time basis. Recipients must have completed a rigorous academic curriculum while in high school, be a U.S. Citizen, and be eligible for a Federal Pell Grant. A minimum 3.0 GPA is required for renewal awards. Aid is distributed quarterly.

Federal Work-Study Program (FWSP)

Aid received from this program consists of employment assistance. FIDM students interested in participating in this program must contact the Student Financial Services Office.

Federal Perkins Loan

This is a federal loan for students who demonstrate extreme financial need and is used to augment aid from other programs. Repayment begins nine months after the student leaves college.

Federal Subsidized Stafford Loan

This is a federal loan based on financial need and borrowed from institutions such as banks or credit unions. The federal government pays interest on the loan while the student is enrolled at least half-time and during the grace period. Repayment of the loan begins six months after the student leaves college or drops below half-time attendance.