



THE AMERICAN ACADEMY
OF DRAMATIC ARTS



2025 - 2026 VIEWBOOK

141

YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

As the first conservatory for actors in the English-speaking world, The American Academy of Dramatic Arts has consistently focused on a single mission: Training the best and brightest students from around the globe to become highly skilled, confident, well-rounded actors. The Academy's innovative training inspires creativity and imagination while exploring respected techniques under the guidance of our esteemed faculty, directors and industry experts.

The core of the Academy's training is the opportunity to perform. Students take part in more performances than at nearly any other acting school in the country, with dozens of opportunities both in class and in full-scale productions. And when you consider our diverse, international student body, small class sizes and intensive, well-balanced curriculum, you'll soon realize that the Academy is simply unrivaled among acting schools.

THE ACADEMY'S PROUD HERITAGE

UPHOLDING THE STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE

From the earliest American stage and screen legends to today's international award-winning actors, you can see why The American Academy of Dramatic Arts has earned its singular reputation.

Founded in 1884 by former Harvard speech professor Franklin Haven Sargent, The American Academy of Dramatic Arts first opened its doors as the Lyceum Theatre School of Acting. One hundred and eighteen eager students would soon become the Academy's first graduating class, and the history of acting in America was changed forever.

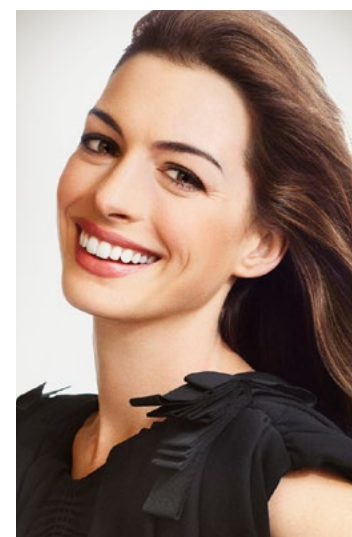
Early on, the Academy benefited from the influence of the first American theatre luminaries, including director David Belasco and playwright Henry DeMille, father of moviemaker Cecil B. DeMille. In fact, it was Henry DeMille who is credited with giving the Academy its current name in 1889.

By the mid-20th century, the Academy became widely known as "The Cradle to the Stars" due to its stunning reputation of influential alumni. In 1963, the school moved to its present location on Madison Avenue in Midtown Manhattan, at the site of the historic Colony Club building, designed by one of America's preeminent architects, Stanford White. By 1974, the decision had been made to expand westward. From 1974-2025, the Academy operated its Los Angeles campus in Pasadena and then in Hollywood, on the south lot of the former Charlie Chaplin Studios, where it trained emerging actors for just over fifty years.

To this day, the Academy's legacy for setting standards of excellence in actor training continues to attract innovative instructors at the forefront of their craft. The faculty consists of professional artists, master acting teachers and theatrical visionaries who are supported by an administration committed to upholding the standard of excellence established more than 140 years ago.

The Academy's alumni have been nominated for
113 OSCARS® 361 EMMYS® 102 TONYS®

See a comprehensive list of our alumni at aada.edu/notable-alumni



The Academy provides a unique environment where actors learn to create a powerful bond with audiences, uplifting the human spirit and profoundly enriching our world for generations to come.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

2	141 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE
3	THE ACADEMY'S PROUD HERITAGE
7	NEW YORK CAMPUS
9	TRAINING PHILOSOPHY
11	TWO-YEAR CONSERVATORY PROGRAM
13	ACTING FOR THEATRE, FILM AND TELEVISION
15	ACTING FOR MUSICAL THEATRE
17	COURSES & CREDITS
19	THE THIRD-YEAR ACADEMY COMPANY
21	SUMMER PROGRAMS
23	INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS
25	NEW YORK CAMPUS HOUSING
27	HOW TO APPLY
28	TUITION & EXPENSES

THE ACADEMY NEW YORK

TRAIN IN THE CENTER
OF AMERICAN THEATRE

THE MOMENT YOU ARRIVE

at our campus in New York City, the excitement and energy will inspire your passion to perform. With Broadway, Lincoln Center, Times Square, Central Park, countless galleries, museums, and a vibrant multicultural arts and entertainment scene all at your doorstep, the Academy's historic location puts you right in the middle of everything there is to love about the Big Apple.

Feature film and television crews dot the streets by day, and each night the biggest names on Broadway light up the stage. Around the clock, you will be inspired by the best the city has to offer.

OUR CAMPUS

Set in Madison Avenue's landmark Colony Club building in Midtown Manhattan, our campus encompasses six full stories of classrooms, rehearsal halls, dance studios, dressing rooms, costume and prop departments, a production workshop, a student lounge, and an expansive library designed to serve the specific needs of acting students. Plus, our media studios are equipped with the latest video, lighting and editing systems—everything you need for exceptional on-camera training.

Another notable feature is our collection of impressive theatres that offer a variety of training and performance opportunities. Our 169-seat proscenium theatre, 164-seat thrust theatre and 103-seat arena-style theatre are all used for classes, rehearsals and full-scale productions.

From top to bottom, our campus is ideally outfitted for you to grow and succeed as a working actor.

For student housing information, see page 25 or visit aada.edu.



THE ACADEMY DIFFERENCE

The Academy believes acting is more than a hobby or even a professional pursuit; it is a calling to greatness.

MISSION

A world-leading acting conservatory and college, the American Academy of Dramatic Arts trains a diverse community of emerging actors from across the globe to thrive as professional artists and collaborators.

PHILOSOPHY

We uphold truth in performance as the cornerstone of artistic discovery, enabling students to unearth their deepest potential and establish a memorable and impactful connection with their audiences. This fundamental concept serves as the catalyst that elevates art to its highest form. Our unique and intensive education involves the actor's whole being, guiding students on a highly personal journey of self-discovery to expand their own imagination, physical instrument, and emotional reach.

PERFORMANCE

The path to learning any craft is by doing, and for Academy students, this means having the daily opportunity to perform and receive constructive feedback from the very first day of class. Through hands-on experience, students master a diverse array of acting skills and gain a practical working knowledge of behind-the-scenes roles. This comprehensive and immersive approach ensures students graduate as well-rounded performers, equipped to excel in a wide range of professional pursuits, expanding their creative and career opportunities as artists.

FACULTY

At the Academy, our instructors are not only highly skilled artistic professionals, but are also passionate mentors who bring a wealth of first-hand expertise to the classroom. Genuinely dedicated to supporting each student's unique journey, our faculty collaborate to assess student progress and offer individualized artistic support.

COMMUNITY

Beyond the classroom, Academy students become part of an artistic community of students from around the world, sharing in the joy of learning and creation while discovering new perspectives. Inspiration abounds in this rich cultural environment; classmates often become future creative partners and collaborators. There's a reason that our students use the same word when they're describing the feel of their supportive Academy community: **family**.



TWO-YEAR CONSERVATORY PROGRAM TRACKS

The Academy's Two-Year Conservatory Program is an immersive, full-time experience that equips you with the discipline, artistry, and industry knowledge essential for a lasting career in the performing arts. Balancing tradition with innovation, this program provides a solid foundation in acting while also allowing you to specialize in a chosen track.

All students receive rigorous training in core acting fundamentals, including:

- ✓ The techniques of Strasberg, Adler, Meisner, Hagen, and others
- ✓ On-Camera Technique
- ✓ Script Analysis and Character Development
- ✓ Sensory Work
- ✓ Career Development and Industry Preparation

Students also choose between two customized tracks:

- ✓ **Acting for Theatre, Film, and Television**
- ✓ **Acting for Musical Theatre**

With about 70% shared coursework, both tracks nurture authenticity and creative growth while offering deeper exploration in your chosen focus.

Along the way, you'll learn directly from accomplished faculty and working professionals who mentor you through every stage of discovery. These top industry professionals not only provide personalized creative and educational support, but also integrate their firsthand experience into the curriculum, covering essential topics such as time management, audition techniques, career preparation, and strategic marketing.

Graduates of the program earn an Associate of Occupational Studies (AOS) degree, prepared to enter the industry with clarity and confidence.



TWO-YEAR CONSERVATORY PROGRAM



ACTING FOR THEATRE, FILM, & TELEVISION

Overview page 13

Courses & Credits page 17



ACTING FOR MUSICAL THEATRE

Overview page 15

Courses & Credits page 18

TWO-YEAR CONSERVATORY

ACTING FOR THEATRE, FILM AND TELEVISION

Prepare for a meaningful career on stage and screen.



Truth is the cornerstone of the Academy's acting training, shaping how every performance connects with an audience. The Acting for Theatre, Film & Television track emphasizes authenticity and presence, combining classic techniques with contemporary methods to help you bring depth and vulnerability to each role, on stage or on camera.

In small classes, you'll receive individualized feedback that sharpens your technique and deepens your self-awareness. This specialized training develops your full instrument – movement, speech, voice, and sensory work – shaping you into a unique and dynamic artist.

Specialized Acting for Theatre, Film & Television courses include:

- ✓ Improvisation
- ✓ Drama in Context
- ✓ On-Camera Scene Study
- ✓ Stage Combat
- ✓ Audition Technique

Through live performance, on-camera work, and backstage practice, you'll build the versatility to work across genres, styles, and mediums, preparing you to take on any role with confidence.



TWO-YEAR CONSERVATORY

ACTING FOR MUSICAL THEATRE

Discover a contemporary approach to musical theatre with our groundbreaking Acting for Musical Theatre track.



The most compelling musical theatre performers captivate through a seamless blend of acting, song, and dance. The Academy's Acting for Musical Theatre track prepares you to do just that.

Built on our renowned acting conservatory foundation, the program expands your training in singing, choreography, and movement, enabling you to fully embody characters in the heightened world of musical theatre. You'll refine the skills most vital to today's performers, balancing technical precision with authentic expression.

Specialized Acting for Musical Theatre courses include:

- ✓ Dance
- ✓ Music Theory
- ✓ Applied Voice Studio
- ✓ Text to Song
- ✓ Private Vocal Coaching & Vocal Ensemble

With individualized dance training and one-on-one vocal coaching, you'll gain the artistry and confidence to move audiences and thrive in the contemporary musical theatre landscape and beyond.



ACTING FOR THEATRE, FILM AND TELEVISION

COURSES & CREDITS

FIRST YEAR

SEMESTER	COURSE	AOS IN ACTOR TRAINING 2025-2026 CATALOG	FORMAT	CREDITS
FALL Credits: 16	ACD 101	Exploring the Academy	LEC	1
	ACT 101	Acting I	STU	4
	MVT 110	Alexander Technique I	STU	1
	MVT 101	Movement I	STU	2
	VSP 101	Voice & Speech I	STU	2
	ACD 105	Script Analysis	LEC	3
	MVT 105	Dance for the Actor	STU	1
	VSP 110	Voice Science	STU	1
	ACT 121	Rehearsal & Performance I	RP	1
WINTER Credits: 16	ACT 102	Acting II	STU	4
	MVT 112	Alexander Technique II	STU	1
	MVT 102	Movement II	STU	2
	VSP 102	Voice & Speech II	STU	2
	CAM 101	On-Camera Technique I	STU	2
	VSP 111	Speech Science	STU	1
	ACD 122	Drama in Context	LEC	3
	ACT 131	Rehearsal & Performance II	RP	1

SECOND YEAR

SEMESTER	COURSE	AOS IN ACTOR TRAINING 2025-2026 CATALOG	FORMAT	CREDITS
FALL Credits: 15.5	ACT 201	Acting III	STU	4
	VSP 201	Voice & Speech III	STU	3
	MVT 201	Movement III	STU	2
	CAM 201	On-Camera Technique II	STU	2
	ACD 225	Improvisation	STU	1
	ACD 210	Business of Acting	LEC	2
	ACT 203	Monologues	STU	0.5
	ACT 221	Rehearsal & Performance III	RP	1
WINTER Credits: 12.5	ACT 206	Acting IV	STU	2
	CAM 211	On-Camera Technique III	STU	1
	ACT 241	Rehearsal & Performance IV	RP	4
	VSP 250	Vocal & Physical Practicum	PR	0.5
	ACD 230	Studio Electives	STU	2
	MVT 213	Stage Combat	STU	1
	ACT 213	Audition Technique	STU	2

Total credits: 60

Courses and hours are subject to change at the sole discretion of The Academy.

*May be taken in any semester prior to final semester. Semesters may vary.

There may be changes to courses after this catalog has been published. Consult aada.edu for the latest information.

ACTING FOR MUSICAL THEATRE

COURSES & CREDITS

FIRST YEAR

SEMESTER	COURSE	AOS IN ACTOR TRAINING 2025-2026 CATALOG	FORMAT	CREDITS
FALL Credits: 16.5	ACD 101	Exploring the Academy	LEC	1
	ACT 101	Acting I	STU	4
	MTH 121	Dance I	STU	2
	ACD 105	Script Analysis	LEC	3
	MTH 151	Applied Voice Studio	STU	0.5
	MTH 110	Music Theory	LEC	2
	VSP 101	Voice & Speech I	STU	2
	VSP 110	Voice Science	STU	1
	ACT 121	Rehearsal & Performance I	RP	1
WINTER Credits: 14.5	ACT 102	Acting II	STU	4
	MVT 110	Alexander Technique I	STU	1
	MTH 122	Dance II	STU	2
	VSP 102	Voice & Speech II	STU	2
	CAM 101	On-Camera Technique I	STU	2
	VSP 111	Speech Science	STU	1
	MTH 152	Applied Voice Studio	STU	0.5
	MTH 165	Vocal Ensemble	PR	1
	ACT 131	Rehearsal & Performance II	RP	1

SECOND YEAR

SEMESTER	COURSE	AOS IN ACTOR TRAINING 2025-2026 CATALOG	FORMAT	CREDITS
FALL Credits: 15.5	ACT 201	Acting III	STU	4
	MVT 112	Alexander Technique II	STU	1
	MTH 153	Applied Voice Studio	STU	0.5
	MTH 221	Dance III	STU	2
	VSP 201	Voice & Speech III	STU	3
	CAM 201	On-Camera Technique II	STU	2
	MTH 250	Musical Theatre Styles: Text to Song	STU	2
	ACT 221	Rehearsal & Performance III	RP	1
WINTER Credits: 13.5	ACD 210	Business of Acting	LEC	2
	ACT 206	Acting IV	STU	2
	ACT 241	Rehearsal & Performance IV	RP	4
	MTH 154	Applied Voice Studio	STU	0.5
	MTH 275	Musical Theatre Audition	STU	2
	MTH 112	Musical Theatre in Context	LEC	3

Total credits: 60

THE THIRD-YEAR ACADEMY COMPANY

THE PINNACLE YEAR OF PERFORMANCE

At the conclusion of the Two-Year Conservatory Program, students are given the opportunity to audition for The Academy Company. This Certificate of Advanced Training in Acting program offers unrivaled performance experience with intense, focused training classes and masterclasses to a small number of Third-Year students, serving as an important vehicle to usher graduates into the professional world of performing arts.



Picnic performed by the New York Company



Doubt performed by the New York Company



Nature Alliance performed by the New York Company



Polaroid Stories performed by the New York Company



Too Wong Foo performed by the New York Company



The Richard Project performed by the New York Company

ADVANCED TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

The Company performs a wide range of plays, from classic to contemporary, before an invited audience of Academy guests, agents, casting directors and other industry professionals. Students are cast in challenging roles that showcase their talents while providing further opportunity for growth and development. This training provides a platform for Company members to let their talent truly shine and gain recognition for their work.

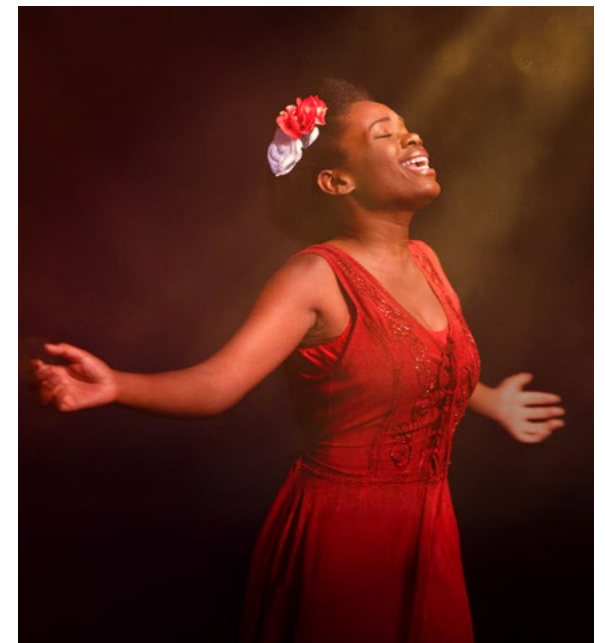
The emphasis of the program is the practical development of the actor through classes and masterclasses, rehearsal and performance. In addition, a variety of advanced training opportunities are offered, which may include:

- ✓ Advanced classes in acting, speech and movement, as well as training in audition monologues and camera technique
- ✓ Individual career counseling to advise Company members on all matters related to career management
- ✓ Seminars with working professionals, such as film and commercial talent agents, managers and theatre/independent film directors

NON-DEGREE SUMMER PROGRAMS

AGES 16+

Looking for a focused, short-term training experience? Our non-degree Summer Programs deliver world-class instruction in an intensive format—perfectly designed to match your interests and fit your schedule.



DEVELOP YOUR CRAFT

Are you excited about acting for the camera, passionate about musical theatre, looking to audition with confidence or wanting to bring your creative vision to life on screen?

The Academy offers a variety of world-class summer training programs to ignite your potential, refine your craft, and advance your career. With in-person, online, and evening options, you can choose the format that best fits your interests and your schedule.

Classes include:

- ✓ Camera Acting for Film & Television
- ✓ Acting & Scene Study
- ✓ Musical Theatre
- ✓ Voice & Speech
- ✓ Auditioning for The Camera
- ✓ Creation From Script To Screen
- ✓ Improvisation
- ✓ Movement
- ✓ Singing
- ✓ The Business of Acting

HOUSING IN THE HEART OF NYC

Planning on attending one of our on-campus summer programs but need a place to stay? **On-campus housing** is available for most of our programs.

ONLINE PROGRAMS AVAILABLE

Develop your craft from the comfort of home! In addition to our on-campus programs, we offer a convenient online option. **Visit our website to learn more.**

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

At the Academy, we believe that a strong diversity of cultures enriches the learning environment for all of our students. Fostering a welcoming place to study the craft of acting is important to the Academy as every student becomes part of our family. We support and encourage all students as they transform their passion into a lifelong profession. In fact, our student body includes 30% international students, representing more than 40 nations.

APPLYING AS AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT

General admission requirements are the same for all applicants regardless of citizenship, but immigration regulations, financial matters and a variety of educational credentials require added procedures for international students. Our Admissions and Financial Aid Offices will assist with all issues regarding these policies and procedures:

STUDENT VISA

After the audition, applicants who are admitted to the Academy will be sent important international information along with their acceptance letter from the Admissions Office. A Form I-20 will be issued only after the applicant has been accepted for enrollment and has met all standards set forth by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services and The Department of Homeland Security.

We encourage international students to apply and audition early to allow sufficient time for visa processing (at least 12 weeks prior to enrollment).

FINANCIAL AID FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

The Academy offers a variety of scholarships, assistance opportunities and a choice of payment plans. We also participate with foreign government aid programs, if available. Financial aid packages may consist of a combination of loans and scholarships.

ACADEMY SCHOLARSHIPS

Academy scholarships refer to monies that do not need to be repaid. All students who have applied and been accepted by the Academy are considered for scholarships. Merit scholarships are awarded based on an applicant's application portfolio and audition.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

International students whose native language is other than English must demonstrate sufficient competence in speaking, writing and reading English. This proficiency is determined through the application and audition process.

ACADEMIC RECORDS AND OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPTS

Academic records and official transcripts from foreign schools must be submitted with an English translation and demonstrate the equivalency of a U.S. High School Diploma. The official transcripts must be received in a sealed envelope from the institution and unopened by the applicant. If services are required for an official evaluation of transcripts, they must be made by a NACES-approved agency (naces.org/members).

ON-CAMPUS EMPLOYMENT

There are a limited number of on-campus jobs offered by the Academy. Following registration, international students may apply to a variety of Academy departments, such as Admissions, Production, Costumes and the library, among others.

LOANS

Private lenders may consider international students for student loans if they have a U.S. citizen as a cosigner. **Contact the Financial Aid Office** to further discuss this option.

OTHER OPTIONS

Your home country's government may have student financial assistance programs. We encourage you to seek out any funding that may be available to you from your home country.



"The Academy gave me a community of amazing people and friends. This place feels like home to me and made coming to another country to study so much less challenging than I thought."

MARIANA Balsa
MEXICO



"The best thing about coming to the Academy is that there's so much opportunity here. It's far from easy, but with enough dedication you can truly make things happen for yourself."

DANIEL FIEBER
GERMANY



"I chose the Academy because of its prestigious reputation, but I didn't expect to find a family away from home. Everyone has been so friendly and helpful."

ALESSANDRO NORI
ITALY



"The staff made it much easier than I expected, from my F1 visa paperwork to checking up on me throughout my enrollment process. They were by my side every step of the way."

QUEENY KUFFOUR
CANADA



NEW YORK CAMPUS HOUSING

A TOTAL IMMERSION EXPERIENCE

The Academy House is a 12-story, fully restored, loft-style student housing building located directly adjacent to the Academy's main campus building.

It provides furnished housing with shared rooms, along with a spacious common space, a large kitchen and 24-hour doorman security.



AMENITIES

- ✓ Twelve spacious floors of exclusive furnished housing
- ✓ Shared bedroom suites available
- ✓ Large common living and rehearsal rooms on every floor
- ✓ Air conditioning and heat in all rooms
- ✓ Full-size washer & dryer on each floor
- ✓ Large common living rooms on every floor
- ✓ All utilities and wifi included
- ✓ Flat Screen TVs with free Netflix and access to Hulu in common room
- ✓ Modern kitchens with new appliances & dishwasher
- ✓ 24-hour security
- ✓ Weekly professional cleaning service for common areas and bathrooms
- ✓ Resident Assistant Staff
- ✓ No daily commuting costs
- ✓ Housing financial aid available for full-time students
- ✓ Exclusive Academy House community activities
- ✓ Smoke-free environment

Alternative housing options may be provided based on the size of each incoming class.

Contact Admissions at admissions@aada.edu for more information

HOW TO APPLY

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- ☐ Completed Application
- ☐ High School or College Transcript
- ☐ Two Letters of Recommendation
- ☐ A Completed Audition

AUDITION REQUIREMENTS

When applying to the Two-Year Conservatory Program, you’ll choose one of two training tracks. Each has slightly different audition requirements:

Acting for Theatre, Film & Television

- ☐ Two contrasting monologues (Please select from published plays, musicals, films, or television. Fully memorized. ~2 minutes each.)
- ☐ Cold reading (may be requested during the audition)
- ☐ Interview with a faculty member

Acting for Musical Theatre

- ☐ Two contrasting monologues (Please select from published plays, musicals, films, or television. Fully memorized. ~2 minutes each.)
- ☐ Two contrasting songs (60-90 seconds each; up-tempo and ballad preferred; no genre restrictions). Must be uploaded as video recordings to your Applicant Portal.
- ☐ Cold reading (may be requested during the audition)
- ☐ Interview with a faculty member

For more details please visit aada.edu/admissions/audition-requirements

TUITION & EXPENSES

To view current tuition rates and estimated cost of attendance for the 2025-2026 academic year, visit: aada.edu/admissions/tuition-costs

FINANCIAL AID OPTIONS

The Academy awards a range of merit-based scholarships to eligible students. We also participate in a variety of federal and state financial aid programs and offer flexible payment plan options. Follow the steps below to learn more.

For U.S. Citizens and Permanent Residents:

- ☐ Apply for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
To be considered for financial aid, all U.S. citizens and permanent residents must first complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). Submit your application at: studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa
The Academy’s School Code is: 007465
- ☐ Explore Ways to Receive Financial Assistance
 - › U.S. Federal & State Grants
 - › Federal Pell Grants
 - › Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (FSEOG)
 - › New York Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) - for NY State residents
 - › Federal Student & Parent Loans
 - › Private Alternative Loans

For International Students:

To learn more about funding options for International Students, please visit aada.edu/admissions/international-students

ACADEMIC CALENDAR 2025-2026

Fall First Year	August 25, 2025 - May 9, 2026
Winter First Year	January 12 - August 21, 2026
Second Year	August 25, 2025 - May 9, 2026
Academy Company	July 8, 2025 - February 20, 2026
Graduation Day	May 11, 2026

