

The American Academy of Dramatic Arts Los Angeles Campus Teach-Out Plan Information

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

On April 29, 2024, the American Academy of Dramatic Arts announced its decision to close its branch campus in Los Angeles and to operate solely at its main campus in New York City, effective in the 2025-2026 school year. Classes and all operations continue in Los Angeles as normal through May 31, 2025, the end of the 2024-2025 academic year.

We know news of the branch campus closure has been extremely difficult for our community, and we understand the importance of addressing potential questions and concerns as thoroughly as possible.

This document addresses questions about how the branch campus closure impacts Academy students and alumni and shares the Academy's Teach-Out Plan for current LA students. If you have a question not answered below, please contact David Sullivan, Vice President of Academics, at dsullivan@aada.edu for academic matters and Dan DeShurley, Vice President of Operations, at ddeshurley@aada.edu for operational matters.

GENERAL INFORMATION

When is the LA branch campus closing?

The Academy's branch campus in Los Angeles will close at the end of the 2024-2025 academic year on May 31, 2025. The last day of classes will be May 27, 2025, and graduation will be held on May 29, 2025.

Effective in the 2025-2026 school year, the Academy will operate solely at its main campus in New York City.

Why is the LA branch campus closing?

The Board of Trustees made this decision after careful consideration of all possible alternatives, recognizing that the landscape of higher education has meaningfully changed since the pandemic. Enrollments are down across the country and national birthrate calculations and other key data show that colleges, especially smaller institutions, must adapt to changing conditions.

After a thorough evaluation of our enrollment and financial forecasts, the Board of Trustees determined that closing our LA branch is the only path forward that will ensure the Academy will endure and truly thrive.

What does the closure of the LA branch campus mean for the Academy as an institution?

The Academy will close its branch campus in Los Angeles at the end of the 2024-2025 academic year and will continue to operate solely in New York City, where its main campus has been located since 1884.

Returning to a single campus model allows the Academy to consolidate resources and focus on investing in its programs and infrastructure in a manner that advances our mission and creates new opportunities to optimally serve our students for generations to come.

Will degrees and certificates from the Los Angeles campus be recognized after the campus closure?

Yes, degrees earned at the Academy are always valid since the Academy is a fully accredited institution of higher education. The Academy is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, which can be verified by its [Statement on Accreditation Status](#).

CURRENT LA STUDENT INFORMATION

LA Campus Operations

Will the Los Angeles campus continue to operate throughout the 2024-2025 academic year?

Yes, classes and all operations, including academic support, counseling services, production services, residence life, and student services, will continue in Los Angeles through the 2024-2025 academic year.

Degree Completion

Third-Year Students

Will current third-year students be able to complete the Certificate of Advanced Studies in Acting program on the Los Angeles campus this year?

Yes, current third-year students will be able to complete the Certificate program, which concludes with graduation on February 28, 2025.

Second-Year Students

Will current second-year students be able to complete their Associate of Occupational Studies (“AOS”) in Actor Training degree on the Los Angeles campus this year?

Yes, current second-year students will be able to complete the AOS degree during the 2024-2025 academic year, which concludes with graduation on May 29, 2025. All required course work for their degree completion will be offered during 2024-2025.

Will current second-year students be able to audition for the NY campus Academy Company for 2025-2026?

Yes, auditions for the next Certificate of Advanced Studies in Acting program, aka third-year Academy Company, to run on the New York campus in 2025-2026 will be open to second-year students. Auditions will be conducted on the LA campus in February 2025.

First-Year Students

Will current first-year students be able to complete their Associate of Occupational Studies (“AOS”) in Actor Training degree at the Academy’s New York City campus?

Yes, current first-year students in LA were notified on April 29, 2024, that upon successful completion of their first year of training on the Los Angeles campus, they will complete their

AOS degree on the Academy's main campus in New York City during the 2025-2026 academic year.

Will current first-year students be able to complete their AOS degree on the Los Angeles campus in 2025-2026?

No, the branch campus in Los Angeles will close at the end of the 2024-2025 academic year. However, students will be able to complete their AOS degree at the New York City campus in 2025-2026.

International Students

International students should contact International Student Advisor Laura Fernandez (lfernandez@aada.edu) to discuss their specific circumstances.

Expedited Transfer to Main Campus in NYC

What do I have to do to continue my studies at the Academy's New York City campus?

Students who successfully complete their first year of study in Los Angeles are eligible to attend second year at the main campus in New York City. Students simply return their second-year enrollment agreement and deposit form to complete the transfer to NY. Student records will be updated automatically with the transfer.

What is the cost of attendance for studying in New York for second year?

The Cost of Attendance for LA students transferring to the New York campus for second year will be the same cost that students incurred in first year and would have incurred had they been able to continue their education at the Academy's Los Angeles branch campus.

Will my financial aid change if I continue at the Academy for a second year in New York?

Students typically receive the same financial aid package for second year as they received in their first year of study at the Academy. Students may apply for additional need-based institutional aid if their financial circumstances have substantially changed.

Domestic students are to complete the FAFSA as usual. Students will continue to work with their same LA financial aid advisors who will coordinate the process with the New York campus. Students will receive their invoice and aid package in spring 2025.

What do I have to do if I wish to live in Academy Housing in New York?

Students interested in living in Academy House are to notify the NY Housing Director (nyhousing@aada.edu) about their interest, to complete their housing agreement, and to submit their housing deposit.

How do LA first-year students get more information about continuing at the Academy for second year in New York City?

The Academy has transfer assistance events and advising sessions scheduled for October 18, 2024; January 15, 2025; and March 3, 2025, for all first year LA students to learn more about the expedited process to transfer to the Academy's New York City campus for second year.

Admissions, Financial Aid and Academic staff will be present to provide information and to answer questions.

Beyond these events, students may also email David Sullivan, Vice President of Academics, at dsullivan@aada.edu for more information regarding academics and may email Darlene Pacillas, Associate Director of Financial Aid, at dpacillas@aada.edu for information about financial aid matters.

What is the curriculum for second year to complete my degree on the New York Campus?

For those students beginning their studies in 2024-2025 on the Los Angeles campus, the Academy approved a curriculum and sequence of courses offered by semester in Los Angeles and New York. Students will have 28 credits to complete their degree on the New York City campus in 2025-2026, and the curriculum has been distributed to all LA first-year students.

Other Options - Transfer to Teach-Out Institutions or Other Institutions

All first-year students enrolled in LA with the expectation of transferring to the Academy's main campus for second year, and the Academy is excited to welcome students to NY to complete their program. Still, as a standard requirement for branch campus closures, the Academy has established teach-out agreements with local institutions to provide additional options for degree completion.

What is a teach-out agreement?

A teach-out agreement is a formal agreement between colleges allowing students to complete their programs or courses at a different institution when a branch campus or institution closes. The teach-out institution is another college in Los Angeles that is designated through a teach-out agreement to enable students to complete their degrees. As required, the Academy has established teach-out agreements with AMDA College of Performing Arts and New York Film Academy in Los Angeles.

The agreements ensure that Academy students in good standing will be admitted with no transfer application fees; that students can expect a cost of attendance that is the same, or less than, but not greater than, the cost of attendance at the Academy; that earned credits will transfer to the institution; that the remaining credits needed to complete a similar degree are specified; and that the timeframe to complete the degree will be reasonably similar to what students had expected at the Academy.

Information about transferring to a teach-out institution or to another institution has been emailed to first-year students and provided at the transfer assistance events on October 18, 2024; January 13, 2025; and March 3, 2025. If interested in a teach-out institution in Los Angeles, students will also be referred to staff at those institutions.

If students attend a teach-out institution, will their degree still be from the Academy?

No, the degree will be awarded by the teach-out institution.

If I do not wish to continue to the second year in New York City, am I obligated to enroll at one of the Academy's teach-out partner institutions?

No. While students are not obligated to enroll at an Academy teach-out partner, the teach-out agreements were established to help students with a smooth transition to complete their education without interruption.

Are parents of students able to get information about the teach-out or transfer process?

Academy staff and faculty will be happy to speak with any parent about their student's options. For the Academy to be able to share specific information about a student's situation, parents must ensure their student completes a FERPA waiver. The form can be obtained from the Registrar Office in NY or LA.

ACADEMIC RECORDS

What will happen to all student records?

The Academy will maintain student records according to its records retention policy at its campus in New York City. Records for current students are stored digitally by the institution and are available on the New York campus, so there is no need to transfer student records.

How can students or graduates request transcripts?

LA students and graduates will be able to request transcripts as usual through the Academy website using the Parchment transcript service or through the Registrar's Office on the main campus (<https://www.aada.edu/admissions/request-transcript/>).

How can a potential employer or other entity verify a degree or dates of attendance?

Degree and attendance verification will be performed through the Registrar's Office of the main campus.