Interactive Entertainment Program Application Procedures

Freshmen Applicants

**Fall Deadline:** December 1st

All applicants wishing to be considered for the Interactive Entertainment B.A. program must follow the instructions below. All steps, where applicable, must be completed in order to be considered. Please note that the application submission to the Interactive Entertainment B.A. program is a two-part process—you must submit the Common Application for Admission and the USC Writing Supplement as well as the corresponding supplemental materials for the Interactive Entertainment B.A. program via the SlideRoom application. Supplemental materials sent by mail will not be accepted.

All applicants wishing to be considered for admission must complete the following steps of the application process:

**Step 1: Submit Both the Common Application for General Admission and the USC Writing Supplement**

To begin the application process, you must submit the Common Application for Admission and USC Writing Supplement:

- [http://usc.edu/commonapp](http://usc.edu/commonapp)
- Please complete all sections of the application, including USC's Writing Supplement.
- Upon selecting the Interactive Entertainment program in the “Academics” section of the application, a box will appear indicating that you that you will be submitting a portfolio for consideration to the Interactive Entertainment program—a “Portfolio” link with instructions on where to submit your supplemental materials will appear on the left menu bar.

**Step 2: Submit Supplemental Materials via the SlideRoom Application**

By indicating that you wish to apply for the Interactive Entertainment program, a “Portfolio” link will appear on the left menu bar. Here, you will find a link to the SlideRoom application. **Please ensure that you complete the SlideRoom application titled: Interactive Entertainment B.A. Program: First-Year/Freshmen Applicants.**

The following supplemental materials for the Interactive Entertainment B.A. must be submitted via SlideRoom:

- **Cinematic Arts Personal Statement: Please upload under the “Forms” section in PDF format**
  The Cinematic Arts personal statement is an opportunity to express your ideas about and interest in Interactive Entertainment, help us to understand your background and creative potential, and explain why you would like to study interactive media production at the School of Cinematic Arts. This statement will be read by the Interactive Admission Committee as a measure of creativity, self-awareness and vision. Your statement should give the committee a sense of your long-term goals and artistic ambitions. It should answer the questions: "Who are you as a person? What are you trying to say, using interactive media? Why do you want to attend the Interactive Entertainment Program? What are your career/professional/artistic goals?"

- **Writing Sample I or II: Please upload under the “Forms” section in PDF format**
  You may choose either Category I or Category II for your first writing submission.
  - **Category I (Character Profile):** Write a one-page story about a character or person you find interesting or unique. For example, tell us a story about a person who was not what they first seemed to be, a person who had to make a difficult decision, or a person who made a difference in the world at great cost to themselves. This can be a character you devise or a real world person; it can be someone you know, or someone you don't. Communicate through your story why this person is so interesting to you.
  - **Category II (Emotional Moment Essay):** Describe an emotionally charged experience you have had. For example, a moment in which you came to understand the value of something differently than you had in the past, or a moment that changed your way of thinking or seeing your family, community or the world. This experience should be told as a story, with a beginning, middle and end, but please limit your description to two double-spaced, typed pages.

- **Writing Sample III (Interactive Media Experience): Please upload under the “Forms” section in PDF format**
  Describe an experience that has inspired you to enter the field of interactive media. This might be the experience of playing a particular game, visiting a museum installation, seeing an interactive artwork, etc. Or, it might be a story
about how you created an interactive experience for others to participate in or play with. Tell us the story of how and why this experience affected you, how it changed your way of thinking about interactive media, and what it means for your plans for the future.

- **Creative Portfolio List:** Please upload under the “Forms” section in PDF format
  The portfolio list is a written record of the applicant’s creative material. Please list all of your creative work, when and in what capacity it was created. For example, was the work made in a class or for a show? What was your role? List your most recent work first and list related work as a single entry, such as a group of drawings completed for a single showing. If you have created interactive software, animation or games, please be sure to list these on your portfolio and describe the development environment for the piece. For example, the program or language used. If you have created paper-based games, please list these as well.

- **Creative Work Sample:** Please upload under the “Media” section
  The creative work sample represents your best or most relevant work. Choose a major piece of work that you are extremely proud of for your creative sample. If you have completed a game or animation project, you should strongly consider including this. Otherwise this work might be digital or analog, it or may be a film, photo essay, script or story. For visual art, you may submit a small selection of pieces. Make sure your piece is easily viewable by the admissions committee. If you are uncertain that your software will run, include screenshots and a video play-through just in case. Please send a creative sample that can be viewed, played or read in less than 10 minutes. Please limit the length of a written creative sample, e.g. movie scripts, should be no more than 20 pages. We are looking for individuals who show both talent and personal initiative. Use the creative sample to show us your best work and the portfolio to show us the breadth of your creative endeavors.

- **Letters of Recommendation (One letter from an academic reference)**
  Three letters of recommendation are required. Letters of recommendation may be submitted via the SlideRoom references system. In addition, any letters submitted via the Common Application may be used towards the three letters of recommendation required. Applicants are responsible for requesting letters of recommendation as well as confirming that they have been received.

**Step 3: Send Official Academic Transcripts**
Official transcripts from all high schools attended must be submitted. Please request original copies of official transcripts to be sent directly from your institution to USC Undergraduate Admissions. Transcripts can be sent electronically via the Common Application or sent by mail to USC.

**Step 4: Submit Official SAT or ACT Test Scores**
USC requires either SAT or ACT scores from all first-year applicants, including international students. For students who take the SAT more than once, USC records the highest scores for each section — even if achieved in different sittings — but will not combine section scores from the old SAT (prior to March 2016) and the redesigned SAT. For students taking the ACT, USC will record the highest composite score. The essay portion of the ACT is optional. The essay portion of the SAT will be optional for students taking the redesigned test in March 2016 or after.

**Step 5: Submit Official English Proficiency Test Scores (International Applicants Only)**
Unless applicants have scored a minimum of 600 on the Critical Reading section (previous SAT), or 650 on the Evidenced Based Reading and Writing exam (redesigned SAT) of the SAT, or a of 27 on the English section of the ACT, the TOEFL, IELTS or PTE tests will be required for admission consideration. Applicants must meet the minimum required score of:

- **TOEFL/IELTS/PTE Test Scores**
  - **TOEFL:** Submit scores via ETS to USC: ETS code = 4852
    - **Minimum required score:** 100 on the iBT test
  - **IELTS:** To submit your IELTS results to USC, please select the “University of Southern California”
    - **Minimum required score:** 7.0 overall band score
  - **PTE:** Please submit your scores electronically to USC via the PTE website
    - **Minimum required score:** 68 on the PTE test

- **Proof of Financial Support**
The US government requires all international students to provide proof of the ability to pay tuition and living expenses for the first academic year. Along with your application for admission, you must submit the Financial Statement of Personal or Family Support, accompanied by documentation of available funds. Visit the Office of Admission website for more information.