



*Work by Moon Toomey '27, Fine Art.*

## Upcoming Events

**April 7-11** Stress Relief Week - all daily details and signups below

**April 7** Sourcing Art References Toolkit program 3:30-4:30 pm, Learning Commons (*see below*)

**April 8** Study Lounge, 6-9 pm, Learning Commons

**April 9** Community Circles: Feeling Good Matters, 3:30-4:30 pm, Room 309, with special guests from Student Affairs and Connect Counseling (*see below*)

**April 10** Study Lounge, 6-9 pm, Learning Commons

**April 11** Deadline to sign up to help at Commencement/Senior Show (*see below*)

**April 13** Study Lounge, 4-7 pm, Learning Commons

**April 25** Spring Semester Ends

**April 25** All-School Picnic, 2-5 pm, Long's Park (*see below*)

**If you have news, an event, or an announcement you'd like to share, please email Jen Kopf, at [jkopf@pcad.edu](mailto:jkopf@pcad.edu).**

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## Sign up by Friday: Help with grad, Senior Show

PAID student opportunities are available May 2-4. The Office of the President needs assistance with the 2025 Commencement and Senior Show events. Student assistants will receive compensation the day of the event (\$10 per hour) and a special T-shirt. Training will be provided and is required for compensation. Contact **Amy Gaston** at [agaston@pcad.edu](mailto:agaston@pcad.edu) for more information. **The deadline to sign up is this Friday, April 11.**

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# *Stress Relief Week*

APRIL 7 - 12

MONDAY APRIL 7

**Yoga with Black Cat Lititz**

Atrium

11:45 am - 12:15 pm

TUESDAY APRIL 8

**Yoga with Sharon Farley**

Atrium, 11:45 am - 12:15 pm

WEDNESDAY APRIL 9

**Massages & Self-Care Packages**

Atrium, 11 am - 2 pm

THURSDAY APRIL 10

**Therapy Dogs  
& House of Pizza**

Atrium & CoLab, 11 am - 1 pm

SATURDAY APRIL 12

**Pizza & Movie night**

Atrium, 2-5 pm

## Ahhhh... Spring Stress Relief Week is here!

Student Affairs' Stress Relief Week is here, just in time for a little yoga, massages, therapy pets, free counseling sessions, and more! You can find the full week of free events [listed here](#), or check out the day-by-day schedule below:

- **Monday, April 7:** Free Yoga with [Black Cat Yoga](#), 11:45 am to 12:30 pm, Atrium. Sign up for yoga [here](#) -- no limit on attendance! Bring your own mat if you have one.
- **Monday, April 7:** Connect Counseling free counseling service with [Ashley Ramsay](#) on a first come, first served basis, 11:30 am to 1:30 pm, CoLab/Quiet

- Room.
- **Tuesday, April 8:** Free Yoga with Sharon Farley, 11:45 am to 12:30 pm, Atrium. Sign up for yoga [here](#) -- no limit on attendance! Bring your own mat if you have one.
  - **Tuesday, April 8:** Connect Counseling free counseling service with [Mahmood Mohammad](#) on a first come, first served basis, 6-8 pm, CoLab/Quiet Room.
  - **Wednesday, April 9:** Self-Care Packages and Massages, 11 am to 2 pm, Atrium. We'll have two professional massage therapists giving free 10-minute massages. [Sign up in advance here](#); they're first come, first served! We'll also have supplies available for make-your-own care packages.
  - **Wednesday, April 9:** Connect Counseling free counseling service with [Ashley Ramsay](#) on a first come, first served basis, 11:30 am to 1:30 pm, CoLab/Quiet Room.
  - **Thursday, April 10:** Puppies & Pizza, 11 am to 1 pm, Atrium and CoLab. Volunteers are bringing their pups in for support! There will be two groups of dogs in the Atrium, and pizza upstairs in the CoLab to keep food separate from the doggos.
  - **Thursday, April 10:** Connect Counseling free counseling service with [Mariel Castro Perez](#), on a first come, first served basis, 6-8 pm, CoLab/Quiet Room.
  - **Friday, April 11:** Student Club events on campus
  - **Friday, April 11:** Connect Counseling free counseling service with [Ashley Ramsay](#) on a first come, first served basis, 11:30 am to 1:30 pm, CoLab/Quiet Room.
  - **Friday, April 12:** Pizza and a Miyazaki Movie Night, 2-5 pm, Atrium. We'll be making mini pizzas to start and then watching a movie in the Atrium!
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## CCE hiring summer assistant; Thurs. deadline

The College's Center for Creative Exploration is hiring a Young Artist Classroom Assistant for the summer -- June 16 through Aug. 1 -- at \$10/hour. Assistants serve as a second set of hands for instructors and CCE staff for grades 1-9, working directly with instructors to ensure courses and workshop students are able to complete their projects, are able to understand the assignments and processes delivered by the instructor, and assist the instructor with setup and cleanup before and after classes. Must be a currently enrolled, full-time student. For a fuller job description, [go here](#). To apply, [go here](#). **The deadline to apply is this Thursday, April 10.**

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## New grant program for Pennsylvania residents

The Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) will be administering a new grant program for Pennsylvania residents called Grow PA Scholarship Grant Program. It provides up to \$5,000 annually in grants to those who participate in one of over 460 majors.

There are numerous caveats, including a requirement to work in Pennsylvania after graduation in an "in-demand occupation" for as many years as the grant is received; if

that is not met, then the grant will retroactively turn into a loan that must be repaid to PHEAA.

For a list of qualifying majors, in-demand occupations, and other criteria related to the Grow PA Scholarship Grant Program, please click the following link:

<https://www.pheaa.org/funding-opportunities/grow-pa-scholarship-grant-program>

If you are a Pennsylvania resident and intend to remain in Pennsylvania after graduation and work in one of the qualifying occupations, you're urged to apply for this. **Funds are limited and will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis.** For more information, contact PCA&D's Director of Financial Aid & Student Employment **Vince Frank** at [vfrank@pcad.edu](mailto:vfrank@pcad.edu).

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## Workshops: Source references/public domain resources and commission scams

There are two more Spring Learning Commons Workshops, held with PCA&D Alumni Mentor **Joanna Becker**. Each runs from 3:30-4:30 pm in the Learning Commons:

- **TODAY April 7: Sourcing Art References -- Public Domain Resources.** It can be difficult to find the right kinds of reference material for your art. As our digital world is becoming more and more dominated by AI images and visual clutter, the ability to search for what you need (and the skill of checking proper usage rights for images) is becoming a chore. Dive into the realm of photographic databases and web archives with this workshop about art reference gathering -- and get insight on how to use your reference as inspiration for your next artistic masterpiece!
  - **April 14: How to Spot Fake Clients and Job Opportunities -- Avoiding Scams.** As you begin posting your art online and displaying your portfolio on social sites, be aware that college students and recent grads are prime targets for commission scams. Even seasoned artists will get fake client inquiries, so being able to spot these common signs is a skill that will be useful for years to come. In this workshop, we will go over the tactics scammers use, as well as examples of what to look for. Since these scams evolve, it is also useful to know how to verify a client and cross-reference company mastheads (especially when a job offer appears too good to be true).
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## Demuth Invitational highlights 5 with PCA&D ties

Five artists with Pennsylvania College of Art & Design ties are featured in the Demuth Invitational, one of the region's most prestigious exhibitions. *In Good Company: Demuth Invitational*, is on display at the Demuth Museum, 120 E. King St., Lancaster, through June 15 and work highlighted includes that of **Evan Kitson** '10 (adjunct, Fine Art), **Leah Limpert Walt** '18 (adjunct, Foundation, Illustration, & Center for Creative Exploration), Assistant Dean **Justin Phillips** '01, **Aaron M. Thompson** (assistant professor, Fine Art



## Save the date now! All-School Picnic April 25

It's that time of year to look forward to the All-School Picnic to celebrate the end of the year with the PCA&D community. All students, faculty, and staff are invited, so please **save the date!**



We'll be at [Long's Park](#) on **Friday, April 25 from 2-5 pm** with food, drinks, music, and games. Folks are invited to bring guitars, frisbees, friends, and pups along. Rain location will be in the Atrium.

**If you need to carpool or if you are able to offer carpool**, please [fill out this form](#) so we can get folks connected!

Poster by Beck Schilling '25, Illustration



## The shows must go on: Educating a rising workforce

THE LIVE EXPERIENCE INDUSTRY has long been nurtured with our power, attracting talented professionals who work their magic behind the scenes to pull off productions that delight and astonish audiences. For decades, this workforce honed its craft through an ad hoc mentorship model, with career veterans sharing their knowledge with apprentices. Let's face it: it's a cool industry, and there was a seemingly endless stream of young people eager to gain a foothold in all elements of backstage production, willing to do the grunt work to gain experience.

### It is important to professionalize our work.

The worldwide work stoppage in the industry during the pandemic broke this model, resulting in massive attrition as workers retired or transitioned into other industries. We saw more than a third of our most skilled talent leave and never come back, which resulted in losing that brain trust of mentorship. The pandemic years also revealed problems in our industry that can no longer be ignored as our industry matures as a professional career pathway.

At last, it, there are four key problems affected by four factors to address in our industry: the lack of talent to support the industry, the lack of talent to support the industry, the lack of talent to support the industry, and too many siloed groups working out of sync.

### Lack of talent to support the industry

As an industry, we have a mishmash of training programs that leave it to each individual employer to outline what skills are required

to meet the needs of roles in our industry. This disjunction has led to an inability to effectively on-ramp new entry-level talent into our industry, show them a clear career path and the growth skills needed to achieve advancement level, and effectively measure the volume and economic contribution of that broad employee base at a federal level. It's a vicious cycle that we can break by solving for better entry-level skill set training, clear delineation of skills required for roles, and becoming visible in the context of the federal government and broader economy.

### Lack of uniformity in the skill sets

Every employer, union, or individual contractor has their own idea of what they need for training (some programs are better defined than others), but none of them is aligned to any overarching standard that could uplift the entire industry by de-siloing the path required to grow from an entry-level employee in the industry through the advancement of higher roles and the additional skills or certifications required to achieve that.

The training model of the International Alliance of Theatrical and Stage Employees (IATSE) union is robust, as are many large private employers; however, only the members or employees of each organization can attend these trainings and, as a result, they are siloed. Universal standards and certifications are needed to professionalize our industry.

Three years ago, Jim Digby and I headed the Creative Industry Roundtable. Instead of one leader attempting to speak on behalf of the whole event industry, we flipped that model to host a table of key industry influencers that as a body represented all the stakeholders. Each year, the group selects the most important and

timely effort to put their collective support behind. In 2024, that effort was workforce development. The result was to rally in support of the EEWFDE (Events Education Workforce Development Federation) with Laura Parker and her initiative to update the NAICS codes, ONET codes, and a career cluster framework that would benefit everyone across the entire event industry.

Lack of uniformity in funding and support to properly develop our workforce, we need standardized funding and support. This doesn't mean that we need one entity to rule them all because frankly, we are an industry of creatives who tend to recoil at the idea of centralized authority. But we do need consensus and collaboration to grow to our potential.

The Creative Industry Roundtable also resulted in forming The Exhibitions & Events Empowerment Foundation with founding board members Laura Parker and Odie Parkins as co-chairs, Mark Johnson as vice chair, Erin Grube as Secretary, and myself as treasurer, with strategic adviser Jim Digby. This Foundation will act to secure funding by way of grants and sponsorships that can then be given to organizations in need of support who are directly working on industry training or workforce development programs, including apprenticeships.

### Too many siloed groups working out of sync

Our industry developed organically, serving many different audiences and stakeholders across the globe, but as shows move from regional productions to worldwide tours, standardization is paramount so that we all can share a common technical language, even when we don't share a native tongue. When

we are in silos, our initiatives can work against each other and are especially confusing to a young workforce without enough hands-on experience to be discerning. We can tend toward tribalism in our own clubs of people on tour or at industry events. While this can serve to build camaraderie and belonging during a production, it doesn't serve as a welcoming model for those hoping to break into the industry.

To combat these problems, I see six solutions that can change this dynamic:

- **Entry-level and intermediate student education:** We need to engage the great resources and training facilities that already exist and coordinate and collaborate for a more unified set of career cluster frameworks.
- **Workplace on-ramping:** We need to codify observation programs, pre-apprenticeships, and apprenticeships to ensure we continue to have great on-the-job training resources.
- **Mentorship from experts in the field:** As our industry grows, we need more opportunities to garner advanced knowledge. A way to do this is by making training available to entry-level employees through numerous organizations and tradeshow environments, including NAMM, LDI, InfoComm, USITT, and others.
- **Funding to move initiatives forward:** In order to effectively see industry-wide projects through, we need more centralized funding resources. The formation of the Exhibitions & Events Empowerment Foundation aims to secure larger government funding and disburse funds to organizations that meet specific criteria for workforce development.
- **Access to trade certifications:** After seeing the need, ESTA has pioneered this with ETCF certifications in rigging and electrical (with variations of each). Additionally, Audiovisual and Integrated Experience Association (AVIXA) offers professional certifications in AV design knowledge, installation, and networking.
- **Access to national standards:** By adopting national standards in the industry, we could



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unify the capabilities in the workforce. Currently, ANSI standards are available for free through ESTA. Groups of industry experts write the standards, which are exclusive to the industry, covering things like rigging, lighting, video, staging, fog effects, etc. The Event Safety Alliance has also published The Event Safety Guide (part of which is an ANSI standard), which is billed as "the definitive collection of event safety knowledge." By making their annual conference

open to students, it's a real opportunity to obtain this knowledge at the start of a career.

Many of us in the industry are already working toward these solutions. We all know that a concerted effort to build the next generation workforce is imperative, especially with so many mentors gone. We have a real skill shortage in the industry. As we look toward our future, it is important to

## PCA&D/ALT highlighted in industry publication

Protocol, a publication of the entertainment technology industry, has published a think piece highlighting the collaboration between Pennsylvania College of Art & Design and the Academy of Live Technology at Rock Lititz in its Spring issue. It is authored by Todd Spencer, President of Ventana, a business consulting firm that specializes in serving event, entertainment, and hospitality companies. *The Shows Must Go On: Educating a rising workforce* focuses on the need of the live event industry to renew itself after the pandemic, and the vital role that training and educational initiatives such as the PCA&D/ALT collaboration provide. You can read the full Protocol piece [here](#); it begins on Page 8.

## Open now in Hayden Gallery: Touchstone show

The Touchstone Foundation Show is now in display in the Hayden Gallery, next to the Atrium. The artwork is the product of a class run by **Jason Ward** for a coloring book to celebrate the 25th anniversary of The Touchstone Foundation, an organization that works to expand access to local youth mental health resources in Lancaster County. The exhibition will be open on First Fridays through May, and when the room isn't in use for a class or meeting.

Students whose work is represented in the exhibition are: **Mary Auble** '26, Illustration; **Alanna Botscharow** '26, Illustration; **Julia Burns** '26, Illustration; **Shontae Dashiell** '26, Illustration; **Jossalyn Dolin** '26, Illustration; **Morgan Earley** '26, Illustration; **Madi Edmiston** '26, Illustration; **Finn Jones** '26, Illustration; **Jamie Little** '26, Illustration; **Gelian Mesa** '25, Illustration; **Ava Morgan** '26, Illustration; **Sophia Replogle** '26, Illustration; **Logan Vedral** '26, Illustration; **Sierra Weidman** '26, Illustration; and **Julia Wychryst** '26, Illustration.

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# What **MATTERS** Circles for Community Building

Find out what you and your community think about important topics, build connections, and develop capacities to engage in difficult conversations.

**Wednesdays 3:30PM RM 309**

*Facilitated by Dana Jain, Student Success Advisor, and open to the entire PCA&D community. A different topic and special guests with informed perspectives on the topic each week. Tea and a light snack will be served.*



# Student Affairs: Join our Community Circles

Come join a new Student Affairs community conversation series, *Circles for Building Community*, from 3:30-4:30 pm Wednesdays in Room 309. Circles, one of the oldest forms of group process, are by design inclusive, nonhierarchical, open, and co-creative. They are used to facilitate community conversations about important subjects and to help support healthy relationships within communities, among community members. This series is facilitated by Student Success Advisor **Dana Jain**, who has experience working with circles for community building. A different topic will be explored each week, and invited guests will contribute their informed perspectives on the subject. Everyone in the College community is welcome! Come every week or just for the topics that interest you most. Tea and a light snack will be served.

Here's the remaining schedule:

**April 9:** Feeling Good Matters *with special guests from Student Affairs and Connect Counseling*

**April 16:** Money Matters *with special guest Maria Provencher, Assistant Dean of Career Development and Internships*

**April 23:** Community Matters *with special guests to be announced*

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## SuperHero Project Exhibition on 2nd floor

The SuperHero Project Exhibition celebrates the collaboration between PCA&D student interns and the SuperHero Project, a nonprofit dedicated to empowering children facing serious illnesses and disabilities through custom artwork. As part of their internships, students created Power Posters — bold, inspiring designs that reflect the unique strengths and personalities of these young heroes. Through their creativity, they transformed real stories into impactful visuals, bringing joy and confidence to children and their families. Take a look at the 2nd-floor Gallery and honor their work and the incredible mission behind this project!

Students whose work is on display include **Endia Clark** '26, AGA; **Sandy Farrare** '25, AGA; **Onix Guadalupe-Rivera** '25, Illustration; **Abby Howe** '26, AGA; **Connie Saunders** '26, AGA; **Samantha Sidesinger** '25, AGA; **Aaron Vankirk** '26, Illustration; and **Bryana Walker** '26, Illustration.

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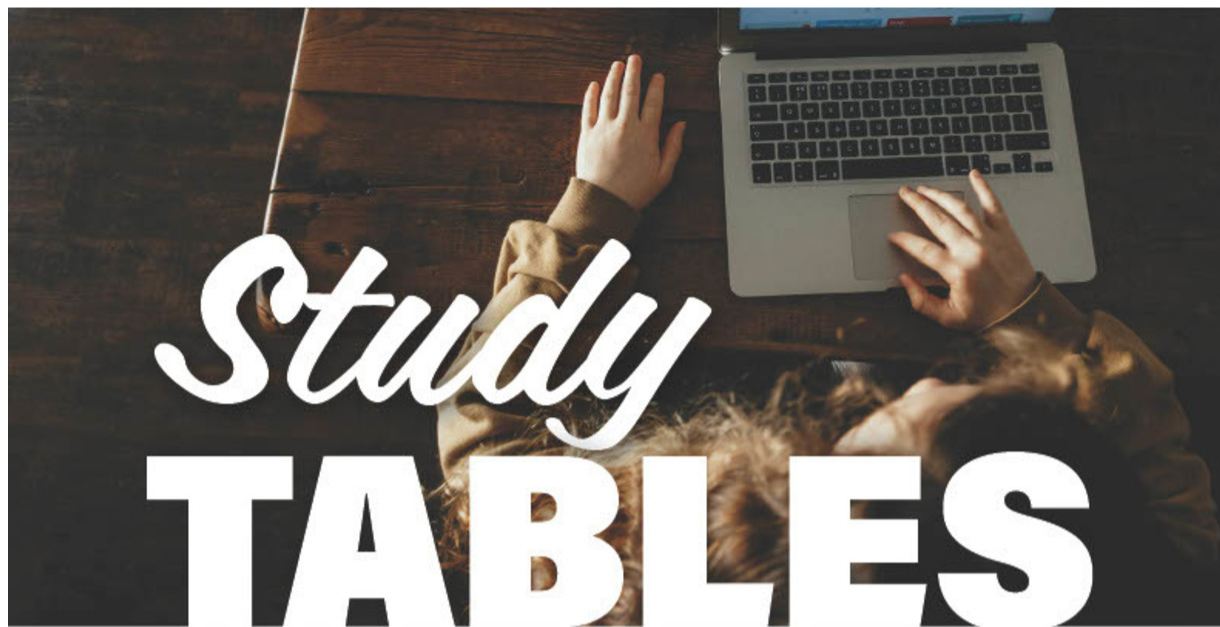
## Study Lounges in the Learning Commons

Looking for a community to help you focus when you're studying? Check out our new Study Lounges in the Learning Commons! These student-directed coworking study sessions will be held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6-9 pm and on Sundays from 4-7 pm.

Come work alongside your peers on projects and assignments for any subject, especially Liberal Arts courses like Art History and Foundations of Verbal Communications. You can stay as long as you like and leave when you are ready. You do not have to stay for the entire session.

# One final Thursday night figure drawing session

Looking for creative community? Come join Thursday Night Figure Drawing, open to students, faculty, staff, and alumni, from 6-9 pm in Room 404. Come work with a live model and long poses that are good for drawing and painting! This week, April 10, is the final session for the semester!



## Lunch Hour Academic & Studio Support Coverage

**Mon-Fri 11:30-12:30 in the Learning Commons Room 214**

**MON:** Joanna Becker (*Foundation & Illustration*) & Writing Center Support (*Tutors*)

**TUES:** Jason Ward (*Trad. Materials, Fine Art, & Illus.* ) & Writing Center Support (*Prof. Gaughn*)

**WED:** McKenna DiComo (*Animation and Game Art*) & Writing Center Support (*Tutors*)

**THURS:** McKenna DiComo (*Animation and Game Art*) & Writing Center Support (*Prof. Gaughn*)

**FRI:** Joanna Becker (*Foundation & Illustration*)

**ONLINE:** Frankie Reed (*Graphic Design*) Remote, by appointment (*Tutors*)



Academic Support Form

All studio mentors are available to provide studio, technical, materials and software support to students. Mentors also aid student in project workflow, time management, concept development and ideation and critique.

\*Additional support sessions can be scheduled through the Academic Support Form.  
For writing assistance email the Writing Center at [writing@pcad.edu](mailto:writing@pcad.edu).

Help Is On The Way!



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# Returning? Remember your 5/1 FAFSA deadline

*A message from Director of Financial Aid & Student Employment Vincent Frank:*

This is a friendly reminder that the deadline for Pennsylvania residents to apply for Financial Aid for the 2025-26 school year is May 1. If you have not already done this, please do so immediately at [studentaid.gov](https://studentaid.gov).

This is especially urgent for Pennsylvania residents because the FAFSA must be submitted by May 1 in order to be considered for the Pennsylvania State Grant. The PA State Grant is worth up to \$5,750, which is free money that does not need to be repaid. If you complete the FAFSA *after* May 1, you will automatically be ineligible for the PA State Grant for the entire 2025-26 academic year.

If you do not receive the PA State Grant as a result of missing the filing deadline, please be aware that PCA&D will be unable to replace it with institutional grants.

Several states and U.S. territories (including Delaware, Ohio, West Virginia, Washington, D.C., and Vermont) have reciprocity with Pennsylvania, meaning their state grants may be used at Pennsylvania schools. If you reside in one of those locations, you will need to check with your state's or territory's grant agency for deadlines and other details.

If you need assistance completing the FAFSA, or if you have any other questions or concerns, please reach out to Frank at [vfrank@pcad.edu](mailto:vfrank@pcad.edu), or Room 209.

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## 1098-T Tuition Statement information

When you're completing your 2024 taxes, you'll need your 1098-T Tuition Statement. A reminder that, if you provided electronic consent to the College by Jan. 1, 2025, you have access to those forms via myPCAD. This is in partnership with the company ECSI. If your electronic consent was not received by that date, the form will be mailed to the current address on file. Please update your address with the Registrar's Office if an address change is needed. If you have any questions, consult the email you received last week from College Bursar **Eliud Diaz**, and visit [here](#). You may also reach ECSI at 866-428-1098.

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# SENIOR SHOW TIMELINE

**March 3 - Exhibition Agreement Due**

**March 13 - Headshot Day in 101**  
**Drop-In Hours from 11:30 AM - 4 PM**

**April 4 - Catalog Submission Form Due**  
**(Bio, Thesis Description, CV, Headshot, & Single Thesis Artwork Image is due)**

**April 23 - Website Images**  
**(Senior Thesis Artwork Images & Videos are due)**

**April 22 - Senior Studios Cleared Out**

**April 26 - Sr. Show Room Clearing 9 - 11 AM**

**April 27 - Sr. Show Wall Painting 9 AM - finished**

**April 28 - Sr. Show Install 8 am - 8 pm**

**May 2 - Sr. Show Opens 4 - 9 PM**  
**(You must be at PCA&D the whole time.)**

**May 4 - Sr. Show Artwork Pick-up 3 - 8 PM**



# How to access counseling with Uwill

Feeling a little extra stressed, or interested in finding a way to bring some professional counseling into your life? PCA&D provides students FREE access to 24-7 counseling through Uwill for a wide variety of topics, from short- and long-term support, to crisis counseling, telehealth for common acute symptoms, and on-demand wellness programming like meditation, mindfulness, nutrition, and yoga.

To schedule teletherapy appointments:

- [Create a profile](#) with Uwill
- Choose a therapist based on your preferences including *availability, issue, gender, language, and ethnicity*.
- Choose a time that fits your schedule with *day, night, and weekend availability*.

If you need any assistance, you can refer to [Uwill FAQ](#), Student [User Guide](#), or reach out directly to **Uwill** at [support@uwill.com](mailto:support@uwill.com). **More questions? Contact Student Services**, at [studentlife@pcad.edu](mailto:studentlife@pcad.edu).

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## Your web resource: The Student Portal

The College's Student Portal webpage provides links to some of the most-needed information. **You can find [this link to the Student Portal](#) at the very bottom right corner of the homepage at [PCAD.edu](http://PCAD.edu).**

There, you'll find official College dates, such as holidays; class times; research links; links to academic support and counseling help; and much more.



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