

Savannah School of Art and Design

SCAD has a good film department...

They have really good equipment for the students to check out and use...

One problem is that since it's down in Georgia, there are a lot of intern opportunities you miss out on during the school year...

If you're willing to though you can still take summer internships...

SCAD hosts the Savannah Film Festival every year...

It gives film makers a great opportunity to show their work... Because it's not as well known or in a city like NY or LA, Filmmakers are less stressed about mimicking or copying mainstream ideas...

It opens them up to the idea of experimentation more and the possibility of truly being creative...

Pulls them away from producing regurgitated pop bullshit that we're so used to seeing from amateurs...

Not saying we don't get that at all, but there's a bit less of it...Savannah has some pretty nice places to film...

When I say "nice", I don't just mean pretty...We've got a whole lot of Hell, which make the little bits of Heaven look a lot better...

Make sure this kid knows what he's getting into though... Film's not at all an easy major, and it's extremely time consuming... Taking into consideration he's got to make out a script... Assemble a cast within a certain time (which is usually relatively short)... Sign up for check out his equipment... Transport all his equipment... Shoot the film... Transport the equipment back before you get a late fine... Have the film processed. (which takes several days)... Then edit it... You can't see what you have before the film is processed, so if you screwed up you have to do the whole thing all over again...

There's a book of actors available, which helps a bit with casting... But it's hard to type cast from several pieces of paper... And not all of them might work for free...

If he wants to change majors, he shouldn't have a problem... Provided that the major he's switching to is art related, of course... They are required to go to advising meetings to help them choose their major, even if they think they're sure they know what they want to take... Freshmen aren't allowed to declare majors until they get a certain amount of credits and see their advisor a certain number of times... Until then, they're "Undecided"... There are several elective slots, so he'll be able to take introduction classes in several areas before it just becomes a waste of time and money...

If he does declare film, then eventually finds it to be too hard or boring or whatever...

He can easily switch over by talking to an advisor...Even if it's his last quarter...He'll just have to take all the required classes for whatever major he's switching to...

Also Film and Video are different majors...

They teach the same theories and techniques for the most part... I'm not sure what the real difference is other than one uses film and the other video (and I think video is easier)...SCAD now has a Sound Design department...From what I've seen and heard, it seems to be pretty decent... I was required to take Intro to Sound Design for my major, and they have all the software and equipment to teach it well...

They also have recording booths and all the professional microphones, software and recorders you'd need...I'm not sure how good the other departments are in relation to what other schools provide... They all seem good though... I haven't heard anything bad about any one particular major... I've heard the Industrial/product design department is excellent, and they've been

internationally acknowledged for some of their work... I think Interior Design is pretty closely related, so it might be pretty good...

Right now Computer Art (particularly animation) is the college's love child... In the Animation department, the guy that made the Terminator 2 robot arm teaches some classes... How cool is that??? Hehe...

Fashion is pretty strong too... They host fashion shows (I think some celebrities have showed up to a few of them), and for their final projects fashion students are required to showcase a line of clothing they've designed and created...

For Architecture, there are a lot of buildings here to study and gain inspiration from...

Being in the middle of the Historic District, there's quite a bit to look at... It seems to be a pretty developed course... I think it takes 5 years to finish...

Photography is pretty strong too... They have a building all to themselves with fully equipped dark rooms... You have to buy your own cameras, filters, processing canisters and film though... They teach both traditional and digital photography and everything from processing and developing to editing and composition...

I'm taking Broadcast Design/Motion Graphics... I really like it... It's a combination of animation, video, web design, film, audio, graphics design and photography... Really anything to do with preparing media for broadcasting purposes... He might be interested in that...

SCAD's campus in La Coste, France is a nice option... Good experience for illustrators, painters, art preservationists, photographers and art historians... I don't know too much about the other majors...

The students here are pretty competitive... But even with the competitiveness, most students here help each other out and answer each others' questions... And there's no pressure to feel as if you have to compete...

Oh yeah... And if he does come here, he should expect to spend a lot on materials... My first quarter I spent 300-400 dollars on materials alone... Some majors are more expensive than others... 100-500 dollars per quarter is about how much he should be expecting to spend on materials... This does not include textbooks... Textbooks could cost an additional 20-200 (total)... Usually you use the materials for more than one class though... So if he takes good care of his stuff, he might not have to spend as much...

Hope this helped a bit...

Kyle Peterson (Class of 2001)