



## **TSIC REMINDERS**

### **YOUR STATUS WILL DROP IF ANY OF THE FOLLOWING OCCUR:**

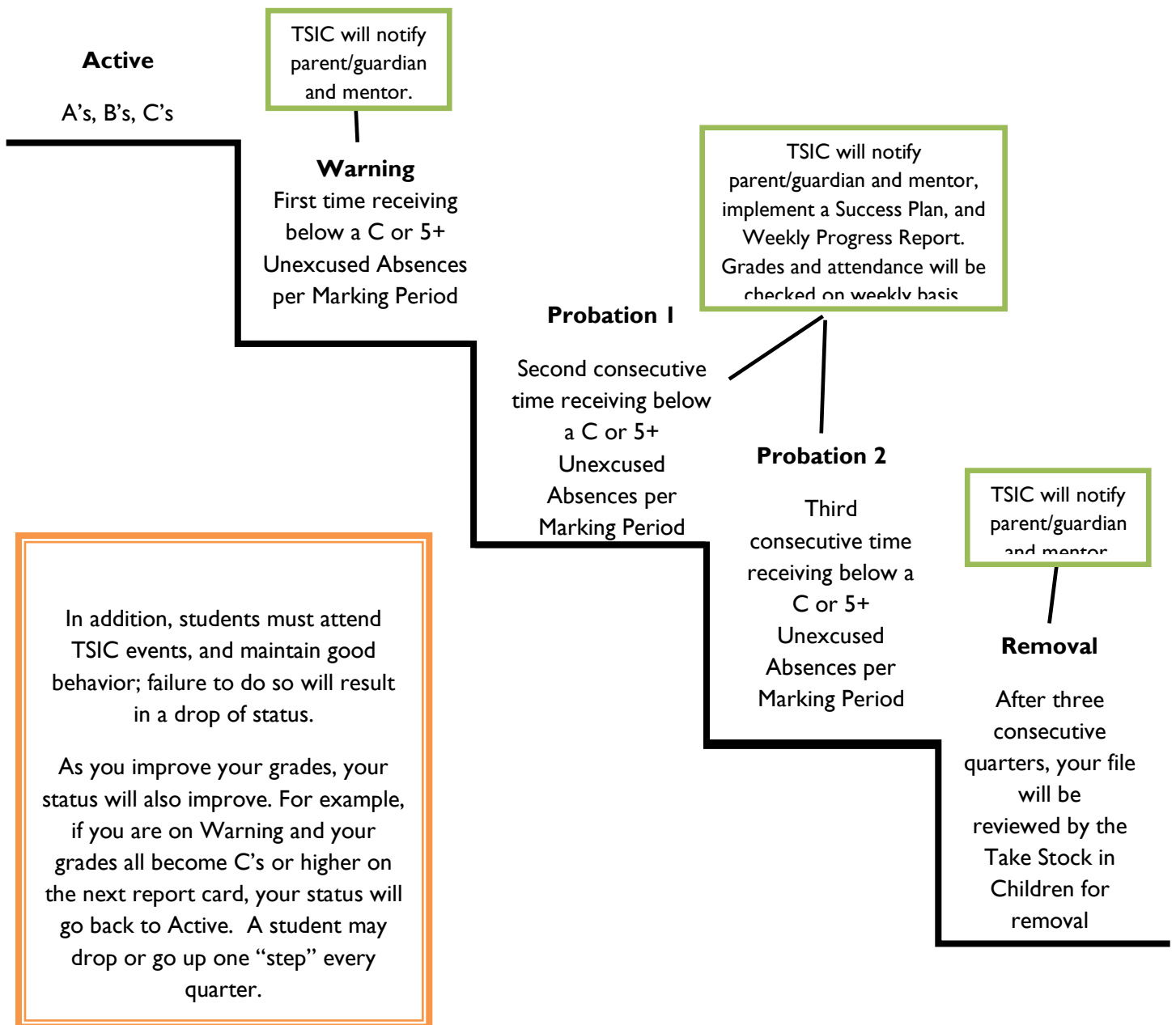
- If you receive a D or F on your quarter grades
- If you have 5 or more unexcused absences in a quarter
- If you receive more than 1 in school suspension in a quarter
- If you receive any out of school suspensions in a quarter
- If you are not meeting your required number of individual mentor sessions and required group mentor sessions
- If you fail to attend any of the MANDATORY TSIC workshops during the school year

### **OTHER IMPORTANT REMINDERS**

- YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR LETTING TSIC KNOW OF ANY CHANGES IN CONTACT INFORMATION (FOR YOU AND YOUR PARENTS) SUCH AS PHONE NUMBERS, EMAIL ADDRESSES, HOME ADDRESSES AND SCHOOL YOU ARE ATTENDING- IF THERE ARE ANY CHANGES PLEASE CONTACT TSIC IMMEDIATELY.
- FAILURE TO REMAIN CRIME AND DRUG FREE WILL RESULT IN AUTOMATIC REMOVAL FROM THE TSIC PROGRAM



## Status Grid



**Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program**  
**Florida Academic Scholarship (FAS) / Florida Medallion Scholarship (FMS)**  
**2021-22**

**Initial Eligibility Requirements:** (As determined by the Department of Education)

1. Submit the [Florida Financial Aid Application \(FFAA\)](#) no later than August 31 after high school graduation,
2. Complete the 16 college-preparatory courses required for admission to a state university,
3. Achieve the required weighted GPA in the 16 college-preparatory courses per chart below,
4. Complete the required number of service hours per chart below, and
5. Achieve the required composite ACT<sup>®</sup> or combined SAT<sup>®</sup> score per chart below.

Type	16 High School Course Credits <sup>1</sup>	High School Weighted Bright Futures GPA	College Entrance Exams by High School Graduation Year (ACT <sup>®</sup> /SAT <sup>®</sup> )	Service Hours
FAS	4 - English <i>(three must include substantial writing)</i> 4 - Mathematics <i>(at or above the Algebra I level)</i> 3 - Natural Science <i>(two must have substantial laboratory)</i>	3.50	2021-22 Graduates: 29/1330  2022-23 Graduates: To be determined	100 hours
FMS	3 - Social Science  2 - World Language <i>(sequential, in same language)</i>	3.00	2021-22 Graduates: 25/1210  2022-23 Graduates: To be determined	75 hours

<sup>1</sup> The required coursework aligns with the State University System admission requirements found in Florida Board of Governor's Regulation 6.002. Information regarding high school coursework can be found in the [Florida Counseling for Future Education Handbook](#).

**Requirements to Receive an Award:** (As determined by the postsecondary institution)

1. Be evaluated by the Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) as meeting initial eligibility requirements,
2. Graduate with a standard high school diploma or its equivalent,
3. Be a Florida resident and U.S. citizen or eligible noncitizen, and
4. Enroll as a degree- or certificate-seeking student at a Florida institution in at least 6 non-remedial semester credit hours.

**Renewal Requirements:** (As determined by grade and hours submitted by the postsecondary institution)

1. Students must earn the number of credit hours based on the student's enrollment type per term, and
2. The renewal cumulative GPA requirements are outlined in the table below.

	Florida Academic Scholars (FAS)	Florida Medallion Scholars (FMS)
Minimum Cumulative GPA (unrounded and unweighted)	3.0	2.75

For detailed information, including other ways to qualify, please refer to the [Bright Futures Student Handbook](#). The student is responsible for tracking application and award status online and ensuring that funding for an academic year is accurate by contacting their institution's financial aid office.

**These eligibility requirements are subject to change with each legislative session.**

# Creating and Using the FSA ID

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## What's an FSA ID?

The FSA ID is a username and password you use to log in to U.S. Department of Education (ED) online systems, including the myStudentAid mobile app, [fafsa.gov](https://fafsa.gov), [StudentAid.gov](https://StudentAid.gov), and [StudentLoans.gov](https://StudentLoans.gov). The FSA ID is your legal signature and shouldn't be created or used by anyone other than you—not even your parent, your child, a school official, or a loan company representative. You'll use your FSA ID every year you fill out a *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA®) form and for the lifetime of your federal student loans.

## How do I get an FSA ID?

Visit [StudentAid.gov/fsaid](https://StudentAid.gov/fsaid) to create an FSA ID. You'll need your Social Security number, full name, and date of birth. You'll also need to create a memorable username and password, and provide answers to some challenge questions so you can retrieve your account information if you forget it.

You'll be required to either provide your email address or to provide your mobile phone number and opt-in to messaging when you make your FSA ID. Providing a mobile phone number and/or email address that you have access to will make it easier to log in to ED online systems, unlock your account, retrieve your forgotten username, or reset your forgotten password.

**Important:** Each email address or mobile phone number can be used with only one FSA ID. If you share an email address with someone else, then only one of you will be able to use that email address to create an FSA ID. This applies to your mobile phone number too.

## FSA ID Tips

- One of your parents might need an FSA ID as well. If you need to provide information about your parents on the FAFSA® form, one of your parents will have to sign the form. Your parent can create an FSA ID and then sign the FAFSA form electronically using that FSA ID. Not sure whether you'll need to put your parents' information on the FAFSA form? Check out [StudentAid.gov/dependency](https://StudentAid.gov/dependency). **Remember:** You should create your own FSA ID, and your parent should create his or her own FSA ID. Also, make sure to use the correct FSA ID when signing the FAFSA form electronically.
- When you first create your FSA ID, use of your FSA ID will be restricted to completing, signing, and submitting an original (first-time) FAFSA form. You'll have to wait one to three days for your information to be confirmed by the Social Security Administration (SSA) before you can use your FSA ID for other actions, such as submitting a FAFSA Renewal or signing a *Master Promissory Note*. If you provided an email address, then you'll receive an email letting you know that your information was successfully matched with the SSA and you can use your FSA ID for all of its purposes.
- If you forget your FSA ID username or password, look for links, such as "Forgot My Username" and "Forgot My Password," at the log-in pages of our online systems. These links will direct you to web pages where you can request a secure code to be texted to your verified mobile phone number or emailed to your verified email address. The secure code will allow you to retrieve your username or reset your password. You can also retrieve your username or reset your password by successfully answering your challenge questions. **Remember:** If you verified your email address or mobile phone number during account creation, you can enter your email address or mobile phone number instead of your username.

Learn more about the FSA ID at [StudentAid.gov/fsaid](https://StudentAid.gov/fsaid). Find this fact sheet at [StudentAid.gov/resources#fsaid](https://StudentAid.gov/resources#fsaid).

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT FAFSA

Filling out the **FAFSA**<sup>®</sup> can be a straightforward and easy process. The online FAFSA at [fafsa.gov](https://fafsa.gov) will guide you through the application; click on the “Start A New FAFSA” button on the home page, and just follow the directions on the screen. Here are some tips to help you along the way.

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## Getting an FSA ID

You'll need an FSA ID, a username and password combination that allows you to sign your FAFSA electronically. Your FSA ID also can be used to sign loan contracts and to access certain information online. You can get your FSA ID as you fill out the FAFSA, but you also have the option to get it ahead of time. Find out [how to get an FSA ID](#) and [what to do if you forgot your FSA ID](#).

Getting an FSA ID before you begin the FAFSA could prevent processing delays, and it only takes a few minutes to apply.

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## Gathering the Documents Needed to Apply

The FAFSA asks for information about you (your name, date of birth, address, etc.) and about your financial situation. Depending on your circumstances (for instance, when you filed taxes or what tax form you used), you might need the following information or documents as you fill out the FAFSA:

- Your Social Security number (it's important that you enter it correctly on the FAFSA!)
- Your parents' Social Security numbers if you are a [dependent student](#)
- Your driver's license number if you have one
- Your Alien Registration number if you are not a U.S. citizen
- Federal tax information or tax returns including IRS W-2 information, for you (and your spouse, if you are married), and for your parents if you are a dependent student:
  - IRS 1040, 1040A, 1040EZ
  - Foreign tax return and/or

- Tax return for Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the U.S. Virgin Islands, the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, or Palau
- Records of your untaxed income, such as child support received, interest income, and veterans noneducation benefits, for you, and for your parents if you are a dependent student
- Information on cash; savings and checking account balances; investments, including stocks and bonds and real estate but not including the home in which you live; and business and farm assets for you, and for your parents if you are a dependent student

Keep these records! You may need them again. Do not mail your records to us.

FOR MORE INFORMATION REFER TO THE LINK BELOW:

<https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa/filling-out>

# STEPS TO COMPLETE THE FAFSA

## (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)

### 1. **Locate your parent's tax information.**

- If you are starting college Fall of 2022, you will need to complete the 2022-2023 FAFSA, and you will need your parent's 2020 income tax information.
- If you are starting college Summer of 2022, you will need to ALSO complete the 2021-2022 FAFSA, and you will need your parent's 2019 income tax information.

### 2. **Create an FSA ID.**

Student and parent will EACH need an FSA ID to sign the form online and to access financial aid information on U.S. Department of Education websites. You will use the same FSA ID each year. If the parent has more than one student in college, the same parent FSA ID will be used for each student. You can create an FSA ID in advance or while you fill out the FAFSA form.

### 3. **Submit the FAFSA early.**

Gather your parent's income and asset information so you will be ready to submit the FAFSA when it opens on October 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Remember: the sooner you submit it, the better!**

\*\*\* You will need to reapply for aid every year.

To complete and submit the FAFSA

[FAFSA.gov](https://fafsa.gov)

To apply for an FSA ID

[FSaid.ed.gov](https://fsaid.ed.gov)

**Questions about the FAFSA process? Call 1-800-4 FED AID (1-800-433-3243)**

## Upcoming ACT Dates, Deadlines, and Score Release Dates

<b>ACT Test Date</b>	<b>Registration Deadline</b>	<b>Score Release Date</b>
July 17, 2021	June 18th	July 27th
September 11, 2021	Aug. 6th	<i>not yet available</i>
October 23, 2021	Sept. 17th	<i>not yet available</i>
December 11, 2021	Nov. 5th	<i>not yet available</i>
February 12, 2022	Jan. 7th	<i>not yet available</i>
April 2, 2022	Feb. 25th	<i>not yet available</i>
June 11, 2022	May 6th	<i>not yet available</i>

## Upcoming SAT Dates, Deadlines, and Score Release Dates

<b>SAT Test Date</b>	<b>Registration Deadline</b>	<b>Score Release Date</b>
August 28, 2021	July 30th	Sept. 10th
October 2, 2021	Sept. 3rd	Oct. 15th
November 6, 2021	Oct. 8th	Nov. 19th
December 4, 2021	Nov. 4th	Dec. 17th
March 12, 2022	Feb. 11th	Mar. 25th
May 7, 2022	Apr. 8th	May 20th
June 4, 2022	May 5th	July 13th

You can access more information about upcoming test dates from [ACT.org](https://www.act.org) and [College Board Org.](https://collegeboard.org), the makers of the SAT.



## SAT IMPORTANT INFO

### Connect to College

The SAT is the nation's most widely used college admission test. Used in combination with high school GPA, SAT scores are the best predictors of a student's potential to succeed in college.

### Register for the SAT

- The test costs \$55.00.
- Additional fees are as follows:
  - Change fee is \$35.00
  - Late Registration Fee is an additional \$30.00
- You will need to upload a photo when you register.
- Students with disabilities who want to test with accommodations must request them from the College Board at least seven weeks before test day.

### Fee Waivers

- SAT fee waivers will continue to be available to students who need them. If you are on free or reduced lunch, you will need to see your Brace Advisor to receive the waivers before registering for the test. Some test dates are waiving the application fee, however, double check with Guidance or Brace Advisor from your school to make sure you are receiving this service. **In addition, every student who takes the SAT (NOT ACT) with a fee waiver will receive FOUR (4) college application fee waivers directly from their College Board account.** Seniors will access these waivers through their online College Board account. If you sign up to take the test with the fee waiver and do not take it, you will not be able to receive the free college application waivers when you need them.

### Sending Your Scores to Colleges

- It is very important that when you sign up for the SAT and ACT that you send your test scores directly to the colleges you think you will plan to apply. **If this is NOT requested, you will have to pay \$12 for the scores to be sent afterwards.** Every time you sign up to take the test, send scores to the colleges.

### Preparing for the Test

- **Get Free, personalized SAT practice from Khan Academy** - Students who take any test in the SAT Suite — or an online practice test — will receive personalized SAT study resources based on their results. This Khan Academy practice experience will be adaptive and tailored to meet each student's individual needs. [Learn more about our partnership with Khan Academy.](#)
- **Urban League of Broward County offers free prep classes to Students.** Go to <http://www.ulbroward.org/> to see about available programs.
- **Public Libraries of Broward County – Search your local library to see what type of Free services they have for prep classes.**

## Tutoring Resources

- ❖ Khan Academy is an online tool that provides free tutoring for a variety of subjects. It also has a prep course **preparing for SAT testing**. Visit <https://www.khanacademy.org/>
- ❖ Algebra Nation is another on-line resource service for TSIC students only. Use **ALGEBRA NATION** to help in math subjects: 6th-8th Grade Mathematics, Algebra 1, Geometry, and Algebra 2. Log in to <https://www.algebranation.com/fl/>. Once you log in, you will be prompted to enter your high school name and will then log in through your pinnacle account.



- ❖ Broward County Public Libraries <http://www.broward.org/library/mylibraryonline/pages/tutoringprograms.aspx>
- ❖ The Urban League of Broward County <http://www.ulbroward.org/>
- ❖ Broward College offers free tutoring services for BC students doing dual enrollment and Early Admissions. <http://www.broward.edu/studentresources/lrc/Pages/default.aspx>
- ❖ ALEKS- <https://www.aleks.com> (check if your school offers this resource)
- ❖ Be sure to check with your school resources regarding tutoring offered at your school

# What to Look for in a Game Design School

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Why pursue a degree in game design? Some of the most rewarding career choices couple a passion for the subject matter with a promising job that is both enjoyable and pays the bills. With the right skills and preparation, including an [undergraduate degree in game design](#), becoming a Game Designer could be an excellent career choice for the passionate gamer.

## Key Game Design Program Features

Many game design schools in this area emphasize a strong mix of skills learned in the classroom and in practical application, resulting in a blend of the two at many programs. In other words, the best way to learn game design is to spend a lot of time designing games.

Here are some features to look for in a Game Design program that maximize your opportunities for learning and developing games:



### 1. Cutting edge technology

One advantage to learning game design in a university environment is having early access to new technologies, or even developing those technologies. At [Drexel University](#), for example, faculty go beyond teaching AI for games by involving students in NSF-funded research, developing AI beyond its current applications. “Rather than being “new,” our students have been working with immersive technologies like VR and AR for many years, so the depth of knowledge in these spaces extends into our cohorts of Masters and PhD students that are working and sharing in the same spaces as our undergraduates. Our students are constantly making games, LOTS of games, and those games could be entirely entertainment, or ways to challenge physical therapy patients to strive for their next goal, or help programming engineers learn the intricacies of parallel computing.” By seizing these unique opportunities, Drexel students can graduate with a standout portfolio of skills and working experiences, which is incredibly valuable in a crowded industry.

### 2. Hands-on projects in game development

[Bradley University](#) offers two exciting opportunities for hands-on learning in a collaborative game design environment: “Catapult Project” and “Hollywood Semester.” “Catapult” funds up to \$15,000 for each of ten games that students can use as portfolio pieces when applying to internships and jobs. The funds are used to purchase virtual reality equipment, arcade cabinets, multi-touch tables, HoloLens or whatever the student-team needs to realize its vision. Bradley’s “Hollywood Semester,” where “game students live in Los Angeles, intern at video game companies (such as Dreamworks Animation and Sony Interactive Entertainment), and study with industry professionals.”

You also want to make sure that your hands-on projects culminate in a portfolio for your job search. At [Cogswell Polytechnic College](#), the program culminates with students creating a strong portfolio and working in Game Studio. “In Game Studio, students work with an external client to make a shippable game. A recent example is a game made for AC Transit, a major transportation authority in the eastern region of the San Francisco Bay Area. In collaboration with their executives, students designed a playable game for people riding their bus line. The game will ship in both the Apple Store and the Google Play Store.”

### 3. Interdisciplinary studies with a collaborative, team approach

The ability to work successfully in a team is a beneficial “soft” skill that employers look for in game design and development, and in many careers. At the [University of Utah EAE](#), students from a variety of disciplines come together in classes to create games, and take courses allied areas such as Videogames and Storytelling, Intro to Design Thinking, and Intro to Interpersonal Communication. “This interdisciplinary work fosters understanding between students who are pursuing very different passions, and at the same time teaches the fundamental building blocks of great teamwork. These “soft” skills are put to the test in a yearlong capstone class where students work in large teams to build a video game from inception to public release.”

### 4. Preparing students for careers inside and outside of the game industry

Not every major pursues game design as a career. Many programs work with other on-campus programs to leverage skills and technologies in different areas. At [Worcester Polytechnic Interactive Media and Game Design \(IMGD\)](#), “students learn all of the components needed to succeed with the skills they acquire here (design, coding, art, writing, and sound, as well as leadership and entrepreneurship).” They can double major, or benefit from strong connections with degrees like Learning Sciences and Robotics. “Though many of our undergraduate and graduate students go into game development, they have found opportunities to apply their knowledge to medical augmented reality via HoloLens development at UMass Medical Center, to work at the New York Times on mobile app development, to enter the robotics industry, to do Android development for Google, to become animators, and so much more” inside and outside the games industry.

Researching different game design programs can help you refine your list of target schools. Here are some more [things to think about when comparing different colleges](#).

Keep in mind that Game Design majors can also consider an advanced degree in Game Design. (The Princeton Review ranks the [best graduate programs in Video Game Design](#).) We asked [SMU Guildhall](#), the #1 Graduate Program in Game Design, about the graduate school curriculum and experience they offer their students:

“Teamwork and specialized learning are the core of SMU Guildhall’s curriculum. SMU Guildhall offers 50 graduate classes annually dedicated to game design masters students with specializations in Art Creation, Level Design, Production, and Programming. Each cohort completes four core courses that teach the theory & practice of game development. These courses include three team game projects (one 2D and two 3D) in which teams build and iterate their game designs based on robust user research. Students then take 11 courses related to their specialization of interest in order to become masters of game art, programming, design, or production. In addition, master’s students complete three thesis-based courses to focus their projects on advancing the field of game research. Further, SMU Guildhall students enroll in 2 professional development and ethics courses related to a professional career in game development.”

<https://www.princetonreview.com/college-advice/top-ten-college-majors>