

Animation Career Review (ACR) website offers information about education programs and news about the field. Here is the link to their page that ranks the top 50 animation programs in the US.

<https://www.animationcareerreview.com/articles/top-50-animation-schools-and-colleges-us-2020-college-rankings>

Kadenze = an online learning platform for creative fields. They offer programs that are a group of courses taught by faculty from a particular institution, which are sometimes clustered into a certificate program and/or can be taken for college credit. Here are some examples:

Introduction to 3D Modeling and Animation with Maya: Tradition Meets Technology: This course is via the CA College of the Arts (ranked 16th by ACR). This course is free, but credit might be available for a fee. It seems to be asynchronous, although there are dates attached to the 5 sessions. It starts in a few days, but maybe because it is asynchronous, you might be able to sign up and then access the sessions when you want. The introductory video looks very interesting. Here's the link:

<https://www.kadenze.com/courses/introduction-to-3d-modeling-and-animation-with-maya-tradition-meets-technology-i/info>

Introduction to Motion Design - This is through Ringling College of Art and Design (which is in Florida and is ranked #1 in the US by Animation Career Review).

<https://www.kadenze.com/programs/introduction-to-motion-design>

Here are some other programs:

1. School of Visual Arts – ranked #6 by ACR. They are in NYC and have graduate programs, but they also have continuing ed online courses, which might be an ideal way to get started. Here's the link to a couple of up-coming online workshops:

<https://sva.edu/academics/continuing-education/animation?category=online%20courses>

2. Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD) – they have all-online graduate programs in animation. Ranked #3 by ACR. Here is the link to their online animation programs:

<https://www.scad.edu/academics/programs/animation>

3. Gnomon School of Visual Effects – ranked # 9 by ACR. They have a 2 year online certificate program, described here: <https://www.gnomon.edu/academics/digital-production>

The description by ACR says: Gnomon was established in 1997. Called the “MIT of Visual Effects” by Fast Company, “Gnomon offers a variety of educational options to help students reach their goals in the entertainment industry, with both degree and vocational certificate programs, specialized courses for high school students and over 100 individual courses for professional enrichment,” says the school. Gnomon, which has 600 graduates to date, offers a BFA and a Certificate in Digital Production.

Individual animation courses are available and may be “mixed and matched” to suit students’ career goals. Options include Acting for Animators, Introduction to 3D with Maya, Character Sculpture, Color Theory and Light, History and Principles of Animation, History of Visual Effects, Animation and Visual Effects, Character Animation, Modeling, Motion Graphics, Storyboarding, Texturing and Shading, Timing for Animation, Animation for Games, Character Design, Character Modeling and Sculpting, Previsualization and Animatics, Stylized Character Creation, and Creature Animation.

Gnomon graduates have landed positions at some of the world’s top studios. Walt Disney Animation Studios, Industrial Light & Magic, DreamWorks, Digital Domain, Blizzard Entertainment, Reel FX, Electronic Arts, Sony Pictures Imageworks, Nickelodeon Animation, Rhythm & Hues, and Marvel Entertainment are just a few.

4. Academy of Art University – ranked #13 by ACR. They appear to have an all-online graduation program in animation: <https://www.academyart.edu/academics/animation-visual-effects/online-degrees/>