Alexander Mackie College (AMC) began life in 1958 at Paddington in the eastern suburbs of Sydney in very cramped and unsuitable teaching conditions and facilities. It trained primary and high school teachers in art, music, science and social science (Byrnes and Conners in Koder, 1989, p.213). As student numbers grew, it had to conduct classes at five different sites in inner-Sydney. The main campus was in Albion Avenue whose buildings were extensively refurbished and remodelled while the Administrative campus was in Commonwealth Street. Others still were in Flinders Street. Mr. W. E. Hart was its first principal.

Although the first intake was in September 1958, it was not until 9 September, 1959 that the first term began (AMC Handbook 1959-60, p.6). It was officially opened on 20 November 1961.

As from 1 September 1971, under the terms of the Higher Education Act, 1969, no. 29, AMC was declared a college of advanced education within the Department of Education, NSW (NSW Government Gazette, no. 95, 37 August 1971; AMC Calendar, 1972, p 5; SACE, Annual Report, 1982, p.1). This, however, did not alter its main function as a single purpose teacher education college.


In 1975 the multi-disciplinary Alexander Mackie College of Advanced Education (AMCAE) had in place two major schools, Art and Education, offering several degree and award courses. Towards the end of the 1970s, new courses in the field of General and Community Studies were introduced. These changes led to two very important and significant developments in the evolution of what was to become SGIE and CAI of the SCAE. First, it gave impetus to the development of award courses in visual arts and higher award courses in art education. Second, it led to the "teaching facilities crisis" which prompted the establishment of the Oatley campus which became home to the School of Teacher Education and later the St George Institute of Education (Byrnes and Conners in Koder, 1989, p.213-4).

College Council was its governing body. The Act authorised Council to delegate its powers to individuals or committees within the College. It constituted the following committees:

- Executive Committee of Council
- Buildings, Grounds and Finance Committee
- Education Committee
- Personnel Committee
- College-Community Committee
- Appeals Committee
- Academic Board

College Council also authorised its various committees to delegate their functions and authorities to sub-committees. Thus, the Academic Board had the following
In 1981, the Oatley campus, in the southwestern region of Sydney called St George, became fully functional and operational. It functioned wholly as the teacher education campus while the Paddington campus became the home of the art education and evolved into the City Art Institute (CAI) in 1982 encompassing both Visual Arts and Art Education. This physical and discipline-based split of the AMCAE into the ‘education’ campus and the ‘arts’ campus was somehow prescient of the respective fates of the two colleges, later institutes of the SCAE.

On 11th September 1981, the chairman of the NSW Higher Education Board, Mr. R. E. Parry, wrote to the chairman of AMCAE College Council, Dr Clement W. Semmler informing the latter that on "24 July 1981, the Minister for Education, Hon. Paul Landa, established the Sydney College of Advanced Education and constituted its First Council", (Minutes of the Executive Committee of College Council, 9 November, 1981, SG 002 or Item no. 86/001 & 87/116).

Sydney College of Advanced Education Regulation, 1981 was the delegated legislation to the Higher Education Act, 1975, no. 40, which created the corporate entity known as the Sydney College of Advanced Education. Under the terms of the Regulation, AMCAE was reconstituted into two separate institutes, St George Institute of Education and City Art Institute and incorporated into the new Sydney College of Advanced Education. The new structure came into effect from 1 January 1982 and so AMCAE ceased to exist from this date.

Record series created by this agency (in chronological order by start date):

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<td>Minutes, Agendas &amp; Papers of the Board of Studies, School of Art / City Campus of the Alexander Mackie College of Advanced Education (AMCAE)</td>
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