

YOUR JOURNEY TO COLLEGE	
PROCEDURES FOR ART OR MUSIC MAJORS	

Procedures for Art Majors

A student applying as an art major will typically have an additional application process to complete. They may be required to submit a portfolio of their work, displaying intensive work in the art or design area reflecting varying pieces. In addition to the portfolio review, an interview may be required.

Portfolios consist of the student's recent, best artwork and colleges have their own procedures and requirements for this display. Some colleges would like to review this information with the student and as a result, they have created "Portfolio Review Days". At this meeting, the student's work is reviewed and they get to meet with professors and tour the facilities. They may attend departmental information sessions as well. At this time they may be appraised for scholarship awards. Some colleges offer an online submission of portfolios in addition to the on-campus review. The portfolio may have different requirements for individual colleges and it is important for students to adhere to the specific requirements posted on the school website. Typically, information submitted online or mail must be in 35 mm slides or jpeg files. CDs and DVDs may be submitted as well, but it is imperative to check for the specifications on the school website. Differing types of art, styles, and periods of history are recommended but the student should contact the Art Department directly for any clarification needed. It is also advisable to consult your high school art teacher or a private art teacher for advice and direction. Portfolios generally consist between ten and twenty pieces of a student's best work and can range in many types from sketchbook renderings, paintings, photography, short videos, digital images, sculpture, and ceramics. If the student would like to show interactive work from their website, they may bring a laptop to the campus portfolio review appointment. Any large or fragile pieces should be reflected in images.

It is suggested that students in need of a portfolio attend National Portfolio Day at a local college to get an appraisal of their artwork and receive suggestions for improvement. National Portfolio Day is a chance for those who wish to major in the arts to meet with representatives from colleges accredited by the National Association of Schools of Art and Design. Representatives will be available to review the artwork and discuss their programs and requirements. You can view their schedule for the upcoming year at www.portfolioday.net.

The portfolio, resume, and accompanying introductory letter will be used as evidence of the student's dedication to the field of art and the potential for success in this area. Keep in mind that colleges which specialize in art may weigh your talent equal to or more heavily than your academic profile, but this does not mean you are guaranteed admission if you are a talented artist. In addition to seeking talented students, many colleges have a baseline for grades and testing scores that they require. Make sure to investigate what those scores may be with the Office of Admissions as well as the Art Department at each school.

Procedures for Music Majors

Students applying to college with a major in music have to complete the application for admission to the college in addition to the application for entrance into the music program. Generally students are reviewed for acceptance to the college first and then invited to set up an audition appointment. In order to attend the college and major in the area of music, the student has to be accepted by both the Office of Admissions and the Department of Music. There are colleges whose policies are more flexible and allow students to begin with a major in music and audition or take placement exams once on campus, but this is not traditionally the case. Generally students must set up an appointment for an audition and individual colleges have their own requirements for what this process will entail. The Music Department will provide the student with specific composers or areas of music that the student will choose from in their performance. This information can be found on the college's website. They will require a cassette or CD of this performance while some may record auditions. The student may also be asked to complete a placement exam in the area of music theory, perform a sight reading exercise, play scales, or demonstrate keyboard skills and basic notation. The application for an audition may include an introductory letter or musical resume. Often a personal interview is part of the screening process as well.

The key to preparing for an audition is to practice, practice, and practice. Perform as a solo artist and with others. Expose yourself to different genres of music and vary the composers and styles. Become familiar with a wide range of music. Be as prepared as you can be for your audition, but be sure to reflect your own style and tone. Be open to applying to less popular colleges that have strong music departments and choose a college that you would like to attend in the event that you change your major. You can access the website of the National Office for Arts Accreditation (www.nasm-arts-accredit.org) for further resources.