

Applying to a Fine Arts Program

Seniors

Early in your senior year submit your materials to the Young Arts program of the National Foundation for the Advancement of the Arts, if you are seeking this recognition.

- If you are asking your arts teachers to write recommendations, please make your requests early in the year.
- Keep communicating with your College Counselor, your arts teachers and your parents about your plans, especially if they change.
- Keep an open dialogue with the colleges in which you continue to have an interest.
- Update your resume, DVD, CD or portfolio as needed.
- Many students pursuing an arts degree will be required to complete the Arts Supplement to the Common Application. This is where your DVD, CD, or portfolio will come in handy. Other applicants may choose to submit the Arts Supplement (even though it is optional for their school's admissions process) in order to provide a more complete profile of the student.
- Investigate deadlines of school conservatories. Sometimes these deadlines are earlier than the regular application deadlines.
- Schedule auditions/portfolio reviews, if required by your targeted schools' admissions offices. Most auditions take place from January to March of your senior year.
- Be sure to apply to some schools in which you are a strong candidate regardless of your visual and/or performing arts interests.
- Schedule extra time to work with teachers and/or private instructors as needed for audition and portfolio preparations.

Juniors

- Make time to communicate with your College Counselor, your arts teachers and your parents about your interest in continuing your involvement in the arts, your goals and your plans.
- Research types of degrees and programs available at specific schools. Ask lots of questions such as: Does the visual art program have a concentration in your desired media? Can you participate in the program without majoring? Is the program's acceptance based on auditions or academics, or both?
- With your College Counselor, teachers and parents, create a list of targeted colleges/programs and/or professors and their addresses and emails.
- Begin work on your resume. Present your history, including all information related to your art. For example, camps attended, private lessons, curricular and co-curricular activities, repertoire list, exhibition summary, accomplishments and awards, if any, should be included. Be sure to record your teachers' and private instructors' names and email addresses. Have your teachers look over your resume to get their suggestions on presentation and what should be included.
- Write generic letters of interest to the colleges on your list, asking for information. Include your resume. Be ready to provide additional information upon request.
- If possible, visit the schools you are most interested in and talk with the teachers there. Try to schedule a lesson or a class visit before you go.
- Depending on what type of degree you are pursuing and which schools you will be applying to, you may need to have a DVD or CD made, create a portfolio, or obtain a head shot.
- If you will be producing a DVD or CD, have a parent or friend videotape or record the shows, concerts, contests, and recitals you are in, including your original choreography, if applicable.
- At the end of your junior year, register for the Young Arts program of the National Foundation for the Advancement of the Arts and begin preparing your submission.