



Guidelines for Prep Students with Talent in the Visual or Performing Arts

For students who have an interest in pursuing the arts at the college level, consider the extent to which you would like to study within the field as you go through the college search process.

Pursuing a Major within the Arts

Along with the support of Prep's art department, begin researching colleges and universities who offer programs in the area you are interested in studying. Is your interest pushing you to research a conservatory or art school? Or are you interested in a college or university with a strong arts program? Along with your college counselor, you will want to craft a college list consisting of institutions that will offer you an appropriate academic environment, coupled with a competitive art program. For students interested in pursuing a major within the arts, supplemental information/a portfolio/an audition will often times be required. Depending on the area you intend to pursue, requirements will change.

Presenting Work as Additional Information

Students may want to inform the admission office of a talent they hold within the arts; not intending to ultimately major in the arts. If this is where your interest falls, you will want to work with your college counselor in identifying the proper section of the application to include additional information. Others may want to contact the admission representative at the institution they are interested in, with the guidance of their college counselor, and ask if additional information could be submitted to the admission office directly.

Optional Arts Supplements

Some colleges and universities offer students the opportunity to submit an optional arts supplement, which the institution generates. This piece allows the college arts faculty to review the material submitted and offer an evaluation of the work. The evaluation is then submitted to the admission office as a supplement to the academic review process. Optional arts supplements can be completed by students who intend to major in the arts and by students who demonstrate an extraordinary talent in the arts, yet who do not intend to major within the field.

What to Include in an Arts Portfolio

The following is a *general guideline* of what may be expected of you. **However, you must carefully follow the portfolio guidelines and deadlines required by each institution to which you are applying and do not exceed what is requested.**

Visual Arts

For most studio art programs you'll need to put together at least ten samples that showcase both creativity and technique. You may need to tailor an application portfolio to each institution depending on guidelines. Some want to see a specific focus, while others look for a broad sampling of interests and media.

If the portfolio is to be submitted digitally (online delivery), allow at least one week to shoot, edit, and prepare the files correctly. You'll want sharp images with accurate color to show your work at its best.

Prep's visual arts faculty can help you with shooting or evaluating your images for submission. If you want help preparing images that you have already shot, put all of your work onto one digital storage device (like a thumb drive or external drive) first, and then bring it to a teacher in the visual arts department after school. Class time is not available for work on your portfolio submission.

Digital Media

Prepare three video segments, no more than ten minutes.

Dance

Prepare excerpts of your performances in a broad range of styles (modern, ballet, jazz, hip hop, classical Indian Dance, etc.). Total length should be around 7-8 minutes.

Drama

Live auditions may be a part of your application process, while some institutions may welcome an online submission.

- Actors: prepare two contrasting monologues, but expect to have 3-4 memorized to accommodate different university requirements. Classical, contemporary, comedic & dramatic will be expected in different variations; appropriate preparation will only enhance your auditioning experience
- Designers: prepare a portfolio of your work and be prepared to discuss them
- Directors: be prepared to discuss your approach and ideas for production

Music

For vocalists and instrumentalists alike, this is a two-part process. There is a prescreen audition submission. Departments are usually quite specific as to what should be included in this. Interested students should contact not only the music department, but the area chair or even prominent studio instructor to get these specifics. If students pass the pre-screen, they will have to perform an in-person audition at the institution. It should be noted that preparation of repertoire for a competitive audition should begin by the student's junior year of high school.

- Instrumentalists: Submit up to two pieces that best demonstrate your abilities and include a variety of styles, periods, or tempi, keeping the recording to less than 10 minutes.
- Vocalists: Live auditions may be a part of your application process, while some institutions may welcome an online submission of two to three pieces with piano accompaniment, keeping the recording to less than 10 minutes.
- Composers: Submit two or three scores representative of recent work, and, whenever possible, an audio recording of the works submitted.

In addition to the requirements noted above, a letter of recommendation from an arts instructor may be required, along with an arts resume.

Finally, it is important you work closely with your arts instructor to prepare the required materials as they are the experts in the field; while your college counselor can assist you in looking into the appropriate requirements.

If you have any questions, please contact Brooke Yoshino, byoshino@flintridgeprep.org.