College Counseling:

PREPARING AN ARTS PORTFOLIO



WHAT STORY WILL YOUR PORTFOLIO TELL?

Your passion for and experience in the arts can come in many forms—school productions, individual work, gallery displays, personal websites, among others—and you will decide how best to share your voice and perspective as an artist with colleges and universities. Stay organized, do your research, and ask for help if you need it!

DO I NEED AN ARTS PORTFOLIO?

When thinking about whether you need an arts portfolio, consider the following:

- Am I applying to a **Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) or Bachelor of Arts (BA)** program?
- Is my involvement in the arts a **key part** of my student profile?
- Is an arts portfolio **required or recommended** for my program?
- Will I be applying **only** to arts-focused programs in college?
- Am I considering **conservatories and/or arts schools**?

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR ARTS STUDENTS

Requirements are going to vary from college to college and program to program, but keep the following in mind:

- What specific **type of work** are they looking for?
- How many **pieces** are required?
- Are there **supplemental questions/essays** to complete?
- How is my portfolio **shared** with the college?
- What are the specific **deadlines**?
- Do I need an **additional recommendation letter**?

TIMELINE

9TH & 10TH GRADE

- **Explore** academic and extracurricular opportunities in the arts at HM.
- **Pursue** your interests beyond HM.
- **Decide** which area(s) in the arts you're interested in pursuing at a higher level (either at HM or in college).
- **Organize** your work for a future artistic review.
- **Research** arts-focused programs offered at colleges.

11TH GRADE

- **Work** with College Counseling to explore schools and build a balanced list that accounts for your interest in the arts and educational goals.
- **Determine** which programs have an artistic review requirement and which programs have an (optional) supplemental arts portfolio.
- **Connect** with HM teachers in the relevant department to request support in the preparation of your artistic review.
- **Contact** Admissions Offices to request more information about their arts-focused programs and their artistic review process.
- **Plan** ahead for senior year: deadlines, pre-screens, portfolio submissions, auditions, and more!

View HM courses in music, theatre and dance, and visual arts by scanning the QR code or visiting **www.horacemann.org/programofstudies**

EXTRACURRICULARS

There are many opportunities for students to dive deeper into the arts with extracurricular activities. The offerings may vary year-to-year, as clubs and publications run based on student interest. Below is a small sample of extracurriculars that are typically available.

A Capella Club ● Dance Company ● Excelsior Movies/TV Podcast
Mosaic Art & Art History Publication ● Noteworthy Music Publication
Spirit Squad ● Street Art Club ● UD Play ● UD Musical

WHAT ELEMENTS MAY YOU NEED IN YOUR PORTFOLIO?

MUSIC

- Audition (in-person or virtual)
- CommonApp
- Conversation with evaluator
- Pre-screen
- Resume
- Video submission (one or multiple pieces)

DANCE

- Artist Statement of Purpose
- Audition (in-person or virtual)
- CommonApp
- Conversation with evaluator
- Pre-screen
- Resume
- Short video clip

FILM / DRAMA

- Artist Statement of Purpose
- Audition (in-person or virtual)
- CommonApp
- Conversation with evaluator
- One classical monologue
- One contemporary monologue
- Pre-screen
- Resume
- Short video clip

VISUAL ARTS / ARCHITECTURE

- Artist Statement of Purpose
- CommonApp
- 10-20 images in JPEG format (not PDF)

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Slideroom - *A secure online system for receiving and evaluating applications during undergraduate admissions and is a partner of the Common App*

National Unified Auditions - *25 select university theatre programs conduct simultaneous auditions and interviews for admission.*

Architecture, Construction, Engineering (ACE) Mentor Program - *A no-cost after-school program that prioritizes workforce development for high school students by connecting them with experts from the design and construction industry.*

National Architecture Accrediting Board (NAAB) - *Learn more about the accredited programs and education requirements for becoming a licensed architect.*

READY FOR THE NEXT STEP?

Learn more with your HM college counselor.

MS. KAITLIN HOWRIGAN
Executive Director of College Counseling
(718) 432-3846
kaitlin_howrigan@horacemann.org

MR. MIKAEL PERREAU
Associate Director of College Counseling
(718) 432-3897
mikael_perreau@horacemann.org