

APPLYING TO COLLEGE ARTS/MEDIA PROGRAMS

Questions to Ask

1. What kind of degree is offered? Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA)? Bachelor of Arts (BA)? They can be quite different philosophically and have very different curriculums. Understand that each program is unique. Do your research.

2. Ask yourself, what kind of education and training do I want? What kind of balance between academics and the arts? Can I double major? Can I minor? Can I go abroad? What resources are available for non-majors and minors? Can they access practice rooms or studio space, participate in student ensembles or productions, work for student radio, etc.?

2. When are the application deadlines?

Please note—many performing and visual arts programs, particularly BFA programs, have earlier deadlines than the college or university as a whole.

3. What are the application requirements? Are there pre-screening or portfolio requirements? Are there supplemental submissions? Auditions? What is required?

Please note—these differ from school to school!

4. What are the academic standards and recommendations for admission? (GPA, test scores, high school curriculum)?

5. Which test scores are accepted (ACT, SAT) and what is the recommended timeline for taking these tests?

6. What are the required essay topics, if any? There may be essays specific to the major or school beyond what is on the Common App. Check the specific program website.

7. What is the goal size or the expected size of the incoming freshman class? How many applications do they receive? How many did they accept? Does the school maintain a wait-list?

8. When are admission decisions made and communicated to applicants?

9. What is the total cost of attending the school? If the school offers need based or merit based financial aid, what are the deadlines and application requirements? On what criteria are scholarship decisions made?