

Theatre Department College Night



Contents.

Think You Need A BFA?.....	3
Is a BFA Degree Part of the Recipe for <i>Musical Theater</i> Success?	7
A Little Quiz.....	12
Broadway's Big 10: Top Colleges Currently Represented on Currently Running Shows.....	14
Monthly College Planning Guide For Visual & Performing Arts Students.....	18
Theatre and Musical Theatre College Audition Timeline in a Nutshell	48
Gain An Edge Over The Summer.....	50
6 Keys To Choosing The Perfect College For The Arts.	53
The National Association for College Admission Counseling Performing and Visual Arts Fairs in Houston & Dallas.	55
Unifieds	58
TX Thespian Festival College Auditions.....	68
Theatre College-Bound Resource Index.	71

Think You Need A BFA?

Look at 50 Top Actors

How can acting students determine the real value of a BFA?

Is a degree really necessary to be a successful actor? The short answer is no. You can find a lot of debate on the topic. Most will agree that one can excel as an actor without a college degree. The real question, however, centers on the value of the acting program itself. Does it enable the acting student to develop a variety of tools and skills that translate beyond college? Can the student apply what is learned to a successful career path, acting or otherwise?



Yes, it's possible to be a successful actor without the paper to prove it.

A number of people have the innate ability to naturally express themselves on stage or in front of the camera without any formal training at all. And a relatively small subset of these people are fortunate enough to be cast in acting roles that can suddenly elevate their status as actors or even celebrities. The point is that while some successful actors have a BFA or even an MFA, the degree itself is certainly not required.

It's not about the degree. It's about the training to develop skills.

Great actors are always looking to dig deeper and develop further. For many theater students, the right college, conservatory, or program has provided the environment and guidance to allow them to blossom as performers. Additionally, the variety of skills that are developed with proper theater training can carry over to a number of different career tracks. Even within the theater world, you'll find many directors, producers, and writers who were trained as actors.



BFA or no BFA, here are 50 top actors, the schools they attended, and the degrees they pursued or completed:

- Sandra Bullock, East Carolina University, BA
- Steve Buscemi, Nassau Community College, no degree
- Kristen Chenoweth, Oklahoma City University, BFA
- George Clooney, Northern Kentucky University, BA
- Gavin Creel, University of Michigan, BFA
- Johnny Depp, did not attend college, n/a



Theatre Department College Night

- Will Ferrell, USC, BA
- Anna Ferris, University of Washington, BA
- James Franco, UCLA, BA
- Richard Gere, UMass Amherst, BA
- Paul Giamatti, Yale University, BA
- Whoopi Goldberg, did not attend college, n/a
- Tommy Lee Jones, Harvard University, BA
- Keira Knightly, Esher College (UK), BA
- Lisa Kudrow, Vassar College, BA
- Mila Kunas, UCLA & Loyola Marymount, BA
- Ashton Kutcher, University of Iowa, BA
- Laura Linney, Juilliard, BFA
- John Lithgow, Harvard University, BA
- Julianna Margulies, Sarah Lawrence College, BA
- Rachel McAdams, York University (Canada), BFA
- James McAvoy, did not attend college, n/a
- Audra McDonald, Juilliard, BM
- Idina Menzel, NYU, BFA
- Debra Messing, Brandeis University, BA
- Edward Norton, Yale University, BA
- Chris O'Donnell, Boston College, BA
- Laura Osnes, University of Wisconsin, BFA
- Al Pacino, did not attend college, n/a
- Mary Louise Parker, North Carolina School of the Arts, BFA

Theatre Department College Night

- Brad Pitt, University of Missouri, BA
- Natalie Portman, Harvard University, BA
- Alan Rickman, Chelsea College of Art and Design, BFA
- Tim Robbins, UCLA, BA
- Julia Roberts, Georgia State University, BA



Is a BFA Degree Part of the Recipe for *Musical Theater* Success?

My conversation with Joe Deer, Head of Musical Theatre at Wright State University & co-author of *Acting in Musical Theatre* (which we are now using in Musical Theatre classes at McCallum).



Recently, I had the opportunity to talk with someone who's uber-qualified to offer valuable advice on this topic [Joe Deer](#), co-author of [Acting In Musical Theatre: A Comprehensive Course](#) and author of [Directing in Musical Theatre](#). Joe is Distinguished Professor of Musical Theatre and Director of the Musical Theatre Initiative at Wright State University (where I attended and earned my BFA in Musical Theatre), where he heads the BFA Musical Theater Program.

Why College?

Let's start with the big question: do you want to study musical theater in college? Do you think that making, performing and teaching theater is likely to be an important part of your life for years to come? Then it's smart to continue your training with qualified educators, and college is a great place to do that.



Nowadays, college is the “default” option for students considering a professional career performing in musical theater, and nearly every artist on a professional stage has a college degree on their CV. A good college experience will equip you with valuable tools and techniques, broaden your understanding of the arts and the world in general, and introduce you to fellow artists who are likely to become your lifelong friends and collaborators. It will help you make the transition from “student” to “professional” by providing career skills and networking opportunities.

It's still okay, though, to question whether college is your best option. Maybe you're impatient, and full of self-confidence. Maybe you don't thrive in the classroom environment, or you're not cut out for the “academic” side of college. There may be no good reason not to sally forth and begin your career right now. If you're talented and a marketable “type,” you should give this some serious thought. Your youth is potentially one of your biggest assets, and spending the next

four years in school might be a wasted opportunity. Voice lessons, dance classes and acting coaches can all be found outside the walls of the university, and online resources are available to provide additional specialized support wherever you are in your journey.

I've found that teenagers who have such a high level of self-possession is the exception, not the rule. One of the chief functions of undergraduate school is to provide students with the opportunity to finish growing up, in a stimulating and supportive environment. But college isn't cheap, and you should weigh the value of the money that you will spend (and borrow) to attend against the value of growing up in the sheltered environment of the university.

Major in Theater?

Once you've decided that college is your path forward, is majoring in musical theater the right choice to make? Should you major in theater at a school that gives you a broad range of options and electives? Or choose a major in another field that you feel passionately about and study theater as an elective or extracurricular option? Each of these paths is a worthy one, and any of them could lead you to a role in a Broadway show or a life spent working in the professional theater.

Joe emphasizes the importance of thoughtful planning at the outset of your college search. Do you want to perform on a Broadway stage? Run a theater company in your hometown? Write or produce original work? Be a teacher? There's no reason not to dream big at this point in your young life; very few people succeed without a big dream to keep them motivated. But it's crucial that you think specifically about your own path, and not follow someone else's. Take the time to consider these options and discuss them with the people you trust most – your friends, your teachers, your parents – then choose a degree path that fits with your dream.

BA or BFA?

If you've got your heart set on majoring in theater in college, the next big decision facing you is: BA or BFA? Actually, even stating the question that way is a little misleading, since it's not a simple either-or choice between the Bachelor of Arts and the Bachelor of Fine Arts degrees. For musical theater, there's also the BM (Bachelor of Music) route, and there are two-year Associates degrees (like the AA) and non-degree options available as well, but with Joe Deer's help, we'll tackle the controversial "To BFA or not to BFA" decision first.

College degrees are like recipes, or formulas, that dictate the distribution of credits and experiences that you're likely to have during your time at school. Generally speaking, the BFA is more focused and intense. A larger percentage of the credits you take in a BFA program will be in the area of your major, and a smaller percentage will be devoted to electives and general studies (liberal arts or so-called "gen-eds"). In a BA program, a smaller percentage of course credits are devoted to the major, leaving you more freedom to explore a broader range of subjects and courses. Typically, the BFA requires an audition for admission (in some cases, a very competitive one), while the BA does not.

BFA: focused, intense, conservatory, vocational, audition

BA: broad, exploratory, liberal arts, no audition

The Bachelor of Music degree in musical theater, as its name implies, is a degree offered by a music program, and philosophically that means that music is the center of the training. In these programs, you're likely to find more credits devoted to music than to theater or dance. Similar ingredients, but a different recipe, somewhere in-between the BFA and the BA.

Many people think that the BFA is the only way to go if you're serious about your craft. If you get admitted to a BFA program, you're more likely to be surrounded by serious, talented, highly-motivated classmates. The fact that these students had to clear the hurdle of a highly competitive audition and selection process to gain admission means you'll be in pretty fierce company. And BFA programs tend to put more emphasis on career preparation, including opportunities for networking, self-promotion and professional development, which is another plus. But not everyone who wants a BFA can get in; most BFA programs have a limited capacity for enrollment. Nor can everyone afford them; "name" programs with strong cachet don't need to offer much in the way of "discounts" and scholarships to fill their enrollment quotas, and the sticker price can be upwards of \$50,000 a year – yikes!

Plus there is a potential downside that comes with the tightly-focused intensity of a pre-professional conservatory program. The pressures that come with high standards and a competitive student body can be overwhelming for some students. The narrow vocational focus of the curriculum often frustrates a student who seeks a broader, richer exploration in their undergraduate education.

Still, the impression is out there that the BA in theater is for the also-rans, the ones who aren't quite good enough or rich enough to get into a BFA program. This impression is reinforced by the schools that offer a BA-to-BFA track, that is, a curriculum that admits students to a BA track and

Theatre Department College Night

offers them the opportunity to audition (usually in the fourth semester) for admission to a more exclusive BFA track. It is Joe's observation that at schools that offer both a BA and a BFA, the students in the BA track are likely to find their opportunities (and their self-esteem) diminished. There's no reason to turn up your nose at the BA experience, even if you're a serious singing actor. You can still get a first-class undergraduate education and continue to pursue your passion in a variety of ways.



It's worth pointing out that the lines separating these degree options are blurry. There are BA programs with highly accomplished faculty and demanding advanced-level coursework, whose graduates are very competitive in the professional employment market. There are BFA programs that are increasing the breadth of their offerings, in the belief that students are not optimally served by a narrow trade-school orientation in their curriculum. Joe speaks for many educators in BFA programs when he observes, "We need to do a better job of encouraging our students' curiosity and thinking of the educational opportunities that college can offer beyond vocational training."

So, to return to my initial analogy, you need to consider the ingredients as well as the recipe – the faculty, the campus environment, the opportunities in the region. It's possible to make a terrific dish using a simple recipe and outstanding ingredients, and the reverse is also true: a great recipe doesn't guarantee a good meal if the right ingredients aren't used. To sort them out, you'll have to do your homework.

A Little Quiz.

John Stefano from Otterbein University created a little quiz to see whether you're more the BA or the BFA type. Try answering the following questions by circling the appropriate number from 1 to 7, where 1 = strongly disagree and 7 = strongly agree.

1. I absolutely cannot imagine being anything other than a professional actor.

strongly disagree 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 strongly agree

2. I want to learn about as many different subjects as I can in college.

strongly disagree 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 strongly agree

3. I am an actor, singer and a dancer, and I want to spend my life performing.

strongly disagree 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 strongly agree

4. I really enjoy spending time in classes in literature, history, social science, etc., listening to lectures and engaging in discussions.

strongly disagree 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 strongly agree

5. Except for being onstage, I'd rather be in dance class, or acting class, or choir than anyplace else in the world.

strongly disagree 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 strongly agree

6. I need lots of solitary time, to think and to write.

strongly disagree 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 strongly agree

7. I need to be active and busy all the time.

strongly disagree 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 strongly agree

8. I am really torn between doing a BA or a BFA degree in Theatre.

strongly disagree 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 strongly agree

Add up your scores on the even questions and the odd questions. If your score on the odd-numbered questions is significantly higher than your score on the even-numbered questions, then you're probably going to be more comfortable in a BFA program. If your even score is significantly higher than your odd score, then you probably want to be in a BA program. And if your scores are more or less equal, you should examine both options closely, looking for a program that gives you the right balance of freedom and focus.

Broadway's Big 10: Top Colleges Currently Represented on Currently Running Shows.

By Sarah Jane Arnegger 25 Aug 2015

What does it take to land a Broadway show? Hard work, talent, luck – all backed up by a good education. As part of Playbill.com's Back to School week (#BwayBacktoSchool), we have combined our past Schools of the Stars features that track where major members of the cast and creative team on each Broadway show went to college, along with a bit of added research, to present the top 10 colleges currently represented on Broadway (plus honorable mentions).

We have also included a few performers from shows that will be opening during the upcoming season.

1. [New York University](#): [Adam Jacobs](#) (Aladdin), [Ruthie Ann Miles](#) (The King and I), [Matthew Morrison](#) (Finding Neverland), [Brandon Uranowitz](#) (An American in Paris), Javier Muñoz (Hamilton), [Jay Armstrong Johnson](#) (On the Town), [Jackie Hoffman](#) (On the Town), [Jessica Hecht](#) (Fiddler on the Roof), [Nina Arianda](#) (Fool for Love), [Camryn Manheim](#) (Spring Awakening), [Krysta Rodriguez](#) (Spring Awakening), [Alex Brightman](#) (School of Rock), [Jeremy Shamos](#) (Noises Off), [Rachael Ferrera](#) (Amazing Grace), [Heather Lang](#) (An American in Paris), [Brittney Johnson](#) (Beautiful), [Jennifer Dunne](#) (Chicago), [Ben Horner](#) (The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time), [Tyley Ross](#) (Finding Neverland), [Greg Jackson](#); A GeYtlewaY's Guide to Loje aYd Muđdeđ, [Cara Cooper](#) (Jersey Boys), [Haven Burton](#) (Kinky Boots), [Holly Davis](#) (Kinky Boots), [Jon Viktor Corpuz](#) (The King and I), [Kelvin Moon Loh](#) (The King and I), [Diane Phelan](#) (The King and I), [Emily Cramer](#) (Les Misérables), [Gareth Saxe](#) (The Lion King), Sydney Beaudoin (Mamma Mia!), [Allyson Carr](#) (Mamma Mia!), Jennifer Hemphil (Mamma Mia!), [Jacob Pinion](#) (Mamma Mia!), [Gerard Salvador](#) (Mamma Mia!), [Matt Harrington](#) (Matilda), Peter Chursin (On the Town), Katherine Heaton (Phantom of the Opera), [Bronson Norris Murphy](#) (Phantom of the Opera), [Ryan VanDenBoom](#) (Something Rotten!), [Eric Giancola](#) (Something Rotten!), [Arielle Jacobs](#) (Wicked), [Ioana Alfonso](#) (Wicked), [Larkin Bogan](#) (Wicked), [Josh Daniel Green](#) (Wicked), [Marissa Lupp](#) (Wicked), [Josh Segarra](#) (On Your Feet), [Nina LaFarga](#) (On Your Feet), [Daniel Marmion](#) (Spring Awakening), [Ali Stroker](#) (Spring Awakening).

2. College Conservatory of Music (University of Cincinnati): [Nikki Renée Daniels](#) (The Book of Mormon), [Tony Yazbeck](#) (On the Town), [Andrew Chappelle](#) (Hamilton), [Alysha Deslorieux](#) (Hamilton), [Allen Kendall](#) (Amazing Grace), Scott Willis (An American in Paris), [Sara Sheperd](#) (Beautiful), [Daniel Torres](#) (Beautiful), [Melvin Tunstall](#) (Beautiful), [Angel Reda](#) (Chicago), [Jason Patrick Sands](#) (Chicago), [Pamela Bob](#) (Hand to God), [Matt Bogart](#) (Jersey Boys), [Mia Gentile](#) (Kinky Boots), [Aaron J. Albano](#) (The King and I), [Stephanie Jae Park](#) (The King and I), [Adam Monley](#) (Les Misérables), [Max Quinlan](#) (Les Misérables), [Sean Montgomery](#) (Matilda), [Geoff Packard](#) (Matilda), [Max Clayton](#) (On the Town), [Cody Williams](#) (On the Town), [Eric Sciotto](#) (Something Rotten!), [Betsy Werbel](#) (Wicked).
3. University of Michigan: [Gavin Creel](#) (The Book of Mormon), [Andy Mientus](#) (Spring Awakening), [Cortney Wolfson](#) (Kinky Boots), [Ashley Park](#) (The King and I), [Yurel Echezarreta](#) (Aladdin), [Stanley Bahorek](#) (Amazing Grace), [Gavriel Savit](#) (Amazing Grace), [Will Burton](#) (An American in Paris), [Bre Jackson](#) (The Book of Mormon), [Brian Spitulnik](#) (Chicago), [Courtney Balan](#) (Finding Neverland), [Erika Henningsen](#) (Les Misérables), [Cathryn Basile](#) (Les Misérables), [Hannah Shankman](#) (Les Misérables), Susan Owen (Phantom of the Opera), Desi Oakley (Wicked), Ryan Vasquez (Wicked), [Cary Tedder](#) (Dames at Sea), [Robert Ariza](#) (Spring Awakening).
4. Carnegie Mellon University: [Christian Borle](#) (Something Rotten!), [Megan Hilty](#) (Noises Off), [Leslie Odom, Jr.](#) (Hamilton), [Renée Elise Goldsberry](#) (Hamilton), [Kara Lindsay](#) (Wicked), [Telly Leung](#) (Allegiance), [Daisy Hobbs](#) (Aladdin), [Erin Mackey](#) (Amazing Grace), [Chris Hoch](#) (Amazing Grace), [Grey Henson](#) (The Book of Mormon), [Kyle Selig](#) (The Book of Mormon), [Catherine Walker](#) (A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder), Kristen Hahn (A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder), [Emily Koch](#) (Wicked), [Tess Soltau](#) (Wicked).
5. The Juilliard School: [Alex Sharp](#) (The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time), [Steven Boyer](#) (Hand to God), [Kelsey Grammer](#) (Finding Neverland), [Phillipa Soo](#) (Hamilton), [Austin Smith](#) (Hamilton), [Betsy Struxness](#) (Hamilton), Nathan Madden (An American in Paris), Gia Mongell (An American in Paris), [Sam Rogers](#) (An American in Paris), [Daniel Breaker](#) (The Book of Mormon), [Enid Graham](#) (The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time), [Bennyroyce Royon](#) (The King and I), Christopher Vo (The King and I), [Michaeljon Slinger](#) (Matilda).

6. **Boston Conservatory:** [Alysha Umphress](#) (On the Town), Victor Wisehart (An American in Paris), [Eddie Korbich](#); A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder, [Weston Wells Olson](#) (Les Misérables), [Lawrence Alexander](#) (The Lion King), [Allison Blackwell](#) (The Lion King), [Traci Victoria](#) (Mamma Mia!), Santina Umbach (Mamma Mia!), [Ashley Blair Fitzgerald](#) (On the Town), [Janet Saia](#) (Phantom of the Opera), [Austin Lesch](#) (Something Rotten!), [Chelsea Morgan Stock](#) (Something Rotten!), [Bud Weber](#) (Something Rotten!), [Emily Ferranti](#) (Wicked), Adam Sanford (Wicked).
7. **American Musical & Dramatic Academy:** [Christopher Jackson](#) (Hamilton), [Christopher Sieber](#) (Matilda), [Anthony Ramos](#) (Hamilton), [Sarah Stiles](#) (Hand to God), [Kyle Taylor Parker](#) (Kinky Boots), [Michael Mindlin](#) (Aladdin), [Savannah Frazier](#) (Amazing Grace), [Toni Elizabeth White](#) (Amazing Grace), [Gabrielle Reid](#) (Beautiful), [Colin Cunliffe](#) (Finding Neverland), [Autumn Ogawa](#) (The King and I), [Brennyn Lark](#) (Les Misérables), [Chondra La-Tease Profit](#) (The Lion King).
8. **Fordham University:** [Julie White](#) (Sylvia), Taeler Eylse Cyrus (An American in Paris), Gisela Adisa (Beautiful), [Melanie Moore](#) (Finding Neverland), [Seth Stewart](#) (Hamilton), [Ephraim Sykes](#) (Hamilton), [Kevin Smith Kirkwood](#) (Kinky Boots), India Bolds (The Lion King), James A. Pierce III (The Lion King), [Rosie Lani Fiedelman](#) (The Lion King), Lindsey Jolyn Jackson (The Lion King), [Kristine Covillo](#) (On the Town), [Van Hughes](#) (Spring Awakening).
9. **Northwestern University:** Brian d'Arcy James (Something Rotten!), [Adam Kantor](#) (Fiddler on the Roof), Amber Owens (Aladdin), [Ben Estus](#); The Book of Mormon, Mark Ledbetter (A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder), [Anna Eilinsfeld](#) (Kinky Boots), [Beth Kirkpatrick](#) (Les Misérables), Scott Mikita (Phantom of the Opera), [Carrington Vilmont](#) (Phantom of the Opera), [Jim Weitzer](#) (Phantom of the Opera), [Antonette Cohen](#) (Wicked).
10. **Florida State University:** [Mike Evariste](#) (Amazing Grace), [Leslie Donna Flesner](#) (An American in Paris), [Stephen Christopher Anthony](#) (The Book of Mormon), [Christian Delcroix](#) (The Book of Mormon), Trevor Leaderbrand (The Book of Mormon), [Hardy Weaver](#) (The Book of Mormon), [Montego Glover](#) (Les Misérables), Joseph Spieldenner (Les Misérables), [Jennifer Swiderski](#) (Mamma Mia!), [Amanda LaMotte](#) (Matilda), [Holly Ann Butler](#) (On the Town), [Greg Mills](#) (Phantom of the Opera), [Martín Solá](#) (On Your Feet), [Natalie Caruncho](#) (On Your Feet).

Honorable Mentions:

Yale University: [Michael Cerveris](#) (Fun Home), [Jefferson Mays](#) (A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder), [Joanna Glushak](#) (A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder), [Ali Ewoldt](#) (The King and I), Misa Ann Iwama (The King and I), [Christianne Tisdale](#) (Les Misérables), Kyle Lamar Mitchell (The Lion King), [Stephen Derosa](#) (On the Town).

Oklahoma City University: Kelli O'haara (The King and I), [Clifton Samuels](#) (Amazing Grace), [Sasha Hutchings](#) (Hamilton), Nathan Peck (Kinky Boots), [Megan Osterhaus](#) (Les Misérables), Lauralyn McClelland (Matilda), Colby Q. Lindeman (Wicked).

Ithaca College: [Judy McLane](#) (Mamma Mia!), [Kathryn Allison](#) (Aladdin), [Adam Kaokept](#) (Aladdin), [Jamal Lee Harris](#) (The Lion King), Victor Wallace (Mamma Mia!), Jerad Bortz (Wicked), [Sean Grandillo](#) (Spring Awakening).

Baldwin-Wallace University: [Steel Burkhardt](#) (Aladdin), [Jill Paice](#) (An American in Paris), [Kyle Post](#) (Kinky Boots), [Chris McCarrell](#) (Les Misérables), [Kyle Jean-Baptiste](#) (Les Misérables), Thomasina E. Gross (Mamma Mia!).

University of Hartford (Hartt School of Music): [Kevin Duda](#) (Beautiful), [Douglas Lyons](#) (Beautiful), [Jimmy Bain](#) (The Book of Mormon), [Jessica Vosk](#) (Finding Neverland), [Richard Barth](#) (Les Misérables), [Phillip Boykin](#) (On the Town)

Monthly College Planning Guide For Visual & Performing Arts Students.

SEPTEMBER

Welcome back to school! It's a new year with new challenges — academically, socially, and artistically. To help you adjust and adapt, examine future goals so that courses can be chosen to complement those goals and serve as good prerequisites for college. Explore all of your skills in the arts, and plan for extracurricular activities as well, allowing flexibility for new or growing interests. Taking control of all your options in high school can help build the confidence you need for success!

Senior Arts Students

Finalize your college list. Use the information you've gathered from college visits, interviews, and your own research to determine the schools to which you will apply. It's okay to apply to colleges that you think will be more difficult to get into. But it's also important to add a few safety schools to your list. Talk to counselors, teachers, and parents about your final choices. Register for and take the ACT, SAT, or SAT Subject Tests as necessary. Be sure you have requested that your test scores and transcripts be sent to the colleges on your list.

Senior Parents

Get your college applicant in gear. Start the year off right by setting aside an evening for dinner out with your college-bound child. Go over the strategy for the school year. Discuss plans and goals and review the list of potential colleges. If necessary, search with your student for a few more schools to make sure you haven't overlooked any. Also discuss plans to attend college fairs and meet with any college representatives who may be coming to the school. Go over which college sites have been visited and which ones haven't. Finalize plans for college visits. Have your student start the application process. Does your child still need to take the ACT or SAT? Find out

the dates and have them register! If it all seems overwhelming, reassure your child that you'll be there to support them every step of the way.

Junior Arts Students

Evaluate education options and artistic skills. This is a good time to begin to set a more specific path toward college goals. Do you want to pursue the arts as a major or possibly a minor? If so, you should consider meeting with a professional for an [artistic evaluation](#). By knowing your strengths and weaknesses, you can focus on enhancing and elevating your skills to increase your chance to get into the best program. Also, register for the PSAT. It qualifies you for the National Merit Scholarship program, which means you could earn money for college. In addition, it's great practice for the SAT.

Junior Parents

Set the bar. Make sure your child registers for the October PSAT. This is the qualifying test for the National Merit Scholarship program and a good way to practice for the SAT. Go to the fair. Check into college fairs and high school visits from college representatives. Encourage your child to attend and to get familiar with the college resources available at school. Take note. If you haven't done so yet, get a Social Security number for your child. And if your arts student is in need of specific [counseling to prepare for college](#), it's available.

Sophomore Arts Students

Stay on course and adjust. Work with your guidance counselor to make sure you're enrolled in the courses you need to prepare you for college. Keep on track with your classes and if adjustments are needed, make them. Move on to the next appropriate level of classes in the core subjects — English, math, science, history, and foreign language.

Sophomore Parents

Encourage preliminary testing. Make sure your child gets in touch with the school guidance counselor about taking the PSAT/NMSQT. Although the "real" PSAT/NMSQT is taken in October of junior year, this is a great way for your child to get familiar with the test. Students considering

taking the ACT should ask about the PLAN schedule. The PLAN helps immensely in predicting your child's performance on the ACT. Both tests will help your child prepare for the "big tests" next year.

Freshman Arts Students

Get to know your guidance counselor. And let them get to know you and your interests. Your counselor is ready and more than willing to help you make sense of your college and career options. Your grades appear on official transcripts starting this year, so take your work seriously and explore your interests. As soon as you can, set up a meeting to talk about your plans for high school and the future.

Freshman Parents

Offer support and guidance. The initial weeks of high school can be a difficult adjustment. Keep an open dialogue about how classes are going. Make sure that your student has connected with the guidance counselor, and you should do the same. If your child has particularly strong academic interests, encourage them, but don't lose focus on strengthening areas of weakness that can't be ignored, such as English or algebra. If your child is struggling, now is the time to get a handle on it. Or, if the work

OCTOBER

The school year is still new, so it's a great time to look ahead and plan ahead. Remember that your academic and performing or visual arts choices in high school should serve your longer-term goals as you prepare for college and beyond. Keep in mind that no matter what decisions you've made, or are about to make, you may want to refine your selections as you develop and grow. Stay focused, and at the same time, stay open to exploring new areas at all times!

Senior Arts Students

Get guidance, plan auditions, prep portfolios. Stay on track with admissions requirements by working with your guidance counselor. Let your counselor know where you want transcripts, score reports, and letters sent, and provide any necessary forms much earlier than the actual deadlines so your counselor will have time to send in the forms. Now you can finalize your audition material or portfolio pieces to best reflect your skills.

Senior Parents

Decide on early decision. Review options for early decision and early action to determine if this is the path you and your student want to pursue. Help your child complete the college list by adding application and financial aid due dates. Take a road trip. Identify the top colleges on the final list, and visit those schools. Schedule any interviews that can be completed on campus or with college alumni. Also remember to attend college fairs, and gather as much information as possible.

Junior Arts Students

Build your list of potential colleges. Start by identifying the criteria that is most important to you about college such as academic majors, size, location, cost, and/or special programs. Weigh each of the factors according to their importance to you. Then list the schools that fit your criteria, and develop a preliminary ranking of those schools. You should attend college fairs and college nights and speak with college representatives who visit your high school. Search your top college options online, and based on your findings, either expand or narrow your list. Also, if you're in the performing arts, it's a good time to assemble your resume with a headshot.

Junior Parents

Stay on schedule. If your child is taking the PSAT, make sure the date is marked on your student's calendar as well as yours. Remind him/her to prepare for the test and to try some practice questions. At the same time, you can help keep this from being a high-pressure situation by planning for a fun treat after the test. Step on campus. Schedule a day trip to visit nearby colleges even if it's not where your child will apply. The idea is to explore different types of schools. Start a discussion by asking about which characteristics your student either likes or dislikes about those schools.

Sophomore Arts Students

Practice with the PSAT. Taking the PSAT as a sophomore will help prepare you for the real thing next year. It also allows you to release your name to colleges so you can start receiving information from them. Also review your courses with your guidance counselor to make sure you're enrolled in the classes you need to prepare you for college.

Sophomore Parents

Take your kid to the fair. It's a good time to start checking out college fairs and possibly meeting with school representatives that come to your area. Encourage your child to get a feel for the college search by attending one fair, and if ready, a session or two with representatives at school. It may also be a good time to start a preliminary list of potential colleges.

Freshman Arts Students

Plan for the next 4 years. Prepare to lay the foundation for your high school career. This is the time to establish your academic and extracurricular credentials and begin to explore options for further education and a career. Your guidance counselor is there to help you make sense of your college and career options. As soon as you can, set up a meeting to talk about your plans for high school and the future. Your counselor can help to make sure you're enrolled in the appropriate college-prep classes.

Freshman Parents

Plant the seeds now. Encourage your child to start exploring career goals so that courses can be chosen to complement those goals and serve as good prerequisites for college. Sit down with your teen and the course listings to agree on an academic plan for the classes your child should take in high school. Lay out preliminary plans for extracurricular activities as well, allowing flexibility for new interests to develop. Naturally, you'll want to consult with the school guidance counselor to help with all of the planning.

NOVEMBER

Thanksgiving and the holiday season are fast approaching, and the school year is suddenly beginning to fly by. As a student of the visual or performing arts, this is your cue to take these next few weeks to get your projects, assignments, applications, essays, auditions, and portfolios in order. It's a lot to handle, but it doesn't have to feel overwhelming — simply give your full attention to one thing at a time. Enjoy the holiday, and remember to give thanks for all of your educational opportunities!

Senior Arts Students

Keep track of deadlines. With all of the forms you'll be filling out this year, you'll need to know when each is due. Mark a calendar showing all application deadlines for admission, financial aid, and scholarships. Ask for recommendations. Give letter-of-recommendation forms to the teachers you have selected, and discuss your goals and ambitions with them so they'll be better prepared to write about you. Get applications in order. As you finish application forms, proofread them, and have your parents do the same. Make sure you and your school's guidance office are sending all required materials, including test scores, recommendations, transcripts, and essays.

Senior Parents

Our reco: check recommendations and applications. Monitor the application process to make sure all details are being addressed. First and foremost, take a look at application essays — your child may be able to overlap topics to reduce the workload. Then make sure that all teacher recommendations have been requested so they can be received before upcoming deadlines. As your child works on applications, offer to proofread and provide constructive criticism. Stay on top of any early application deadlines, and if possible, try to use time over the Thanksgiving break for a campus visit.

Junior Arts Students

Formulate a testing plan. Note when you'll be taking important tests like the SAT, ACT, SAT Subject Tests, and AP exams, and mark the dates on your calendar. Leave plenty of time to prepare. Get help and gain an edge. There are many types of [consultants](#) and [coaches](#) available

to help you plan, study, and get the results you're capable of achieving. You may want to ask your guidance counselor for specific coaching recommendations.

Junior Parents

Take a drive across campus. Schedule a day trip to visit nearby colleges. Fall is a great time to look at schools because classes are in session and you can talk with students and professors. Don't worry if these are places where your child won't apply. The goal is to explore a variety of schools. Talk about the different types of schools with your child as well as which characteristics are appealing and which aren't.

Sophomore Arts Students

Prepare for the ACT. Ask your guidance counselor about the PLAN assessment program offered by American College Testing. This program helps determine your study habits and academic progress and interests; it will also prepare you for the ACT.

Sophomore Parents

Practice and PLAN. Sophomore year marks the beginning of standardized testing. This year, students can take a practice PSAT/NMSQT — a preparatory step for the PSAT/NMSQT and SAT next year. For students planning on taking the ACT, the PLAN assessment is also administered in their sophomore year. Practice may not make perfect, but it can help!

Freshman Arts Students

Get involved. Extracurricular activities are an important part of high school even if some of them are not school sponsored. Make a real effort to get involved with groups, clubs, or teams that interest you. These activities can be fun and they go a long way to help make you a well-rounded student.

Freshman Parents

Help your child branch out. Freshman year is a great time to explore. Encourage involvement in a variety of activities both in and out of school. Give your child the freedom to seek out his or her comfort level as well as how much time can be dedicated without having a negative impact on schoolwork.

DECEMBER

It's just about time for the winter break and the holidays. Family and friends, who haven't seen us in a while, will likely ask what we're up to, and that's a good thing because it's the perfect opportunity to ask ourselves the same question. This is a great time to take stock to see if we're on course to reach our academic and arts goals. Some of us may find that we need to take a step back and better define those goals. So take a little time to get on track and have a great holiday!

Senior Arts Students

Follow up on all of your applications. Verify with your guidance counselor that all forms are in order and that they have been sent out to the appropriate colleges. Check with each of the schools to make sure they have received all your information, including test scores, transcripts, and recommendations. A little double-checking can go a long way, and with all of the time and effort you've put in to get to this point, now is no time to let up on your endeavors in school. Continue to do the work. Colleges do check senior grades.

Senior Parents

Take a close look at the calendar. Be sure to get your federal financial aid forms (FAFSA) either from the guidance office or online, and if any workshops are available, you may want to attend. Remind your child about any January or February application deadlines and have him or her confirm that the teachers and guidance staff are up-to-date with reference forms. You'll also want to make sure that transcripts are being sent to all of the short-list colleges.

Junior Arts Students

Organize your college information. Set up a filing system, both online and offline, with individual folders for correspondence and printed materials from each college. This will make it much easier to locate the specific information you're looking for when you really need it. And you will! Sign up for standardized tests. Find out if the colleges you are interested in require the SAT, ACT, or SAT Subject Tests, and register now to take the tests you need in the winter or spring. You can take them again in the fall of your senior year if you're not happy with your scores.

Junior Parents

Look ahead and ask questions. Keeping test results in mind, help your child refine the list of colleges. If you or any of your friends or relatives have a college student at home for the winter break, make every effort to ask them questions about their college experiences and encourage your student to do the same.

Sophomore Arts Students

Read, write, and seek advice. Continue to develop your reading skills to help you prepare for tests while making you a more well-rounded person. Read lots of recommended books as well as the news to stay on top of current events. You'll need good writing skills no matter what path you pursue, so work on them now. Work with a teacher or another adult who can guide and encourage you to write well. Check in with your guidance counselor for advice and to make sure you're staying on track. Discuss your PSAT scores, and ask about postsecondary enrollment options and Advanced Placement (AP) courses that may be appropriate.

Sophomore Parents

Help plan for improvement. PSAT/NMSQT scores should be back by now and between you, your child, and the high school guidance counselor, this is a good time to develop strategies for improving weak areas, if needed.

Freshman Arts Students

Connect with friends & family. Winter break is a great chance to get together and spend time with friends and family. These are the people you trust most, so ask to hear about their high school and college experiences and for any advice they can offer related to your interest in the arts. Enjoy the good company and have a great time with any activities you choose to do together.

Freshman Parents

Open the dialogue. Keep up regular conversations with your child about his or her academic progress. Make sure the course levels and the grade levels are appropriate. If not, your student may need help to establish better study habits or create a more conducive study environment. If needed, work together to develop an improvement plan and keep in mind that encouragement is the best motivation.

JANUARY

Happy New Year! Welcome to the monthly guide designed to help students of the arts with simple, step-by-step college preparation tips. As we make our new-year resolutions, it's the perfect time for high school students to re-commit to pursuing the dream of [higher education in the performing & visual arts!](#)

Senior Arts Students

Begin auditions. Present portfolios. You've been developing a passion for your craft so give college programs a glimpse of your capabilities and potential by putting forth your best. It's time to strut your stuff! Don't forget financial aid forms. Fill out the FAFSA and if necessary, the PROFILE. Ask your guidance counselor for these forms because no matter what your family's income level is, the FAFSA is your main priority for financial aid purposes because it will determine how much you are expected to pay.

Senior Parents

Double check deadlines. If you and your student have everything you need, file your income taxes and begin filling out financial aid forms, such as the FAFSA. Finish and mail these forms as soon as possible. Pay close attention to make sure you meet the deadlines! Keep in mind that many schools list earlier FAFSA filing dates than may be indicated on the form itself.

Junior Arts Students

Be proactive with your activities. When it comes to extracurricular programs, colleges look for consistency and depth. So take your activities to the next level by taking on leadership roles and positions. Begin essays. Simply take the first step. Explore topics of interest. Once you identify a subject that matters to you, the writing will be able to flow more naturally.

Junior Parents

Communicate & evaluate. This can be a make or break year. Classes tend to be tougher than ever, so ask how it's going and listen carefully. Continue to assess your student's academic progress. Does everything appear to be going the way it should? If your child is having difficulty or could simply use advice, now is the time to help provide the support that he or she needs.

Sophomore Arts Students

Take on new roles. This is the time to explore new areas and expand your possibilities. Often the instances where we push past our comfort zones offer the greatest rewards. If you've become involved with extracurricular activities, stay involved and work toward leadership positions in the activities you like best. Find out how rewarding community service can be.

Sophomore Parents

Revisit the course schedule. How well is your child fitting in academically? Each student is different, so make sure that your student's classes are an appropriate fit. If grades are slipping, the course levels may be too high or study habits may be poor. Keep the communication lines open with your kid and his or her teachers to properly evaluate the situation.

Freshman Arts Students

Plan for an exciting, new phase. You've been wondering what high school would be like. Well, if it's not yet what you hoped it would be, make a commitment to take the steps that will get you there. Explore and seek guidance from counselors, [consultants](#), teachers, parents, and students who have been in your shoes. This is your time. Make it great!

Freshman Parents

Demonstrate commitment. As caring parents, we want the best for our kids, so we offer advice... and a lot of it. That's okay, but if we truly want to get through and make a lasting impact, our actions speak loudest. So in the spirit of making resolutions, let's pay special attention to following through on what we say we're going to do. Because when we don't pay attention, our kids do.

FEBRUARY

When the winter term is in full force, spring and summer can feel very far off, but don't be deceived by the time of year. Keep up the pace and prepare for the not-so-distant future. This monthly guide is designed to help students of the arts with simple, step-by-step college preparation tips. The big-picture goal is to help performing and visual arts students [connect with the finest arts education!](#)

Senior Arts Students

Send mid-year reports and continue to work hard. Ask your counselor to send your mid-year grade reports to all of the colleges to which you applied. Hone your arts skills in preparation for college, and remember that schools will continue to keep track of your grades, so it's important to keep working hard throughout your senior year.

Senior Parents

Finish and follow up applications. Have your child complete all outstanding applications and auditions. Make copies of everything and save them! Unless confirmations have arrived, students should contact colleges by phone or online to check the current status. They should keep track of which people they are speaking with and find out if any materials still need to be sent in.

Junior Arts Students

Think summer and plan ahead. This school year is a pivotal one, and so is the upcoming summer. As a student of the arts, you can take advantage of a number of excellent programs to help get your know-how and skills up to college level. So don't wait until summer to figure it out — you'll be too late.

Junior Parents

Help your student find the right summer arts program. Great summer arts programs help students develop personally and professionally. As you and your child begin to research programs, you should ask how they will influence your children now and in the future. The summer choices for junior year students can have a real impact on college admissions..

Sophomore Arts Students

Explore career possibilities. Explore all of your career options. You may or may not be heading for a career in the arts. Either way, speak with your guidance counselor, and do the research to learn about the tasks, education, and training necessary for each occupational area.

Sophomore Parents

Check in on student activities. We all know how valuable extracurricular activities can be. So take a good look to see if they're going well. Make sure they're not having a negative impact on your child's studies. If so, you and your child should consider cutting back on some of the activities.

Freshman Arts Students

Be open to new areas. This is the time to explore your interests as well as areas you've never even thought about. All of it can eventually have a large impact on your career and your life. Discuss your skills and interests with your guidance counselor and take advantage of Career Day opportunities at your school.

Freshman Parents

Be open to change. High school is a time for students to explore new arenas and interests. So give them some leeway, and encourage your child to venture out. Watch to see if they're blossoming or if they could use some guidance in pursuing new directions.

MARCH

March is a month of transition. While the seasons are changing, students are growing. Our goal is to help foster that growth with easy-to-follow, monthly advice regarding college preparation for students and parents. As winter turns to spring, simple steps can help budding performing and visual arts students blossom.

Senior Arts Students

Watch your mail for college notifications. You should receive an admissions decision by March or April if you applied under the regular application process, and notifications of financial aid awards should arrive by the end of April. If you're put on a waitlist, examine your options. Being put on a waitlist is not an acceptance or a rejection, so keep your options open in case you don't get in. Check out schools with late or rolling application deadlines.

Senior Parents

Now, all you have to do is wait. It's not always easy to display patience, but high school is almost over, and so is the wait. Some decision letters may be arriving this month and, hopefully, they will bring the news that you and your student have been waiting for!

Junior Arts Students

Organize and begin to narrow college options. To help you easily locate the information you need, set up a filing system with individual folders for college correspondence and printed materials. Make sure you have all of the key data for the colleges that you are considering (entrance requirements, tuition, room and board costs, course offerings, student activities, financial aid, etc.). Then you can begin to compare the schools by the factors that are most relevant to you. This is also a good time to review your resume, and for performing arts students, review your repertoire list as well.

Junior Parents

Help plan and prepare. Spring vacation is a good time to visit colleges, so plan for it. Encourage your son, or daughter, to start a college binder with a list of target schools. He or she should begin to contact colleges to request materials and set aside an area where they can be easily referenced. Also, if you didn't do it last month, check upcoming SAT or ACT registration deadlines for tests your child still needs to take. Make note of the test and registration dates on your calendar.

Sophomore Arts Students — Check in with your counselor for advice. Meet with your guidance counselor to make sure you're on track and planning ahead. You can also talk about your PSAT scores and ask about postsecondary enrollment options and Advanced Placement (AP) courses. Remember to read. Developing reading skills will help prepare you for tests and make you a well-rounded individual, so strengthen your routine for reading.

Sophomore Parents — Consider additional testing. You and your child, along with the school counselor, should discuss SAT Subject Tests and APs, although many students wait until their junior year. The typical test period is May and June.

Freshman Arts Students — Start your achievement file. Keep track of academic, extracurricular, and arts awards, community service achievements, and anything else you participate in. It will come in handy when you want to highlight your accomplishments on college applications or your resume.

Freshman Parents — Support student participation. Help your child begin keeping an activities record that lists participation in activities as well as accomplishments, awards, and leadership positions. Be sure to keep up regular conversations with your child about his or her academic progress.

APRIL

Spring break is over, and we're entering the home stretch of the school year. Much can be accomplished in these final months, so we're here to help guide the college preparation process for students and parents. Every step can be a difference maker for visual and performing arts students in the search for the right schools, scholarships, and financial aid packages.

Senior Arts Students

Compare financial aid packages. Financial aid can be a key factor in deciding where you will attend, so be sure to consider each financial aid award carefully. If you have questions, contact the financial aid office of the college to get more information. If you haven't yet received all of your admissions decisions, you can expect to receive them this month if you applied under the regular application process. One college may offer an excellent package, but your heart may be set on another. If that's the case, let the other school know — they may be able to do better.

Senior Parents

Stay supportive either way. If your child is accepted, you likely won't need any advice on how to react positively. However, if a rejection letter arrives, put things in perspective and remind your child that the selection process will be more in their favor with other schools. Being denied is not something to be ashamed of — keep going! Once your student is accepted at another school, compare financial aid offers and contact financial aid offices with any questions.

Junior Arts Students

Start a search for scholarships. Many types of scholarships are available, so spend some time locating the best ones for you. It's worth the effort. For scholarships from local organizations check with your guidance office, and use online scholarship search tools to select from a wider range. Don't wait to start looking for scholarships. Begin the process now so you know where to apply during your senior year. You'll also want to plan ahead when visiting colleges. Call the admissions office to set up a personal interview, tour, and a meeting with a professor or coach if you're interested.

Junior Parents

Talk, plan, and plan some more. Over the next several months careful college planning will be required, so keep the lines of communication open with your student. Plan all of your remaining spring college visits now so your student can see students on campus and really get a sense of college life when visiting. At the same time, don't overlook plans for senior-year classes. Help your child select courses that matter, recognizing that colleges weigh senior classes and grades as heavily as they do for junior year.

Sophomore Arts Students

Get your college search going. College search tools can help you decide what factors are important to you so can assemble a list of colleges that matches your criteria. Your guidance counselor can recommend search tools, or try online sites like princetonreview.com or collegeboard.org. Start attending college fairs, ask questions, and review the material you get from each type of school so you can begin to compare and contrast.

Sophomore Parents

Get your student thinking about college. It may seem like a long way off, particularly to students, but the college years will be here before you know it. Plant the higher education seeds now by exposing your child to college fairs and facilitating the beginning of the search. Also keep in mind that summer is around the corner, and you may want to consider a camp or program that helps prepare arts students for college.

Freshman Arts Students

Start learning about college. Yes, it's true that you just started high school, but this is the time to begin thinking about where you want to be after high school. Look at the college information available in your guidance counselor's office. Spend a little time checking out college websites. Use college search tools and view college profiles. You may even want to start a list of colleges that might interest you.

Freshman Parents

Connect your student with a college student. Often, the best way to introduce a high school student to college is by having them hear about it first hand. So if you happen to have a friend, neighbor, or relative who is in college and doing well, it may be a good idea to have them share their experience. It will help get your student thinking about what they need to do to prepare for their own college career.

MAY

Yes it's true, summer will actually be here next month, and we'll all be planning for the next school year. For high school students of the arts who want to take their craft to the next level in college, a little monthly college prep advice can go a long way. Many performing and visual arts students and parents are following simple steps to help navigate the complexities of the college admissions process.

Senior Arts Students

Finalize your college decision. If you haven't yet notified schools of your intent, do so immediately. Be sure to send your deposit to your chosen school and ask your guidance counselor to send your final transcript to the college in June. Follow up on financial aid. Have you received a FAFSA acknowledgement? If you applied for a Pell Grant, you will receive a Student Aid Report statement. Review it, make a copy, and send the original to the college you plan to attend. Apply for loans if needed.

Senior Parents

Check all of the details. See if any AP exams need to be taken, and make sure your student completes them. It's always a good idea to encourage your child to write thank you notes to teachers, guidance counselors, admission counselors, financial aid officers, and others who were helpful in the college-planning process. Stay on top of housing plans, return all forms, and find out the dates for freshman-orientation and course-registration.

Junior Arts Students

Narrow the college list and make appointments. Take a good look at all of the schools being considered, and based on the attributes that are important to you and your art, identify your top college choices. You'll need to plan ahead, so now is the time to set up appointments to visit each campus. Call the admissions office to arrange a personal interview, tour, and a meeting with a professor if you're interested.

Junior Parents

Prep for tests and explore options. Does your student need to complete the SAT and/or ACT? Make sure all deadlines and test dates are being met. Then it's a good idea to see what you can do to help your child gain an edge. Investigate the possibility of services such as standardized test prep courses, independent college counselors, and private group tour programs.

Sophomore Arts Students

Line up your summer plans. If you haven't yet planned how you're going to spend your summer, your options are closing quickly so do it now. Find summer work. It will look good to prospective colleges and employers, and earning your own money will look good to you. You may also want to talk to your parents about attending a summer arts program.

Sophomore Parents

Help make the summer break productive. Your child should have a job or participate in constructive activities over the summer. Summer study, career programs, jobs, and volunteer work always rate high with admission officials. While it's getting late for enrollment, there are still some great [summer arts programs](#) available that you may want to consider.

Freshman Arts Students

Begin to get a feel for college life. Visiting friends or relatives who live on or near a college campus is a great way to get a sense of what college is like. Check out the dorms, go to student center, library, arts building, and walk around the campus. You don't need to worry about where you want to go — just have fun and get a feel for the college environment.

Freshman Parents

Take a little college road trip. It may seem like a long way off, but college is coming fast. Now is the perfect time to introduce your student to life after high school. You don't have to go too far. Just pick two or three schools that offer a variety of styles and flavors. Take a casual walk through the campus, and let your child take in the student life. Most importantly, be sure to let your child enjoy the process in a fun and relaxed manner.

JUNE

Didn't the school year just begin? It really does go that quickly, so do what you can to finish strong and begin planning for the coming year. Just remember, as you look ahead to the summer and beyond, enjoy the moment and appreciate all of the hard work that got you to this point. And keep in mind that each small step you take now will payoff in terms of setting the stage for the best possible college experience (and literally setting the stage for performing artists).

Senior Arts Students

Complete your college enrollment process. After accepting an offer, you should receive information from the college about items such as course scheduling, housing arrangements, orientation sessions, and specific forms you will need to fill out. Be sure to finish all required paperwork by the deadlines. While you're completing all of these key tasks, don't forget to let your college enthusiasm and excitement show!

Senior Parents

Give yourself a pat on the back. Both you and your child deserve tons of credit! The high school years aren't often easy, and thanks to your efforts, your student is about to turn the page and begin a wonderful new chapter. It may be a good idea to help organize a file to keep track of summer mailings from the college with categories that include orientation, housing, course registration, and finances. You've both come a long way. Congratulations!

Junior Arts Students

Contact your recommendation writers. Teachers and guidance counselors get many requests to write recommendations for lots of students. Give them a heads up now so they'll have time to prepare before getting tons of requests in the fall. Ask teachers who know you well and who will have positive things to say. Letters of recommendation from a coach, activity leader, or adult who knows you well outside of school are also valuable. Get your essays going too. Compose drafts of the essays you'll need for your college applications. Have a teacher read and discuss them with you so you have a good sense of which areas need work.

Junior Parents

Double check one more time. Make sure your child is registered for anything that still needs to be completed. If your student has a test coming up, mark the test and registration dates on the family calendar. Think scholarships. Take advantage of the summer break by searching scholarship and financial aid websites with your child, or by checking out library resources.

Sophomore Arts Students

Consider taking SAT Subject Tests. It is a good idea to take these types of tests while the material is still fresh in mind. So take SAT Subject Tests now in the courses you took this year. Use the summer wisely. Finding summer work will look good on your resume to prospective colleges and employers. Of course, anything you can do to enhance your arts skills and/or portfolio, either practice or helpful programs, will go a long way. Sophomore Parents — Help plan for the coming school year. Keep an eye on your student's registration for fall classes and activities. Encourage your child to take the most challenging classes possible and to participate in at least one community service activity. Finalize any summer plans, and, just as you may have done last year, devise a summer reading list together that will help the transition into junior year.

Freshman Arts Students

Make your summer count. Naturally, the summer break from school is the perfect time for fun and relaxation. But, there are plenty of ways to have fun and build your credentials as well during the summer, such as volunteering, getting a job, or signing up for an arts enrichment program. Freshman Parents — Make adjustments for the year ahead. Together, with your student, review and evaluate the comprehensive academic program and activities record started earlier in the school year, make any necessary changes, and update accordingly for the coming year. Encourage your child to continue to explore his or her talents in the arts.

JULY

Summer break is officially here, and it should be fully enjoyed. At the same time, with a few key steps, you can take advantage of the break to help set you up for success in the upcoming semester and well into your college years. For seniors, it's time to catch your breath, have fun, and let the excitement build for the next phase of life. For high school arts students who are in the midst of college preparation, you can accomplish plenty this summer and have a great time doing so.

Senior Arts Students

Congratulations! All of your hard work has paid off. You graduated high school, you're all set for college, and you are about to embark on a very exciting and meaningful journey in your life. Appreciate this special time, and take on the next phase with great enthusiasm! Best of luck!

Senior Parents

Take a moment to reflect and celebrate! The years have gone by quickly, but think about all of the time and effort you have put in to get to this point. If you're feeling a bit emotional, it's only natural. During this transitional period, keep in mind that moving on from high school to college is a special accomplishment. Give yourself and your child well-deserved credit. Even if there were bumps in the road, you've both done a great job to get here!

Junior Arts Students

Visit your top colleges choices. Explore the campuses of a few of your preferred colleges. Take the official tour and speak with the admissions and financial aid staff. If summer classes are in session, see if you can speak with some of the students. Plan your performance auditions or visual portfolios. Each school has their own requirements and preferences, so learn as much as you can about them. In addition to getting the advice and perspective of admissions, it can help to hear what students have to say about a particular school or arts program.

Junior Parents

Use the summer to your student's advantage. Don't let the slower pace of the season keep your child from accomplishing key goals. By now, he or she should be accustomed to summer employment or other constructive activities. College admission officers like to know that students are spending their summers wisely. This is also a good time for visiting some college campuses and planning fall visits for others.

Sophomore Arts Students

Get your college search going. Decide what factors are important to you, and begin to put together a list of colleges to match your search criteria. Plan on attending college fairs and read the material you get from many types of schools to see what aspects appeal to you. Start to contact colleges of interest. Request more information about academic requirements and programs or activities that are particularly attractive to you.

Sophomore Parents

Foster your child's interests. Talk about the things your child enjoys doing, what brings happiness, and what doesn't. Help find activities that tie into his or her interests. Summer study, jobs, and volunteer work can help open up new skill sets and areas of interest, plus they rate high with admission officials. As a student of the arts, see if your child can "shadow" someone who works or performs in the area that has the most appeal.

Freshman Arts Students

Summer activities go a long way. There are a lot of ways to build your credentials and have fun at the same time this summer, such as volunteering, getting a full or part-time job, or signing up for an enrichment program. So don't let the summer go by without making it count.

Freshman Parents

Read from the reading list. Now that summer is here, make sure your student has a summer reading list that will help with the academic transition to 10th grade. You may want to read what your student is reading to encourage interest and discussion. Finalize any other summer plans that may have been in development.

AUGUST

As we approach the final weeks of summer, anticipation is in the air for the school year ahead. By spending just a little time each month identifying your objectives, planning ahead, and taking action, you'll be impressed by how much you can accomplish over the course of the entire school year. Whether you're about to enter your freshman year in high school or in college, this is an exciting time in your life, so fulfill your goals one step at a time and enjoy the journey!

Senior Arts Students

This is your time. You've been preparing for years and now college is almost here. You may be feeling a range of emotions from excited and happy to nervous and fear of the unknown. Just know that it's perfectly natural and most students are going through the same thing. So open yourself up to meeting all types of people and broadening your experiences. Dedicate yourself to your work and your art, and treat this as a special time... because it is!

Senior Parents

Prepare your student and yourself. Books, bedding, clothing, supplies, encouragement, love... you probably have a good sense of what your child will need to begin his or her college freshman year. But many parents forget to anticipate their own emotional state. Separation anxiety is only natural, especially if this is your first time sending a child off to college. Keep in mind there is an adjustment period, so have patience, stay busy, and remember that one of the best gifts you can give your child is a sense of independence.

Junior Arts Students

Start working now on your application essays. Compose rough drafts of the essays you'll need for your college applications. The Common App is a free, online application used by over 400 colleges and universities, so see if it applies to your situation. It's a good idea to have a teacher read and discuss essays with you so you can see which areas need work. Make revisions to your application essays and prepare final drafts. Remember to proofread the final essays. Then proofread them again.

Junior Parents

Help plan for submissions. Keep your child on track with test preparation, if needed. He or she should begin planning and/or assembling any supplemental submissions that will be needed, such as prescreen videos or portfolios. Review and update the list of target schools that you and your child have been developing. Record the pros and cons of each school.

Sophomore Arts Students

Refresh and reconsider. The summer break lets you step back and get some perspective on where you are in school and where you see yourself heading this year in preparation for college. It's a good time to re-evaluate and refocus your academic and art efforts so that you can be sure you're on track to accomplish your goals.

Sophomore Parents

Do some early research with your student. You can find all of the college entrance information you need online, as well as applications to many institutions. Summer is a great time for you and your child to check out some of the sites, plan future visits, and bookmark your favorites.

Freshman Arts Students

Discuss college savings. Talk to your parents about planning for college expenses. If your family has set up a savings plan for you, continue to add to it whenever possible. If not, there's never a better time to start saving for college than now. You and your parents can use an online financial planning calculator to help assess the current savings situation and plan for the future.

Freshman Parents

Talk about financial participation. Now that your student is in high school, it's important that he or she understand financial roles and responsibilities. Exactly what that role entails is entirely up to you, depending on your personal situation. Whether circumstances call for monetary contributions or simply keeping a tight reign on expenses, now is a good time to clearly communicate the needs and expectations.

Theatre and Musical Theatre College Audition Timeline in a Nutshell.

By Mary Anna Dennard (www.collegeauditioncoach.com)

September

Research colleges and programs. Make a list of the 5 things you want in a university, and the 5 things you want in a training program. Make plans to attend the free NACAC Performing Arts College Fair in your area. Check their schedule here:

nacacnet.org

Review college audition requirements and time limits. Finalize your audition material. Actors decide on your classical and contemporary monologues. Musical Theatre students, ready your monologues, song choices and cuts, and take ballet class 3 times a week! Great source for monos:

dramabookshop.com

Begin the college application process. Check for schools that accept the common app. Here is a list: Commonapp.org

October

Record your electronic prescreens for colleges that require them. Follow instructions exactly. You do not need to hire a professional videographer. Have a plain background, good lighting and sound. If singing, be sure your voice can be heard clearly above the accompaniment.

Have your headshot and resume completed, and audition outfit chosen. My favorite photog is: Kelseyedwardsphoto.com

November

Begin plotting your audition schedule and making travel plans. College Audition Coach Online Prep has an online Audition Master Planner, but you can create your own with an Excel spreadsheet. Keep up-to-date files on each school. Participate in mock auditions and master classes. Here are some master classes on my website:

Collegeauditioncoach.com

December - March College Auditions begin!

Many of the college auditions are conducted on-campus. However, about 50 colleges hold regional auditions during the National Unified Auditions.

Unifiedauditions.com

April

Sort out your acceptances/deferrals/ waitlists/rejections. Visit ALL schools to which you have been accepted. Compare scholarships/tuition.

May 1st

This is the national reply-by date. You must make your final college decision by this date and have placed your deposit. Review your Students' Bill Of Rights:

[Students Bill of Rights.pdf](#)

Gain An Edge Over The Summer.

As a visual or performing arts student, make summer work for you.

Whether you're an actor, dancer, musician, or visual artist, the summer break is a great time to focus on your craft and to pave the road for a fun and rewarding future in the arts. You don't have to give up your summer vacation, but while there's a reprieve from the heavy school workload, you can take a few simple steps to help set yourself up for success.

1. Find a summer arts program (before it fills up)

For every discipline in the arts, there is a summer arts program. Each ranges in type and style, and they can run anywhere from a week or two to more than a month in length. However, many students have signed up months ago, and the better programs are filling fast so move quickly if you're interested.

My Recommendations for Summer Theatre and Musical Theatre Programs - J. Denning

Broadway Dreams. The Performing Arts Project, Broadway Theatre Project, Texas Musical Theatre Workshop, Texas Arts Project, Northwestern Cherub Program, Broadway Artist Alliance , CAP21, Wright State University MAPP, Carnegie Mellon Summer, CCM Prep, University of Michigan Summer Youth, North Carolina School of the Arts Summer Programs, NYU Tisch Summer, Oklahoma City University Summer HS Musical Theatre, University of Southern California Summer Program, Interlochen, Stagedoor Manor, French Woods, Shakespeare At Winedale, Vortex Summer Youth Theatre, Emerson Pre-College Musical Theater Program, Mpulse Summer Performing Arts Institutes (University of Michigan), Walnut Hill School Summer Theater, Boston University Tanglewood Institute, Boston Conservatory Vocal Choral Institute, Washington National Opera Institute at American University, Boston Conservatory Musical Theater Dance Intensive.

2. Prepare your audition

While requirements for auditions can vary from one theater college to another, you will typically need to supply each program with a resume of your theater experience, a recent photo, and music for the accompanist if appropriate. For most situations, you should prepare two contrasting monologues. Musical theater auditions generally require one up-tempo musical selection and one ballad, as well as a monologue from a play or musical of your choice. In total, your college audition pieces shouldn't go beyond 5 minutes. Here are a few tried and true keys to audition success:

- Select age-appropriate audition material
- Choose a monologue in which you speak to another person
- Know your monologue context by reading the entire play
- Play only one character and memorize your selection

3. Perfect your portfolio

Similar to an audition for performing artists, your portfolio should represent you and your work in the best light. The pieces you select should illustrate diversity in technique and variety in subject matter. You may display work in any medium (oils, watercolors, pastels, photography, etc.), and you can incorporate classroom assignments, independent projects, and sketchbook material. Specialized art colleges look for an average of ten art pieces, but only be sure to include only your finest work. As you narrow your list of potential colleges, get to know the requirements for each, so you can begin to plan for specific portfolio additions and adjustments.

4. Match your college criteria

Too many students trade in personal fit in pursuit of school reputation. Visual and performing arts students, in particular, should search for a college that fits their personality, interests and goals. It's easy to be impressed by the prestige of a top professional school or arts department and overlook whether the program is right for you. Naturally, you should speak with your art, music, drama, or dance teachers about the reputation of the colleges you are considering. Ask the colleges about career opportunities for graduates and what sort of success alumni have had in your area of the arts. Create an organized list of schools with a checklist of components and notes that will ultimately help you determine the best fit for your needs.

5. Take a campus road trip

You can't replace the experience of visiting colleges, walking the campus, and asking questions about academics, student life, and your specific areas of interest. As an arts student, you will likely have more to consider than students in other majors. The location of your college may be higher on your list of key factors. Access to professional venues such as museums, galleries, theaters, and concerts may be a consideration. The opportunity to perform, exhibit, and have active internships may also be important elements in your arts education. Keep in mind that if you want to get an accurate sense of student life on campus, you'll need to return during the school year. Nonetheless, summer college road trips can be of great value at a more relaxed pace.

6 Keys To Choosing The Perfect College For The Arts.

College Criteria For Performing And Visual Arts Students

Deciding Factor #1

The finest reputation, or the best personal fit? Reputation counts for a lot. A decision this big needs to take into account how students and the outside world feel about the school. But just as important, if not more, are your feelings. What does your research, and your gut, tell you about the community, campus environment, school size, academic offerings, and extracurricular activities? No matter how great the reputation of the college or university, if you don't feel like you belong, then you don't.

Deciding Factor #2

The optimal arts program or a broad selection of majors & minors? If you have no idea what you'd like your field of study to be, you'll want to be able to explore the possibilities in a school that provides plenty of options from which to choose. Even if your art is everything to you, it pays to be well rounded in your studies. That doesn't mean you should necessarily attend a giant university. Many smaller schools and programs offer a comprehensive curriculum. Look at it this way. The more you know, the more you'll be able to apply to your craft.

Deciding Factor #3

The newest & nicest facilities, or the most dedicated professors? It's very easy to be swayed by new buildings, large comfortable classrooms, spacious lecture halls, and advanced features and resources. All of it can play a big role in a learning environment. However, make sure you take a

deeper look, behind the walls of the new impressive structures, at the level of programs being offered. Then look into who is teaching the courses. When all is said and done, it's your professors and instructors who will make the biggest impact on your academic life and beyond. You may want to check out ratemyprofessors.com for real student reviews.

Deciding Factor #4

The most famous celebrity alumni, or the best internship connections? Sure, celebrities have cachet. And you may be taken by the idea that certain successful and famous people attended your school. In fact, friends and family members may be impressed as well. That's not a bad thing. But ultimately, you have to ask yourself, what's going to mean more to you as you build your career resume?

Deciding Factor #5

The right distance from home, or the right location and community? This may be the most personal decision you have to make when selecting the right school for you. Yes, it's often a good idea to stretch and expand your horizons (literally). But, first and foremost, you need to feel comfortable that you made the right choice. And if that means being closer to home, so be it. You don't need to do any cross-country traveling, to find excellent schools that match your academic criteria and meet your personal needs.

Deciding Factor #6

The most active social scene, or the most interesting activities? It's no secret that, when you're in college, you learn as much about yourself socially as you do academically. It's important to make connections with other students. These relationships can often turn into life-long friendships, or at the very least, impact the way you connect with people outside of college and after graduation. You don't, however, need the party school of the century to have a great social life. Most schools provide many campus activities and clubs. It's always a good idea to identify your interests and find a correlating activity. It's a great way to connect with people who have similar interests.

The National Association for College Admission Counseling Performing and Visual Arts Fairs in Houston & Dallas.

For any student with an interest in pursuing undergraduate or graduate study in theater, dance, music, or the visual arts, the Performing and Visual Arts (PVA) College Fair is a can't-miss event. Learn about educational opportunities, portfolio days, audition and entrance requirements, admission and financial aid, and a lot more by meeting with representatives from colleges, universities, conservatories, festivals, and other educational institutions with specialized programs in the visual and performing arts.

While there are a number of fairs, the National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC) does a great job of providing well supported, Performing and Visual Arts Fairs across the country. The PVA fairs are a great opportunity for students and parents to interact with admission representatives from a wide variety of educational institutions with various programs in the arts. Locate the fair in your area and be sure to attend — it's free and open to the public.

[Houston Performing And Visual Arts Fair](#)

Rice University, Alice Pratt Brown Hall

[Dallas Performing And Visual Arts Fair](#)

Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing & Visual Arts

Skip the lines at the fair by registering online.

Performing and Visual Arts Fair registration makes it easy for colleges and universities to follow up with you after the fair. By entering your contact information, academic interests, graduation year, and your high school, you will receive your own personalized barcode. Your barcode will be scanned to retrieve your information so you won't have to fill out an information card at the fair.



Theatre Department College Night

Attending the fair and requesting information from multiple colleges and universities is much easier when you register by taking these simple steps.

1. Visit gotomypvafair.com
2. Click on the fair and city you wish to attend
3. Enter all required information and SUBMIT
4. Print the barcode and BRING it to the fair

Students *and* parents should register before attending the fair. Once you have your barcode, there is no need to stand in the registration line. You are all set to meet with college representatives!

Make the best use of your time at the fair.

Before you attend, take a little time to do some quick preparation to make the most of your experience at the fair.

- [Performing and Visual Arts College Fairs Website](#) for specific information about schools that will be participating, where the fair will take place, parking, and other logistical points
- Prepare a list of questions to ask recruiters: When is the best time to apply to your college? When and where are the auditions? What are the audition or portfolio requirements? What makes your school special? Etc.

Once you've arrived at the fair, here are some easy tips to make your time that much more effective.

- At the beginning of the fair, start at the tables that don't have long lines so that you'll have the time to get to all of the schools that interest you
- Introduce yourself and provide your specific area of expertise. This will allow college representatives to focus on how they can best help you
- It can get pretty noisy and difficult to hear with all of the conversations around you, so be sure to speak loud enough to be heard



Theatre Department College Night

- Find out the cost of education as well as any scholarship opportunities
- Have your parents or guardians listen in, particularly when financial figures are being discussed

After the fair, more questions will likely come up. Make folders with the materials from those schools that interest you most, and email the recruiters with any follow-up questions. Remember to have fun with the process, and you will find the school that is right for you!

Unifieds.

The universities listed below will conduct simultaneous auditions and interviews for entry into their theatre programs each year at National Unified Auditions in New York, Chicago, Las Vegas, and Los Angeles. If you are interested, please apply directly to the institutions. For additional locations and times, including on-campus auditions, please contact each institution.

The University of the Arts

Ira Brind School of Theatre Arts 320 South Broad Street

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19102-4994

215-717-6030 or 800-616-ARTS

www.uarts.edu/brindschool

Ball State University

Department of Theatre and Dance 2000 West University, AC 306

Muncie, Indiana 47306-0415

765-285-8740

www.bsu.edu/theatre

The Boston Conservatory

Musical Theater Division

8 The Fenway

Boston, Massachusetts 02215

617-912-9153 Admissions admissions@bostonconservatory.edu www.bostonconservatory.edu



Theatre Department College Night

University of Cincinnati

College-Conservatory of Music

Division of Opera, Musical Theatre, Drama, Arts Administration, Theatre Design and Production

P.O. Box 210003

Cincinnati, Ohio 45221-0003

513-556-5803

ccm.uc.edu

Cornish College of the Arts

Theater/Performance Production Departments

1000 Lenora Street

Seattle, Washington 98121

800-726-2787

www.cornish.edu/theater www.cornish.edu/performance_production

Emerson College

Department of Performing Arts 120 Boylston Street

Boston, Massachusetts 02116-4624

617-824-8780

www.emerson.edu www.emerson.edu/PAartisticreview



Theatre Department College Night

The University of Evansville

Department of Theatre 1800 Lincoln Avenue

Evansville, Indiana 47722

812-488-2744 800-423-8633 ext 2744

theatre.evansville.edu

The Hartt School - Theatre Division

University of Hartford

200 Bloomfield Avenue

West Hartford, Connecticut 06117-1599 860-768-2462

harttweb.hartford.edu

Ithaca College

Department of Theatre Arts

953 Danby Road

Ithaca, New York 14850-7000

607-274-3345

ithaca.edu/theatre

University of Miami

Department of Theatre Arts

P.O. Box 248273

Coral Gables, Florida 33124-4820

305-284-4474

miami.edu/tha

University of Michigan

Department of Theatre & Drama

1226 Murfin Avenue

Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109-1212

734-764-5350

www.music.umich.edu/departments/theatre

Montclair State University

Department of Theatre & Dance

126 Life Hall

Montclair, New Jersey 07043

973-655-4217

www.montclair.edu/arts/theatre-and-dance



Theatre Department College Night

Northern Illinois University

School of Theatre & Dance

Grant South A Tower Room 302

DeKalb, Illinois 60115

815-753-1334

www.niu.edu/theatre

University of Oklahoma

Helmerich School of Drama

640 Parrington Oval OSH 121

Norman, Oklahoma 73019

405-325-4021

ou.edu/finearts

Webster University

Conservatory of Theatre Arts

Department of Theatre & Dance

470 East Lockwood Avenue

Saint Louis, Missouri 63119-3194 314-968-6929

www.webster.edu/finearts

Weitzenhoffer School of Musical Theatre

840 Asp Avenue, Room 104

Norman, Oklahoma 73019-4091

405-325-0538

musicaltheatre.ou.edu

Otterbein University

Department of Theatre & Dance

1 South Grove Street Westerville, Ohio 43081

614-823-1657

www.otterbein.edu/theatre

Pennsylvania State University

School of Theatre

116 Theatre Building

University Park, Pennsylvania 16802

814-863-6819

www.theatre.psu.edu www.wow.psu.edu



Theatre Department College Night

Point Park University

Theatre Department 201 Wood Street

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15222-1984

412-392-3450

www.pointpark.edu

Roosevelt University

The Theatre Conservatory

Chicago College of Performing Arts

430 South Michigan Avenue

Chicago, Illinois 60605

312-341-6735

www.roosevelt.edu/ccpa

Santa Fe University of Art and Design

Performing Arts Department

1600 Saint Michael's Drive

Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505-7634

505-473-6439

santafeuniversity.edu

Savannah College of Art and Design

School of Film, Digital Media and Performing Arts

P.O. Box 2072

Savannah, Georgia 31402-2072

912-525-5100

scad.edu/performing-arts

Southern Methodist University

Meadows School of the Arts

Division of Theatre

P.O. Box 750356

Dallas, Texas 75275-0356

214-768-2079

www.meadows.smu.edu

Texas Christian University

Department of Theatre

TCU Box 297510

Fort Worth, Texas 76129 817-257-7625

www.theatre.tcu.edu



Theatre Department College Night

University of Utah

Department of Theatre

240S 1500E Room 206

Salt Lake City, Utah 84112

801-581-6448

www.theatre.utah.edu

Viterbo University

Department of Theatre and Music Theatre

900 Viterbo Drive

LaCrosse, Wisconsin 54601

608-796-3793

www.viterbo.edu/theatre

For undergraduate degree programs in Theatre:

- Acting
- Directing
- Dramaturgy
- Musical Theatre
- Musical Theatre Dance
- Scene, Lighting, Sound, Costume, and Make Up Design
- Stage Management
- Technical Direction
- Theatre Education
- Theatre Management
- Theatre Technology

*Not all concentrations available at every institution.

TX Thespian Festival College Auditions.

College/University Auditions

There are slots available for 160 Performers and 80 Technicians to audition for colleges their Senior year.

To audition:

- Candidate must be an Inducted Thespian in their Senior year
- Candidate must declare a Theater/Communications major
- Completed application by the deadline
- \$15.00 fee to apply for a scholarship, payable through Cvent registration
- Complete the forms EXACTLY as directed and by deadline. Any applications that are not filled out according to instructions will be rejected and there will be no refund of application fee.
- No refund of application fees if student is unable to audition

Audition Schedule

- Technical Theater students audition on Friday, December 4 from 8am-12pm.
- Performance (acting/musical theater) auditions are held on Friday, December 4 from 1:00-5:00pm and 6:00-10:00pm
- Callback auditions will be held and scheduled by each college at their table.
- Audition timeslots will be made once registration has occurred through Cvent.

Performance (Acting & Musical Theatre) Auditions

- Unlimited candidates may be submitted from each troupe.
- There are a limited number of college audition slots available. (160 musical theater/acting)
- REGISTER EARLY to obtain a spot!
- Submit the Texas Thespians Audition Form
- \$15.00 fee to apply for a scholarship, payable through Cvent registration
- Complete the forms EXACTLY as directed and by deadline. Any applications that are not filled out according to instructions will be rejected and there will be no refund of application fee.
- No refund of application fees if student is unable to audition
- Acting: Prepare two contrasting monologues which, when presented, do not exceed 90 seconds total (excluding very brief introduction).
- Musical Theatre: Prepare a brief portion of a musical theatre song and one monologue which, when presented, do not exceed 90 seconds total (excluding very brief introduction).

Technical Theatre Auditions

- Unlimited candidates may be submitted from each troupe.
- There are a limited number of college audition slots available. (80 Tech/Educator)
- REGISTER EARLY to obtain a spot!
- Submit the Texas Thespians Audition Form
- Compile a portfolio of your technical theater work/designs and prepare/plan a table display for the portfolio and/or design items.
- Prepare a 2-3 minute presentation to discuss your portfolio during multiple interviews with multiple college reps



Theatre Department College Night

- Complete the forms EXACTLY as directed and by deadline. Any applications that are not filled out according to instructions will be rejected and there will be no refund of application fee
- \$15.00 fee to apply for a scholarship, payable through Cvent registration
- No refund of application fees if student is unable to audition

Notable schools that attend TX Thespians are:

Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, Webster University, University of Southern California, University of Evansville, University of North Carolina School For The Arts, Oklahoma City University, Relativity School, Penn State, The New School For Drama, AMDA, & CAP21

Theatre College-Bound Resource Index.

COLLEGE-READY RESOURCES

[ArtsBridge College Prep Timeline Resource](#)

[Audition Dos and Don'ts](#)

HEADSHOTS

[Doc List Photography](#)

[ABM Photography](#)

[Headshots In A Truck](#)

COLLEGE AUDITION COACHES

[Long Center College Audition Program](#)

[Aspiring Theatre Artists Convention](#)

[Dave Clemmons College Advisory Program](#)

[Collegeauditioncoach.com](#)

Summer Programs - Texas

Houston Shakespeare Festival Summer Conservatory (University of Houston) – Houston, TX

The Houston Shakespeare Summer Conservatory is a two-week workshop of concentrated instruction in acting, voice and movement. This exciting intensive study will culminate in performances in conjunction with the Houston Shakespeare Festival at Miller Outdoor Theatre.

<http://www.uh.edu/class/theatre-and-dance/community-outreach/houston-shakespeare-fest/>

Young Actors Conservatory (YAC) at Stages Repertory Theatre Co. – Houston, TX

The Young Actors Conservatory (YAC) is a unique summer intensive that offers conservatory-style training for high school students. Led by recognized theatre professionals, YAC master classes encourage participants to explore every facet of dramatic production. Using a total immersion method, students develop scripts; create costumes, sets and props; design lights and sound; learn movement and voice techniques; and rehearse and perform roles. Building on what they've learned, students focus on a central theme to conceptualize, write, design and perform an original theatre piece, combining the students' own material with texts taken from the work of well-known writers. The program culminates in a fully realized production of this work at Stages Repertory Theatre.

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Young-Actors-Conservatory/57000048143>

Texas Arts Project (TAP) – Musical Theatre

Musical Theatre at TAP is an intense three-week program including acting, dance and voice. Classes range from private voice lessons to choreography sessions where students study original choreography from Broadway's greats such as Bob Fosse and Michael Bennett. As musicians, students are guided through song-study and learn how to sing like their favorite Broadway pros: safely and healthily. This study of musical theatre acting focuses on storytelling through song with students each leaving camp with several new songs ready for audition or performance.

<http://texasartsproject.com/programs-of-study/senior-camp-ages-14-18/musical-theatre/>

Texas State University Summer Theatre Camp – San Marcos, TX

During the two weeks of camp, students will participate in theatre classes taught by Texas State University faculty and guest instructors. Each student will audition for and be cast in a one-act play that will be performed for an audience of family and friends at the end of the two weeks.

<http://www.theatreanddance.txstate.edu/Students/Opportunities1/Summer-Camp.html>

Texas Musical Theatre Workshop – Austin, TX

The Texas Musical Theatre Workshop is a collaboration between the musical theatre faculties of The University of Texas at Austin and Texas State University. The TMTW offers an opportunity for high school students to gain pre-professional training in acting, singing, dancing, auditioning and performing taught by Broadway professionals and university theatre faculty.

<http://www.texasmusicaltheatreworkshop.com/>

Texas A&M Corpus Christi Camp on the Coast – Corpus Christi, TX

The Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi Summer Theatre Workshop is a two-week residential camp designed for high school students seeking a highly intensive and creative theatre experience. Participants will rehearse and perform in a one-act play. Students interested in performance will study acting, voice, and movement in morning classes taught by TAMU-CC Theatre faculty. Returning students will take a master class in Audition Techniques to prepare them for college auditions. Technical Theatre Students will attend classes in design, participate in the creation of each production's sets, lighting, and costumes, and serve as crew for the shows.

<http://cla.tamucc.edu/theatre/events/camp.html>

Summer Theatre Workshop at Stephen F. Austin State University – Nacogdoches, TX

Entering its 46th year, this is the oldest program of its kind in the state of Texas. The workshop consists of two weeks of concentrated instruction in acting, voice and movement, or scenery, costumes, make-up, sound, lighting and stage management for high school students. Workshops are held in both acting and design/tech.

<http://www.theatre.sfasu.edu/programs.php?link=summerworkshop>.

Tal Lostracco's Summer Theatre Camp at Southwestern University – Georgetown, TX

Tal Lostracco's Summer Theatre Camp at Southwestern University is a two-week intensive theatre camp for high school students to strengthen their skills in theatre, acting, and technical theatre. Students stay in dorms and are cast in one of the four productions offered. Morning classes include acting, dance, movement, voice, and stage combat, and afternoons are geared to show rehearsals. The nonprofit program is guided by a collective of artists and educators that have been a part of the camp since its inception in 2001.

<http://www.talscamp.com/>

Camp Shakespeare, University of Texas at Austin – Round Top, TX

Camp Shakespeare, a component of The University of Texas Shakespeare at Winedale Program, is a two-week residential camp for young people, ages 11-16, held near the small rural town of Round Top, Texas, with daily activity at the University of Texas Winedale Historical Center. Camp Shakespeare is dedicated to exploring a Shakespearean play through performance. This is an experience in daily performance, in exploring language and character, in doing, and playing-at-play. It is not an "acting" or "theater" camp. Here, we celebrate the creative process. We do not rehearse "shows."

<http://www.utexas.edu/cola/winedale/Programs/Camp-Shakespeare/Camp-Shakespeare.php>

Summer Programs- Out Of State

ArtsBridge – University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota

ArtsBridge Summer programs are designed to hone the skills of students interested in pursuing musical theater and acting at the college level and beyond. ArtsBridge offers three programs: Musical Theatre Summer Intensive, Dramatic Acting Summer Intensive, and a Musical Theatre Starter Edition (San Francisco).

<http://artsbridge.com/artsbridge-summer-programs/>

Baldwin-Wallace Overtures – Berea, OH (Cleveland)

An intensive week of training including: private voice lessons; daily workshop, and monologue and dance classes including college audition preparation with Vicky Bussert, the head of Baldwin-Wallace's Musical Theatre Program. Admission is limited to 15 high school juniors who audition for spots.

<http://www.bw.edu/academics/conservatory/outreach/smp/mth/>

Boston Conservatory Summer Intensives – Boston, MA

The Boston Conservatory offers summer intensives for high school and college students on a performing arts degree track. Boco offers a Musical Theatre Summer Dance Intensive and a Vocal/Choral Summer Intensive.

<http://www.bostonconservatory.edu/high-school-and-collegiate-intensive-programs>

Boston University Summer Theatre Institute (BUSTI) – Boston, MA

The Boston University Summer Theatre Institute is a five-week program designed for those who wish to test their interests and abilities in a professional training environment. In this program, students develop confidence and technique, acquire insight and expertise, and learn to meet intellectual and artistic challenges. College credit is available.

<http://www.bu.edu/cfa/busti/>

The Broadway Experience – New York, NY

The Broadway Experience is a musical theatre program that offers dance, voice, and acting classes with current Broadway professionals and master teachers.

<http://thebroadwayexperience.com/>

Broadway Theatre Project

A musical theatre intensive that provides its apprentices with training in the disciplines of acting, dancing and singing, taught by a faculty of accomplished educators and performers.

<http://broadwaytheatreproject.com/>

California State Summer School for the Arts Theatre Program

The California State Summer School for the Arts Theatre Program offers intensive professionally-oriented acting training for students who are serious about exploring the craft of acting and the possibilities of the art of theatre in the modern world. An open mind, an adventuresome spirit, the desire and ability to work hard and enjoy it, the capacity to be a part of an ensemble, and a passion and willingness to explore a variety of approaches to acting are more important prerequisites for this program than extensive prior theatre experience. [note: limited admission for out-of-state applicants.

<https://www.csssa.org/>

Pre-College Drama Program at Carnegie-Mellon – Pittsburgh, PA

The Pre-College Drama Program at Carnegie Mellon University gives students the chance to participate in a professional training program in acting, music theatre or design/technical production. The program focuses on the exploration of a conservatory training program with emphasis on creativity, craft and discipline.

<http://www.cmu.edu/enrollment/pre-college/drama.html>

Cincinnati Conservatory of Music Preparatory Department High School Musical Theatre Workshop – Cincinnati, OH

This workshop gives high school students the opportunity to explore musical theatre at one of the country's most prestigious musical theatre programs. The CCM Prep program has a rigorous academic musical theatre program that is condensed into a two week summer intensive for students. Each day students will work with CCM Prep faculty, CCM guest faculty, area theatre professionals and other guests in various areas of musical theatre. The program culminates in a showcase on the final day in the studio theater.

<http://ccm.uc.edu/prep.html>

Columbia University Theatrical Collaboration: The Actor, the Director, and the Playwright – New York, NY

Designed for students with experience in drama who are interested in developing original theatrical productions, the course emphasizes the working relationship between actor, director, and playwright, and the unique dynamic that exists between them when working on untried material. The program includes one week of workshops and lectures and then two weeks to the development of short plays to be written, directed, and acted by the students under the supervision of theatrical professionals. This course affords students a unique opportunity to experience the nuances of professional theatrical collaboration.

<http://ce.columbia.edu/high-school/nyc/junior-senior-courses/theatrical-collaboration-the-actor-the-director-and-the-playwright>

Emerson College Pre-College Acting, Musical Theatre, and Stage Design Studios – Boston, MA

The Acting Studio and the Musical Theatre Studio offer high school juniors and seniors an opportunity to train in an intensive pre-college acting program. Attendees polish their performance skills by participating in master classes and evening rehearsals. During the five-week program, Acting and Musical Theatre Studio students refine audition pieces and perform selections and scenes in a final showcase performance for peers and parents. The Stage Design Studio offers high school sophomores, juniors, and seniors an opportunity to explore the elements of theater design. During the program, Stage Design Studio students concentrate on



Theatre Department College Night

scenic design and drafting, lighting design, costume design and rendering, stage makeup, mask design and construction, and portfolio preparation. Students attend dynamic weekday classes to learn more about the tools of stage design and work on projects, and will refine their projects during Saturday studio hours.

<http://www.emerson.edu/academics/professional-studies/programs-high-school-students/pre-college-studio-programs>

Indiana University Midsummer Theatre Program – Bloomington, IN

The Midsummer Theatre Program is a two-week, comprehensive study of theatre as an art form. Students study acting, movement, voice, dramatic literature, musical theatre, and television. In addition to daily classes, students will attend several special event workshops in areas such as auditioning and television production. Students will showcase their learning experiences from these intensive two weeks in a Final Presentation.

<http://www.indiana.edu/~thtr/news/midsummer.shtml>

Interlochen Center for the Arts High School Summer Theatre Programs

The Interlochen Center for the Arts offers several programs in acting and musical theatre including: Musical Theatre Production, Musical Theatre Workshop, Repertory Theatre Production, Theatre Design and Production, and a Musical Theatre Intensive.

<http://camp.interlochen.org/high-school-theatre-summer-programs>

Ithaca College Summer College – Ithaca, NY

Three-week courses are offered in Acting and Musical Theatre for high school sophomores and juniors (rising juniors and seniors) where students earn 3 undergraduate credits.

www.ithaca.edu/summercollege/threeweek/threeweekcourses

MPulse at the University of Michigan – Ann Arbor, MI

The MPulse Summer Performing Arts Institute on the Ann Arbor campus offers programs in music performance, music technology, musical theatre, theatre, and dance.

http://www.music.umich.edu/special_programs/youth/mpulse/

University of Minnesota Stage Elements Summer Theatre Institute – Minneapolis, MN

An 11-day theatre intensive led by University of Minnesota faculty who are professional artists from organizations including the Guthrie Theater, Children’s Theatre Company, Open Eye Figure Theatre and Penumbra Theatre. The STAGE ELEMENTS Summer Theatre Institute is an opportunity for young artists to sample the rigorous BA Performance and BFA Actor Training programs offered in the University of Minnesota’s West Bank Arts Quarter.

<https://theatre.umn.edu/theatre/elements>

University of North Carolina School of the Arts Summer Intensive: Drama – Winston-Salem, NC

Faculty members of UNCSEA’s School of Drama, along with guest artists, are the instructors in this three-week summer intensive, which emphasizes the process that leads to excellent performance. The School’s multi-disciplinary approach to training for the stage, film and television carries over to the summer session. Here young acting students will spend their days focused on fundamentals of the craft – acting, movement and speech. Sessions in improvisation, dance, stage combat, circus skills and acting for the camera are part of the curriculum, as are opportunities to write, direct and perform original scripts. A workshop in auditioning will be held in the final week for high school seniors and college-level students who want to learn about the audition process for the UNCSEA School of Drama degree and certificate programs. The session ends with a showcase of student work, to which families are invited. An intensive in Stage Combat is also offered.

<http://www.uncsa.edu/summersession/drama.htm>

<http://www.uncsa.edu/summersession/dramacombat.htm>

The National High School Institute at Northwestern University (Cherubs) – Evanston, IL

Northwestern's Cherubs programs is a 5-7 week, university-based summer program for outstanding high school rising Seniors that offers programs in Acting, Design/Tech, and Musical Theatre.

<http://nhsi.northwestern.edu/theatrearts/>

NYU Steinhardt Summer Study in Musical Theatre – New York, NY

The Vocal Performance Program in Music and Performing Arts Professions at NYU Steinhardt offers a three-week intensive workshop during which students explore the techniques of music theatre performance from the perspective of an actor, singer, and dancer. The workshop employs both group and individual instruction, and activities include dance classes, choreography and musical staging rehearsals, acting and song analysis classes, private song coachings, and a series of master classes on subjects related to the field. The workshop culminates with a showcase presentation in which students perform the material they have been working on in class. Evening activities for the workshop participants include Broadway shows, concerts, and other cultural events around New York.

<http://steinhardt.nyu.edu/music/summer/musictheatre>

NYU Tisch School of the Arts Summer Drama Program for High School Students – New York, NY

The Tisch School of the Arts Summer Drama Program for High School Students is a condensed version of the professional training that characterizes the degree program offered by NYU. It carries 6 college credits, and enrollment is limited. Each week includes 28 hours of conservatory training at the Stonestreet Screen Acting Workshop, the Experimental Theatre Wing, the New Studio Summer Music Theatre Program, the New Studio Summer Acting Program, or in the Meisner Technique. The summer program also includes a weekly seminar (New York Theatre) on the breadth of the profession with Tisch faculty.

<http://specialprograms.tisch.nyu.edu/object/hsnycdrama.html>

Open Jar Institute Summer Institute – New York, NY

The Open Jar Institute summer program offers five days of high intensity workshops in acting, singing, dance and audition technique designed for a select group of students – all taught by Broadway pros. Under the direction of a Broadway Associate Director/Choreographer, all students have the chance to work one-one-one with Broadway’s best teaching artists, vocal coaches, acting teachers and choreographers.

<http://www.openjarinstitute.com/Summer-Institute.html>

High School Musical Theatre Program at Oklahoma City University – Oklahoma City, OK

The High School Musical Theater Program is an extension of the OCU musical theater degree program. Students from across the country attend the program which offers both demanding classroom training and on-stage experience, taught by the OCU faculty.

<http://www.okcu.edu/music/performing-arts-academy/summer/>

Penn State Musical Theatre Intensive – University Park, PA

For students who will be rising high school sophomores, juniors, and seniors, the Penn State Summer Program includes sessions focusing on Acting, Dance, Musical Theatre, Makeup, Set Design and Sound Design. Prescreens (auditions) are required for all programs.

<http://theatre.psu.edu/summer>

The Performing Arts Project – Winston-Salem, NC

The Performing Arts Project summer intensive is a training program held during the month of July on the campus of Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. In the three-week session, students take classes in all three of the major performance disciplines: acting, dancing, and singing, along with countless specializations.

<http://www.performingartsproject.com/>

Perry-Mansfield Performing Arts School and Camp – Steamboat Springs, CO

Perry-Mansfield Performing Arts School and Camp offers a summer training program for artists ages 8–college. Students from across the country and around the globe take part in world premier productions in both theatre and dance and have the opportunity to study with some of the industry’s most prestigious instructors.

<http://perry-mansfield.org/>

Rutgers University Summer Acting Conservatory – New Brunswick, NJ

The Rutgers University Summer Acting Conservatory is a four-week program designed to allow high school students the opportunity to experience intensive, professional actor training taught by accomplished professionals within the context of a college environment.

<http://www.masongross.rutgers.edu/content/rutgers-summer-acting-conservatory>

Syracuse University Summer College for High School Students, Acting and Musical Theatre – Syracuse, NY

This four-week program at the University of Syracuse develops performance skills and provides a behind-the-scenes view of theater that combines music, drama, and dance. Students participate in full-time, college-level theater training under the direction of acclaimed professional performers and teachers and complete the program with improved audition skills.

<http://summercollege.syr.edu/acting/index.html>

The University of the Arts Summer Institute – Philadelphia, PA

The Acting + Musical Theater programs at the University of the Arts are a pre-college program for the serious student performer, and give a preview of the professional training program at the University of the Arts.

<http://uarts.edu/academics/pre-college-programs/summer-institute-theater>

The UCLA Acting and Performance Institute – Los Angeles, CA

The UCLA Acting and Performance Institute is a six week intensive summer performance program designed for high school students sponsored by the UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television. The program offers an introduction to the crafts of theater with training focused on creative self expression, movement, improvisation, scene study, and work with masks.

<http://www.tft.ucla.edu/programs/summer-programs/summer-acting-and-performance-institute-2/>

USC Summer Theatre Conservatories – Los Angeles, CA

The USC School of Theatre offers Summer Theatre Conservatories in Musical Theatre, Contemporary Theatre: Acting Intensive, and New Works: Writing, Directing, and Acting for the Stage. These are conservatory-style training courses designed for students with a serious interest in theatre. Each of the classes culminates in a public performance held at the end of the program.

<https://dramaticarts.usc.edu/programs/summer-programs/high-school-summer-conservatory/>

US Performing Arts Camps

US Performing Arts Camps are held at various college campuses and other locations across the US and include camps for acting, dance, voice, musical theatre and college auditions. The programs are taught by university/college faculty and industry professionals. Locations include Georgetown, Pepperdine, Stanford, UCLA, UC Irvine, TCU, University of Massachusetts and New York City.

<http://www.usperformingarts.com/>

The Powerhouse Theatre Apprentice Program at Vassar College – Poughkeepsie, NY

Powerhouse Theater, a collaboration between New York Stage and Film and Vassar College includes plays, musicals, and screenplays presented in a variety of forms: readings, workshops, and fully staged productions. 40-50 theater students from across the country and around the world participate in each summer season and form the Apprentice Company. These young artists



Theatre Department College Night

are exposed to a wide range of theatrical experiences and are provided with a distinctive opportunity to work on the development of theater productions headed for Broadway and top-ranked theaters nation-wide.

<http://powerhouse.vassar.edu/apprentices/index.html>

Wagner College Summer Music Theatre Institute – New York, NY (Staten Island)

The Summer Music Theatre Institute (SMTI) at Wagner College gives high school students from around the country the opportunity to learn about all aspects of music theatre performance from theatre professionals in the Wagner College and New York City community. In a two-week, on-campus intensive, students receive rigorous, college caliber training in acting, singing, improvisation, and dancing—taught in a supportive, professional environment. Students gain insights into the professional world of New York City theatre through visits from industry experts and trips to Broadway productions. Students are encouraged to apply early as there are a limited number of spots available.

<http://wagner.edu/theatre/smti/>

MUNY/Webster Intensive for Emerging Young Artists, St. Louis, MO

The Muny, a summer stock theatre, and Webster University's Conservatory of Theatre Arts, jointly offer this Intensive that introduces students to life as a professional performer. While rehearsing alongside the Equity cast and our Muny Teens, students prepare to perform in a Muny production as well as attend master classes. During the second half of the Intensive, attendees receive pre-collegiate training from the Webster University faculty while performing each night for audiences of more than 10,000. Classes include acting, voice, movement and dance. Students can also enjoy the opportunity to earn college credit through this program.

<http://www.muny.org/eya>

Summer High School Music Theater Workshop at Westminster College of the Arts – Lawrenceville, NJ

The summer High School Music Theater Workshop at Westminster College of the Arts is a two week program classes in acting, choreography and private voice instruction, a Musical Theater Showcase Revue, a concert version of a Broadway musical, and field trips to shows on Broadway and in Philadelphia.

<http://www.rider.edu/academics/colleges-schools/westminster-college-of-the-arts/westminster-continuing-education/summer-camps>

Triple Arts Summer Intensive – New York, NY and Cullowee, NC (Western Carolina University)

Founded by Broadway veterans, Terrence Mann & Charlotte d’Amboise, Triple Arts workshops build a strong foundation of skills and confidence while challenging students to reach new levels of personal achievement across the triple arts of the trade: singing, dancing, and acting. The Triple Arts series is designed to give aspiring musical theatre performers the opportunity to work directly with top industry professionals.

<http://www.triplearts.com>

Yale Summer Conservatory for Actors – New Haven, CT

The Yale Summer Conservatory for Actors is an intensive introduction to the basic techniques of acting. Based on the principles of Stanislavski, this five-week program is a distillation of the acting curriculum at the Yale School of Drama. The Conservatory emphasizes both the personal and professional growth of its participants.

<http://summer.yale.edu/find-your-program/drama/summer-conservatory-actors>

Summer Programs - Europe

Berridge Programs – London, France, Paris, Oxford, Edinburgh

Berridge Programs started in 2007 under the name Acting Abroad. For seven wonderful summers, we have welcomed students from around the world to our conservatory in Normandy, France and more recently to our extension programs in London and Paris. This summer, we are proud to offer programs in Oxford and Edinburgh. We are dedicated to offering the highest quality programs that offer young artists the unique opportunity to combine a performing arts camp, college residential program and study abroad experience.

<http://www.berridgeprograms.com/index.html>

Music Theatre Bavaria – Oberaudorf, Germany

Music Theatre Bavaria offers both a musical theater intensive and an opera intensive. In German, the term Musiktheater translates to the genre of opera, operetta and musical theater. Theater Bavaria offers the combination of a culturally enriching study abroad experience and a serious professional training program in which students choose an emphasis in either opera or musical theater, and the opportunity for cross-over training.

This program requires applicants to be 18 or have graduated from high school.

<http://www.musictheaterbavaria.org/index.php>

British-American Drama Academy

The Midsummer Conservatory Program (MCP) is designed for serious sixteen to eighteen year old students of theatre and concentrates on three approaches to acting Shakespeare: text-based preparation, characterisation and movement. The program's principal objective is to assist students in developing their skills as classical Shakespearean actors so that they are better able to meet the challenges of college, conservatory or drama school.

<http://www.badaonline.com/programs/midsummer-conservatory-program/>

Narnia Arts Academy, Musical Theatre Intensive – Narni, Italy

The Narnia Festival and International Summer Training Program includes world-renowned artists, teachers and young students, including The Juilliard School in New York, Mozarteum Salzburg, Miami University, Vienna University and the Academy of the Teatro alla Scala. The program includes a Musical Theatre Intensive. The Narnia Arts Academy mixes music, art, education and tourism, by uniting culture and geography in an interdisciplinary initiative aimed at the dissemination and comprehension of the arts and understanding of the architectural and historical heritage, combined with the strong spiritual charge of the Umbrian region. The result is a rich program of events, which includes concerts, conferences, lessons, master classes, workshops, programs for young people, exhibits and guided tours.

www.narniafestival.it