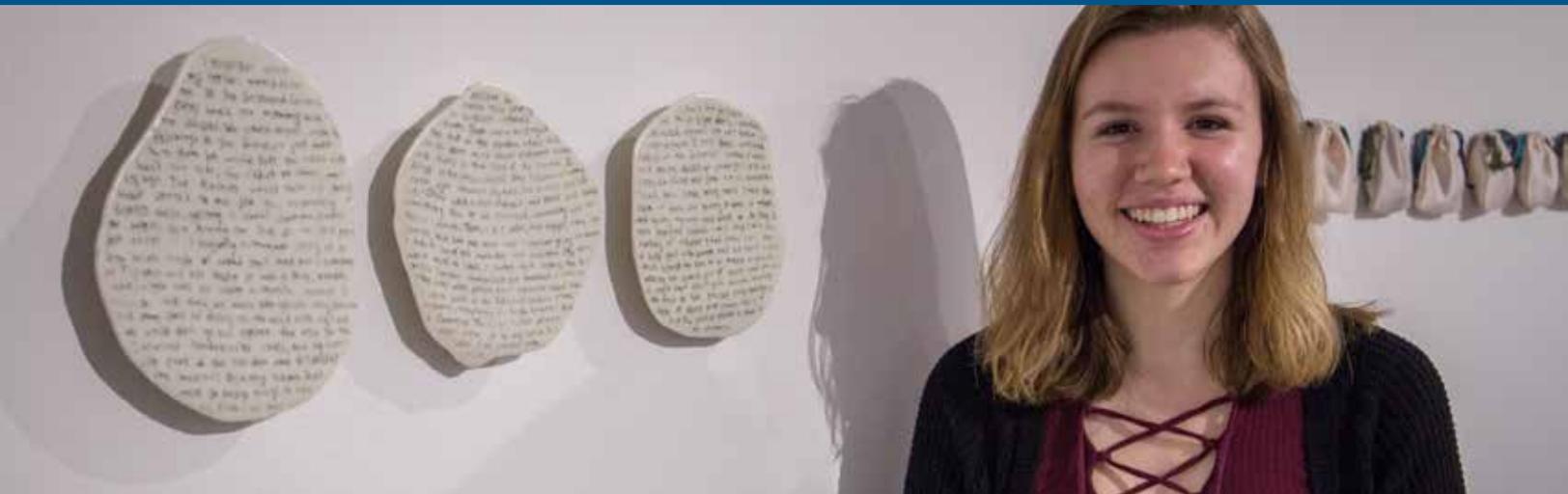




Tips to Get Into the Arts College of Your Dreams

Your creativity is your passion, and the college you attend plays a critical role in helping you turn that drive into a purposeful career path. Here are 10 tips to getting accepted at the college of your dreams, whether it be to study music, visual arts, new media, theatre, dance, or creative writing.



10 TIPS TO GET INTO THE ARTS COLLEGE OF YOUR DREAMS

- 1. It's about YOU**
- 2. Know the lingo**
- 3. Decide how you want to spend your time, and who you want to spend it with**
- 4. Organize your research**
- 5. Gather your materials**
- 6. Make sure you have a creative essay**
- 7. Connect!**
- 8. Money matters**
- 9. Have an arts resource on your support team**
- 10. Know the audition process**

1 It's about YOU



Colleges increasingly value the “whole person” so tailor your application to showcase your talent and unique experiences and contributions—and your goals as an artist. Let your uniqueness shine through.



2 Know the lingo

What kind of degree are you looking for? Do you know the difference between a B.A. and a B.F.A? What about a master's degree? If not, find out! Google is your friend.



3 Decide how you want to spend your time, and who you want to spend it with.

Consider your learning environment—does the school offer the faculty, facilities, students, and overall academic environment that align with your artistic goals? Also, identify the right type of school for you: conservatory, liberal arts college, or university. Which would best align with your goals? No matter which you choose, be sure to look at the curricular pathway—that is, the list of courses required for the major.

4 Organize your research



A personalized spreadsheet that tracks each college, with columns for application deadlines, specific requirements, contacts, location, degrees offered, fees, and more is an indispensable tool. Thorough research and organization early on will prevent last-minute surprises and missed opportunities.



5

Gather your materials

Be prepared to write multiple essays, including school-specific prompts. A résumé highlights your extracurricular activities and, importantly, your artistic achievements. Also, start assembling any writing samples, repertoire lists, recordings, and portfolios now.

6 Make sure you have a creative essay



Go beyond generic statements about your passion for art, music, or your chosen field. Instead, share how these interests have transformed your goals, shaped your identity, or expanded your worldview. Like your art, the most memorable essays are those that capture a piece of your soul.



7 Connect!

For artists, connecting with faculty or program heads can be valuable, because arts mentorship is often based on a personal relationship. Email teachers you're interested in studying with. Attend virtual sessions. Seek out connections, and attend live or virtual events.



8

Money matters

Typically, private colleges and universities are the most expensive; community colleges are the least—but tuition is where institutions are most likely to provide help. Private colleges and universities with large endowments may offer more generous aid, and as a result, it can sometimes cost less to attend a private school than a public university. What does your family find reasonable? Discuss early, openly, and often.



9 Have an arts resource on your support team

This could be a private instructor, a school arts teacher, or the director of an after-school program. They should be proficient in their field and understand your artistic journey and aspirations. Also, what connections might they have to your colleges of choice?



10

Know the audition process

While some schools still require in-person auditions, other schools may use virtual live auditions or recorded auditions. Auditions and interviews are your moments to shine. Focus on your preparation and know that it's normal to be nervous. Whoever you encounter at these schools is rooting for you to be awesome—and with the right preparation, you will be!