



Interlochen

#### CONTACT US

Phone:  
231.276.7478

Email:  
academiccounseling@interlochen.org

Website:  
interlochen.org/counseling

*\*course offerings subject to change*

#### ACADEMIC & COLLEGE COUNSELORS

A talented team of Academic and College Counselors work with students throughout their Interlochen career to define and achieve goals.

Chad Gapinski  
*Dean of Advising and  
Counseling Services*

Deanna Sayer  
*Director of Academic and  
College Counseling*

Darya Smith  
*Counselor*

Katherine Campbell  
*Counselor*

Kaleigh James  
*Counselor*

Martha Kitchen  
*Administrative Assistant*

#### ACCREDITATION

Interlochen Arts Academy is accredited by Independent Schools Association of the Central States (ISACS). It is also a member of the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS).

# INTERLOCHEN ARTS ACADEMY School Profile 2025–26

## We are Interlochen

### WHO WE ARE

Interlochen Arts Academy is the nation's premiere arts high school, where talented young artists transform passion and potential into purpose.

The Academy's 579 diverse students forge a global community united by a driving passion for the arts. Under the guidance of distinguished artists, Academy students receive pre-professional training in their chosen art form and comprehensive academic curriculum that fosters the ability to think critically and creatively, preparing them for college-level study.

Founded in 1962, the Academy has a deep tradition of reinvention, and remains at the forefront of artistic innovation. Students live in a vibrant community where they discover kindred spirits and engage in a fulfilling exchange of ideas. The secluded 1,200-acre campus is located in northwest Michigan, and offers a variety of practice and performance spaces nestled in a scenic, natural setting.

### FACULTY

Of the 106 outstanding artists and educators who make up the faculty, 63 hold master's degrees and 23 hold doctorates. Exemplary faculty include instructors named Distinguished Teachers in the Arts by the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts.

### NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED

Interlochen is a recipient of the National Medal of Arts, the nation's highest honor in the arts. This award was established by Congress in 1984 and is given by the President of the United States to honor individuals and organizations that have encouraged the arts and inspired others.

Since 1980, 52 Interlochen graduates have been selected as Presidential Scholars—more than any other high school in the United States. Interlochen students are frequently awarded National Merit Scholarships and commendations.

## 7 ARTS MAJORS

Creative Writing • Dance  
Film & New Media  
Interdisciplinary Arts  
Music • Theatre • Visual Arts

## NATIONAL MERIT STUDENTS

2025 Commended	5	Finalist	2
2024 Commended	10	Finalist	4
2023 Commended	6	Finalist	2
2022 Commended	9	Finalist	4
2021 Commended	5	Finalist	1

## Health, Wellness, and Supportive Residential Life

### HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

A robust social emotional learning curriculum centers around The Interlochen 5, an integrated educational curriculum that emphasizes character development and holistic growth. The Interlochen 5 infuses the development of five key capacities across artistic, academic, and residential learning: mindfulness, wellness, and resilience; creative capacity; interdisciplinary perspective and collaboration; global and cultural perspective; and community and citizen artistry.

### HEALTH

Our robust, on-campus Health Services is staffed by a team of licensed nurses 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

### WELLNESS

To ensure a healthy mind and body, the Dennison Center for Recreation and Wellness is a 23,000-sq-ft facility devoted to year-round physical activity.

### RESIDENCE LIFE

The Academy's seven residence halls have common areas, practice rooms, work spaces, and laundry facilities. Instructors of residence life live with students in the residence halls. Together with directors of residence life who reside on campus, these student life professionals foster a supportive atmosphere and create an extended family for students. Student rooms, similar to those at many colleges and universities, offer a place for studying and resting.

### SCHOOL COUNSELING

School counseling services are offered by licensed staff counselors on campus. Telecounseling services are also available.

### TUTORING AND ASSISTED STUDY

Personalized education support is offered for a diverse campus by our dedicated faculty, by peer tutors, and through the Academic Center for Enrichment.

# Accelerated Academic Instruction

## ACADEMICS

<p><b>Advance College Project &amp; Advanced Placement (AP) Courses</b> In partnership with Indiana University's Advance College Project (ACP), students may receive both high school and college credit by taking an IU course taught by Interlochen faculty on our campus. These classes are taught with identical content expectations, pedagogical approaches, student performance standards, and assessment strategies as occur on the IU campus. Interlochen also offers Advanced Placement courses.</p>	<p><b>Advance College Project offerings include:</b> <i>Reading, Writing, and Inquiry; Literary Interpretations; American History I &amp; II; Advanced Biology; Advanced Chemistry; AP Courses include: AP Statistics, AP Calculus AB, and AP Calculus BC</i></p>
<p><b>English and Humanities</b> Interlochen English and Humanities faculty guide students in the exploration of the human experience through the pursuit of literary appreciation and the development of language skills.</p>	<p><b>Course offerings include:</b> <i>English I; English II; English III; English IV; Indiana University: Reading, Writing, and Inquiry; Indiana University: Literary Interpretations; Current Events and Journalism. Students may take creative writing courses for English credit.</i></p>
<p><b>English Learners</b> The English Language department includes a variety of language and sheltered content courses. Faculty address the academic and social English needed for emerging multilinguals to succeed in high school and beyond. Students are placed into one of three levels.</p>	<p><i>EL Emerging Integrated Skills; EL Emerging Speaking &amp; Listening; EL Emerging Creative Thinking; EL Developing Integrated Skills; EL Advanced Integrated Skills; EL Emerging: Reading &amp; Writing; EL Emerging: Grammar; EL Advanced: Government and Politics; EL Developing: Grammar</i></p>
<p><b>History, Political, and Social Sciences</b> The department stimulates an awareness of the human condition, emphasizing the application of rational thinking to an understanding of our historical, economic, political, and social development.</p>	<p><b>Course offerings have included:</b> <i>Century of Conflict; Parties and Elections; Contemporary America; World History; Exploring the Asian American Experience; History Research and Film; Issues in Latin American History: Intro to Psychology; Intro to Sociology; Indiana University: American History I &amp; II; Civic Engagement; Intolerance, Bigotry and Genocide: Then &amp; Now; Economics in Our World; US Government: American Political Process; Current Events and Journalism; Film History; Theatre History; Art History; Jazz History; Music History; Animation World History</i></p>
<p><b>Mathematics</b> The college-preparatory curriculum encourages experimental and exploratory problem-solving and communication of mathematical ideas.</p>	<p><b>Course offerings may include:</b> <i>Algebra I; Algebra II; Geometry; Precalculus; AP Statistics; AP Calculus AB and AP Calculus BC; Advanced Math: Financial Literacy; Advanced Math: Probability &amp; Statistics; Advanced Math: Logic &amp; Programming</i></p>
<p><b>Science</b> The science department provides a comprehensive curriculum with small classes and well-equipped laboratories. The department develops critical thinking skills and emphasizes technology as a means of fostering scientific skills. The wooded 1,200-acre campus is located between two lakes and provides an ideal laboratory for coursework in the natural sciences.</p>	<p><b>Course offerings may include:</b> <i>Biology; Chemistry; Physics; Forensics; Astronomy; Ecology; Advanced Chemistry; Indiana University: Advanced Biology; Regenerative Agricultural Science</i></p>
<p><b>World Languages</b> Instruction is exclusively in the target language, and all communication between the teacher and students takes place in the new language, including grammatical explanations and cultural topics. Contextual clues, cognates, gestures, and visual aids assist the student in understanding without the need to translate to or from his or her native language.</p>	<p><b>Course Offerings:</b> <i>French I; French II; French III; French IV; French V; Spanish I; Spanish II; Spanish III; Spanish IV; Spanish V</i></p>

**20%** International Students

**11** Average Class size

**175+** College recruiters visiting campus each year

# Intensive Artistic Studies

## ARTS

### Creative Writing

The Creative Writing program provides the experience necessary for students to continue their development as writers. Recognizing that most students are only beginning their writing careers at this age, the Academy is strongly committed to providing extensive writing experience in conjunction with critiques from peers and faculty.

*Recent graduates have pursued writing, publishing, editing, and other interests at universities and colleges including Bard, Emerson, Georgetown, Harvard, Knox, New York University, Oberlin, and Stanford, among others.*

### Dance

The Dance program educates dancers to be versatile, well-rounded artists who are prepared to face the rigors and technical demands of today's dance world. The classical ballet-based curriculum includes pointe, pas de deux, repertoire, and men's class with additional emphasis on modern technique, composition, and anatomical awareness. In this challenging yet supportive environment, dancers are encouraged to explore their potential as technicians, artists, and creative thinkers.

*Dance majors are routinely accepted to their first-choice university programs. Recent graduates have also gone on to leading dance companies including Boston Ballet, Ballet West, National Ballet of Marseille, Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance, Butler University, George Mason University, New York University, Indiana University and University of Utah.*

### Film & New Media

Film & New Media fosters a creative community of actors, writers, musicians, and visual artists. Under the mentorship of experienced faculty, students learn to balance creativity and critical analysis while refining their cinematic voices.

Student filmmakers participate in screenwriting workshops and classes in cinematography, lighting, sound, and directing that help translate their scripts to the screen. Student animators practice the principles of animated movement, study the history of international animation, and learn to craft compelling narratives.

*The program places students in top media and film schools including USC, UCLA, Chapman University, CalArts, NYU, Northwestern, Princeton, RISD, Ringling, Boston University, Emerson, The New School, School of Visual Arts, University of Michigan, Rochester Institute of Technology, Johns Hopkins, and Pratt.*

### Interdisciplinary Arts

The Interdisciplinary Arts department is designed for students who wish to explore more than one arts practice and the intersection among art forms, as an individual artist and in collaboration with others across disciplines. The Interdisciplinary Arts curriculum at Interlochen fosters innovation while training student artists in creative process and leadership.

*The program places students in top colleges and universities including Carnegie Mellon University, University of Michigan, Oberlin College, Knox College, and New York University, The University of Edinburgh*

### Music

The Academy is the premiere pre-professional boarding high school program for musicians, serving students in both classical, contemporary, and jazz genres. Students are exposed to wide array of coursework supporting the total musician, including music theory and musicianship, music history, as well as top-notch ensembles. Guest artists and masterclasses round out the student experience. Students from the music division receive recognition from national organizations such as NPR's *From the Top*, and matriculate to top universities and conservatories throughout the world.

*Music majors are routinely accepted at top colleges and universities including Berklee College of Music, Columbia University, Curtis, Eastman School of Music, The Juilliard School, Oberlin Conservatory of Music, Royal Academy of Music, University of Michigan, Northwestern University, and Colburn.*

*Music majors have received honors from associations including Morton Gould, ASCAP, Downbeat, Falcone, Fischhoff, Percussive Arts Society, Lennox International Young Artists Competition, Michigan Music Teachers Association, and the National Association of Teachers of Singing.*

### Theatre

Named the top high school program in the country by *The Hollywood Reporter*, the Theatre department provides pre-professional training in all aspects of acting and musical theatre performance as well as theatre design and production. Performance students receive strong foundational acting training augmented by electives ranging from Acting Shakespeare to World Theatre and a wide range of musical theatre classes, with an emphasis on singing and dancing.

*Graduates see placements at audition-based college and conservatory programs around the world, including Boston Conservatory at Berklee, Carnegie Mellon University, DePaul University, Florida State University, New York University, Northwestern University, University of Michigan, University of Minnesota/Guthrie Theatre, University of North Carolina School of the Arts, and The Royal Conservatoire of Scotland.*

*Alumni can be seen working on Broadway, regional theatre, film, and television.*

### Visual Arts

The Visual Arts program helps young artists develop personal vision and technical abilities through experimentation with a variety of media. Problem solving, critical thinking, and experimentation with processes integral to the medium build a foundation for aesthetic and original thinking.

*Visual Arts students are routinely accepted at top colleges and universities including Maryland Institute College of Art, Rhode Island School of Design, New York University, Parsons School of Design, Cooper Union, University of the Arts-London, UCLA, Fashion Institute of Technology, and the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.*

**52** Presidential Scholars,  
More than any other school

**275**  
Annual Presentations

**150+**  
Guest Artists

# Ongoing Success

## OUR RECENT GRADUATES: Class of 2025

**1 in 4** of graduates attend a highly **selective college**

In 2025, **16** current and former Interlochen Arts Academy students were recognized by the **National YoungArts Foundation**.

Class of 2025 had **ONE** Semifinalist for **Presidential Scholars in the arts**.

**9 out of 10** of graduating seniors and postgraduates were accepted into at least one of **their top three colleges**

Together, our 2025 senior class earned more than **\$59 million** in college scholarships over four years

## GRADUATES OF 2025 Enrolled in the following colleges and universities:

Alfred University  
American University  
Arizona State University (2)  
Baldwin Wallace University  
Bard College (2)  
Belmont University (3)  
Bennington College  
Berklee College of Music (10)  
Boston College  
Boston Conservatory at Berklee (6)  
Boston University (4)  
Butler University (4)  
California Institute of the Arts (2)  
Carnegie Mellon University (6)  
Chapman University  
Cleveland Institute of Music (4)  
Colby College  
College for Creative Studies  
Colorado State University  
Columbia University (2)  
DePaul University (3)  
Drexel University  
Eastman School of Music (3)  
École Supérieure d'Art Pays Basque (France)  
Emerson College (2)  
Emory University  
Fashion Institute of Technology  
Fordham University (2)  
George Mason University  
Guildhall School  
Harvard University  
IAA Post Graduate Year (5)  
Indiana University (5)  
Ithaca College (3)  
Juilliard School, The (5)  
Kalamazoo College  
Kent State University

Lawrence Technological University  
Liverpool Institute of Performing Arts (2)  
Louisiana State University  
Manhattan School of Music (4)  
Marymount Manhattan College (3)  
McGill University (2)  
Mercyhurst University  
Michigan State University (2)  
Minnesota State College  
Nashville Ballet  
New England Conservatory of Music (2)  
New School, The (6)  
New York University (14)  
Northeastern University  
Northwestern Michigan College  
Northwestern University  
Oberlin College (2)  
Oklahoma City University  
Otis College of Art and Design  
Pace University (2)  
Peabody Institute  
Princeton University (2)  
Reed College  
Rhode Island School of Design (2)  
Ringling College of Art and Design  
Rollins College  
Roosevelt University  
Royal Central School of Speech and Drama (3)  
Royal College of Music  
Royal Conservatoire of Scotland  
Royal Northern College of Music  
Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama (2)  
Rutgers University (New Brunswick)  
San Francisco Conservatory of Music (3)  
Sarah Lawrence College  
Savannah College of Art and Design (2)  
School of the Art Institute of Chicago (2)

School of Visual Arts  
SUNY Geneseo  
Syracuse University (2)  
Tarrant County College  
Temple University (2)  
Trinity College Dublin  
Tufts University  
University College London  
University of California (Berkeley)  
University of California (Irvine)  
University of California (Los Angeles)  
University of Colorado Boulder  
University of Florida  
University of Georgia  
University of Houston  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
University of Kentucky  
University of Maryland  
University of Massachusetts (Boston)  
University of Miami  
University of Michigan (12)  
University of New Haven  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
University of North Carolina School of the Arts  
University of North Texas  
University of Northern Colorado  
University of Ottawa  
University of St Andrews  
University of Tampa  
University of Tennessee  
University of Texas at Austin  
University of the Arts London  
University of Utah  
Wayne State University  
West Virginia University  
Western Washington University