

College Degrees Available

Associates Degrees—A two-year degree that is often awarded for programs that are intended for transfer to a four-year college or university, but may be awarded as a terminal degree. Examples include Associate of Arts, Associate of Fine Arts, and Associate of Arts in Teaching.

Bachelor of Arts (BA)—A liberal arts degree, in which the concentration of coursework in a chosen field of the arts is 35%-45%.

Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA)—A professional degree, which can be earned in most of the performing and visual arts disciplines. Approximately 65% or more of the student's coursework will be in the chosen field.

Bachelor of Music (BM)—The professional music degree with 65% or more total coursework in music and related fields; performance, theory, composition, history and/or literature.

Bachelor of Music Education (BME)—A degree which prepares students to teach instrumental, vocal or general music. Depending on the school, the performance rigor may be equal to or less than that of the BM degree.

Bachelor of Science (BS)—This degree can be earned at a liberal arts school, university or conservatory, depending on the school. (Some schools are chartered to only give BA or BS degrees, but have the same requirements as a professional degree program.)

Certificate Programs—Some colleges and universities offer specialized programs that combine additional coursework within two or more departments. Students completing the course work receive a "certificate" that confirms their completion of such programs.

Combined Degree Program—A program in which a student is able to earn two full degrees, for example, music administration and dance therapy. If arts comprise at least 50% of the coursework, the arts degree would be considered professional.

Conservatory—A school whose primary focus is on artistic training. Some conservatories are independent entities, some are contained within a four-year university. Several types of degrees may be available: BFA, BM, BME, BS

Intra-arts Programs—Some universities offer a degree which combines disciplines in two arts programs, without requiring a double major, accepting a senior thesis in one discipline, but not requiring a senior thesis in both.

Web Sites and Directories

Dance:

www.dance-teacher.com
www.dancemagazine.com

Film:

www.filmfinder.com/reviews.html
www.rivalquest.com/schools

Graphic Design:

www.whatintheworld.aiga.org
www.aiga.org (Professional Association for Design)
www.artschools.com/majors-programs
www.portfolioday.net

Music:

www.menc.org/industry/job/careers (Natl. Assoc. for Music Education)

www.musicschoolsearch.com

www.mtna.org (Music Teachers National Assoc.)

www.astaweb.com (American String Teachers Assoc.)

www.symphony.org (League of American Orchestras)

Theatre:

www.theatredirectories.com

3-D Animation

<http://forums.cgsociety.org> (Society of Digital Artists)

Visual Arts

www.artschools.com

www.filmfinder.com/reviews.html

www.aicad.org (Association of Independent Colleges of Art and Design)

www.rivalquest.com/schools

www.nasad.arts-accredit.org

www.artsschoolsnetwork.org

www.collegeart.org

A listing of performing arts college fairs can be found at:
www.nacenet.org/fairs

Information on auditions or submissions of DVD, CD, or portfolio can be found at:

www.portfolioday.net

www.unifiedapps.org

Other Resources to Help You in the Process

In addition to the guides recommended to you by your PHS counselor, the following may help to narrow your search.

The College Finder—Choosing the School That's Right for You
Peterson's College Guide for Performing Arts Majors
College Guide for Performing Arts

“College selection is a match to be made, not a prize to be won.”

Performing and Visual Arts Guide For College Bound Students 2010

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Performing Arts Division
Visual Arts Department

Post High School Counseling

New Trier Fine Arts Association

Dance - Music - Speech - Theatre - Visual Arts



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So You're Starting to Think About College

Many New Trier arts students choose to continue their involvement in the arts in college. Just as no two students are exactly alike, each art student's college search will be an individual process. The desire to stay involved can range from extracurricular involvement to attending a conservatory or a fine arts program, where most of the student's curricular time is spent studying his or her particular art form. Here are some tips on what New Trier arts student can do along the way to help facilitate the college application process.

Freshmen and Sophomores

- Explore the arts classes and extracurriculars that New Trier has to offer. This is the best way for you to build your skills and get to know other students and teachers who share your interests. The opportunities are many and varied, and there is something for everyone.
- Practice your craft. Whether it's a musical instrument, dance, singing, photography, or other art form, training develops both discipline and skill.
- Begin to archive your artwork, photography, playbills, programs, newspaper clippings, etc. Keep track of any exhibitions or publications for which your work has been selected. These will help to refresh your memory when you're creating a resumé and/or portfolio later on.
- If you are interested in theatre, begin to create a monologue library by saving audition monologues for all shows, even if you don't audition for all of them.
- Voice students should start creating a repertoire binder of art songs, arias, Broadway, and Pop songs used in class, in auditions, or with private teachers.
- Music students should consider taking piano lessons and/or music theory classes. Visual arts students should plan on taking a self-portrait or life drawing class. A self-portrait will be a portfolio requirement.
- If you like, continue your exploration outside of New Trier, through studios, theatres, private instructors, summer camps, etc.
- Have fun and enjoy what you're doing. You participate because you love the arts.

Juniors

- Make time to communicate with your post high school (PHS) counselor, your arts teachers and your parents about your interest in continuing your involvement in the arts, your goals and your plans.
- Visit the web sites of colleges that interest you. Research types of degrees and programs available at specific schools (see other side). Ask questions, such as: Does the visual art program you're applying to have a concentration in your desired media? Can you participate in the program without majoring? Is the program's acceptance based on auditions or academics, or both?
- In concert with your PHS counselor, teachers and parents, create a list of targeted colleges/programs and/or professors and their addresses and e-mails. If you are applying to conservatories, try to also include at least one liberal arts college or university on your list.
- If you haven't done so already, collect all your old programs, playbills, monologues, newspaper clippings, videos and projects to refresh your memory for your resumé.
- Begin work on your resumé. Present your history, including all information related to your art (as appropriate). Be sure to record your teachers' and private instructors' names and e-mail addresses. Have your teachers look over your resumé to get their suggestions on presentation and what should be included.
- Write e-mails of interest to the colleges on your list, asking for information. Attach your resumé. Be ready to provide additional information upon request.
- If possible, visit the schools you are most interested in and talk with the teachers there. Try to schedule a lesson or a class before you go.
- Depending on what type of degree you are pursuing and which schools you will be applying to, you may need to have a DVD or CD made, create a portfolio, or obtain a head shot.
- If you will be producing a DVD or CD, have a parent or friend videotape or record the shows, concerts, contests and recitals you are in, including your original choreography, if applicable. Copyright regulations might restrict the recording of theatre and musical theatre productions. Please talk with the director for instructions.
- Take a college caliber class or early college program, if possible, during the summer between junior and senior year.
- At the end of junior year, look ahead to the senior year school calendar to plan visits, auditions, portfolio presentations, etc.

Your application will make more impact if it includes a personal visit to the school.

Seniors

- If you are asking your arts teachers to write recommendations, please make your requests early in the year.
 - Investigate deadlines of school conservatories. Sometimes these deadlines are earlier than the regular application deadlines. Some colleges require applications or acceptance before auditions can be scheduled. Check the policy of any college on your list.
 - Schedule auditions/portfolio reviews, if required by your targeted schools' admissions offices. Most auditions take place from January to March of your senior year. If possible, schedule an in-person portfolio presentation for the colleges you want most.
 - Visit the colleges that interest you most to check out their facilities as they pertain to your major interest.
 - Keep communicating with your PHS counselor, your arts teachers and your parents about your plans, especially if they change.
 - Keep an open dialogue with the colleges in which you continue to have an interest.
 - Update your resumé, DVD, CD or portfolio as needed.
 - Many students pursuing an arts degree will be required to complete the Arts Supplement to the Common Application. This is where your DVD, CD or portfolio will come in handy. Other applicants may choose to submit the Arts Supplement (even though it is optional for their school's admissions process) in order to provide a more complete profile of the student.
 - Be sure to apply to some schools in which you are a strong candidate, regardless of your visual and/or performing arts interests.
 - Schedule extra time to work with teachers and/or private instructors as needed for audition and portfolio preparations.
 - Pick a college where you feel comfortable. A college that looks good on paper might not be a perfect fit for you. Remember, there's life in college outside your major!
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