

How do I decide which is best for me?

What are you planning to do with this degree? What type of career are you looking to have? The answers to these questions will be very helpful to you in making your decisions. You may want to discuss these questions with your music, theater, dance or art teachers. Was education their first choice? Maybe you'd like to teach as well.

Do you want an education that focuses solely on the arts or do you want an art program within a school that provides you with continued education in English, history, science, mathematics, world languages and such?

Your counselors can provide you with invaluable information on what is available to you based on your talents, interests and goals.



Resources to help you in the process

Dance

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

Music

www.musicschoolssearch.com
www.mtna.org

Theatre

www.theatredirections.com
www.americanteatrewing.org

Visual Arts

www.artschools.com
www.artschoolsnetwork.org

Performing and Visual Art School Fairs

www.nacacnet.org/fairs

Reference Books

The College Guide for Performing Arts

Peterson's College Guide for Performing Arts Majors

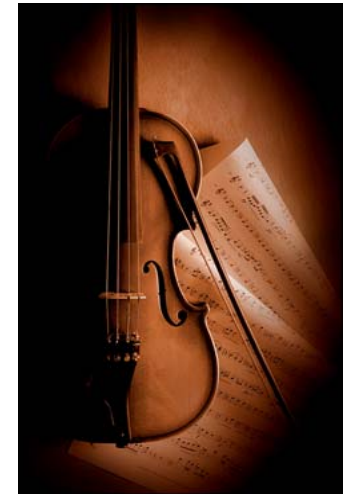
Peterson's College Guide for Visual Arts Majors

The College Finder-Choosing the School That's Right for You

Creative Colleges

The Lake Forest High School Homepage and your Naviance Account (www.lfhs.org)

Lake Forest High School



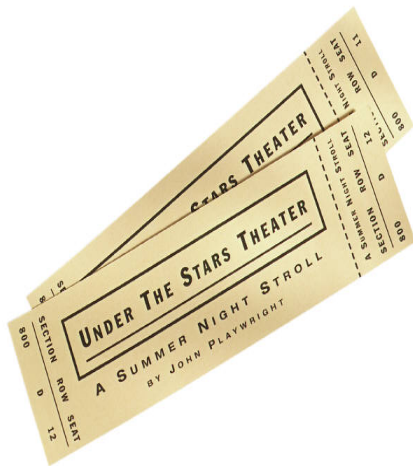
Post-Secondary Choices for Performing and Visual Arts Students

Dance, Music, Theatre and Visual Arts

Post Secondary Choices for Performing and Visual Arts Students

You may be talented in dance, music, theater or art or you may be multi-talented. You may have been in musical theater productions using your acting, singing and dancing skills or you may have created the scenery and worked the lights.

At first you thought these were just hobbies or extracurricular activities but now as a high school student preparing for your future, you realize you want the talents you have to be enhanced and lead you to a lifelong career.



What is my next step?

There is a lot to consider when it comes to furthering one's education in the arts.

Wherever you decide to apply, be certain you have an updated resume, portfolio, DVD and/or CD of your work. Be prepared to audition for the colleges if you are looking to be part of a performing arts program.

Next, you have to decide what type of degree you wish to pursue in order to decide what types of schools to consider.

Degrees in Performing and Visual Arts

Associates of Arts (AA) 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 degree in itself. Examples include Associate of Arts, Associate of Fine Arts, and Associate of Arts in Education.

Bachelor of Arts (BA) A four-year degree with your major concentration in a chosen field.

Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) A four-year degree which can be earned by most visual and performing arts majors.

Bachelor of Music (BM) A professional music degree which includes concentration in music theory, music composition, music history, music performance and music literature.

Conservatories

Schools whose primary focus is on artistic training. Some conservatories are their own entities while others are part of a four-year college or university. Most of the degrees listed above can be earned at a conservatory.

Academies and Institutes

These schools prepare students for a variety of specialized jobs within setting focused primarily on artistic expression and very specialized careers. Some offer certificates while others offer BA's, BFA's and BMA's.

How do I decide which is best for me?

Some of your best resources are your counselor and your visual and performing arts teachers as well as sponsors of related extracurricular clubs.

You need to decide what it is you want to learn. Do you want to learn more about theory and history of your particular field of interest? A four-year college may be the answer. Do you want to learn more practical techniques that are applicable to your field of study and something you want to continue to develop as a lifelong learner? Then you may consider an art school, a conservatory or academy.

