

OSA Internal Audition Requirements.

Each pathway at OSA creates requirements to assess student experience, knowledge, skill and artistic potential. Click on a pathway for more information about what is required at the audition and portfolio submission deadlines.

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Audio Production & Engineering

High School ONLY

To assess a student's eligibility to enroll in Audio Production and Engineering, students must select one of the two options below:

Audition OPTION 1

Students can submit a portfolio of prior work in any one (1) of the following areas:

1. Music Production
2. Post Production Sound
3. Recording
4. Live Sound Engineering.

Requirements for Option 1

- Songs or compositions should be in .wav, .aiff or MP3 format. They can be submitted via email to kbutler@oakarts.org.
- Post Production projects should be submitted in .mov format via email to kbutler@oakarts.org. or on a thumb-drive.
- Live Recordings should also be submitted in .wav .aiff or MP3 on a CD or via email. Full sessions in Pro Tools and Logic Pro X will be considered (time-permitting)

Audition OPTION 2

Instead of submitting work that has already been created, a student can bring a piece of music to critique with the panel. The music can be on a thumb drive, on a phone, or the student can provide the panel with a link or how to find it on YouTube.

The critique will discuss songs elements including:

- Composition
- Instrumentation
- Mix

In addition to Audition OPTION 1 or Audition OPTION 2, all students will need to demonstrate a basic understanding of music theory through an examination.

Audition Guidelines:

- Songs should be in .wav, .aiff or MP3 format. Submitted via email to kbutler@oakarts.org
- Songs must not contain any profanity or Parental Guidance label.
- It is highly recommended that songs have a large amount of instrumentation and composition elements.

Dance

Middle & High School Guidelines & Audition:

Continuing the tradition of excellence in dance which stretches decades long at Oakland School for the Arts, the following elements will be considered when evaluating potential participation in the dance sub-pathway:

- Dedication, perseverance, curiosity, passion and a strong work ethic are all imperative in the pursuit of growth and development in the field of dance.

The dance sub-pathway is a physically rigorous training program to pursue. We highly encourage all of its prospective students to have a certain level of physical fitness to avoid injury, a foundational knowledge of ballet, modern or jazz technique, as well as a strong desire and drive to build technical and artistic prowess.

Key Components to consider when entering the dance sub-pathway are the existence of or potential to acquire the following:

- Flexibility
- Musicality
- An extensive movement vocabulary
- Strength
- High level of conditioning

Key Components to consider when participating in the dance sub-pathway:

- Being prepared daily to take technique class which includes being in proper dress code, being attentive, hard-working and willing to make physical strides on a daily basis.
- Working outside of class on conditioning, strength building and flexibility exercises.

Live Audition:

1. A technique class featuring both ballet and modern dance styles will be held. This is an opportunity for all dance applicants to demonstrate their skills. Come prepared to dance!
 - a. *Bring black leotard, tights/leggings and any dance shoes you have (they are not requirements)*
2. *All Auditionees should prepare an authentic, original **one minute solo** to present at the end of their audition.*

Fashion Design

Middle & High School Guidelines

You will share a portfolio that will be reviewed by a panel of designers. You should be prepared to discuss your work and process as part of the audition.

Middle School Requirements:

THE PORTFOLIO:

1. **Artwork.** A collection of your visual art and design work. This can include photographs, drawings, paintings or sculpture.
2. **Sewing samples.** Bring in two (2) or more projects you have sewn either by machine or by hand.
3. **Your current sketchbook.** We encourage you to include different types of sketching in a variety of mediums and materials.
4. **3-D Object.** Bring a hand made object that you have designed and built. NOTE: While this can be something sewn, it must be different than your sewing samples. For example: accessories you've made or a sculpture.

High School Requirements:

THE PORTFOLIO:

- 1) **Five (5) fashion illustrations of figures and in color.** Include back views for at least two (2) of the designs.
- 2) **Three (3) costume design drawings in color.** Choose a play or musical, then design three costumes for either 3 different characters or three different costumes for the same character.
- 3) **Examples of your other visual art and design work.** This can include photographs, drawings or objects.
- 4) **Sewing sample.** Bring in two (2) or more completed garments you have sewn either by machine or by hand.
- 5) **Your current sketchbook.** This should show the exploration of your ideas through sketches, collage and experimenting with texture and color.

Instrumental Music

Live Auditions vary by instrument and middle & high school placement. See complete department details [here](#).

Literary Arts

Audition Overview & Portfolio Process

The audition panel seeks to assess the candidate's literary experience, skills, knowledge, and diligence. Please submit the following printed portfolio items in a binder (*NOT as email attachments*) **one week before the audition date**. Binders can be submitted to room 227a.

Middle School Audition Requirements

1. In a one-page letter introducing yourself to the Literary Arts faculty, address the following:
 - a. Tell us why you want to attend OSA, why you want to study and practice creative writing in a school setting.
 - b. What is your experience with creative writing?
 - c. What would you like to gain from a community of committed writers?
 - d. What do you feel you have to give?
2. Two poems of any style with very different subject matters.
3. One fictional story (or novel excerpt) of any length. It must have a narrative arc.
4. One monologue in the voice of someone or something that seems to be nothing like you (for example, a ninety-nine-year-old, a stray cat, a pencil).

High School Audition Requirements

1. One poem written in a traditional literary form: sestina, sonnet, etc. Please label what the form is at the top of the page or in the title.
2. One poem written in whatever style best represents your individual authorial voice: free verse, prose poetry, slam poetry, etc.
3. One piece of fiction: short story, flash fiction, novel, etc.
4. One piece of creative nonfiction: article, personal essay, book review, interview, etc.
5. Brief (half-page to one page) reflection on who you are as a writer and how you hope to fit into the OSA, Bay Area, and/or national literary communities.
6. Optional: other literary material of your choosing: CD featuring songs with lyrics you wrote, video of you performing/reading your work, etc.

Reminder- Printed portfolio **binder is due one week before the audition date**. Binders can be submitted to room 227a.

Media Arts

Middle & High School Requirements:

Application to the OSA Media Arts Pathway consists of a portfolio and interview. Detailed descriptions of both components are listed below.

THE PORTFOLIO

1. The portfolio must contain 5-10 artworks related to the field of Media Arts. This must include a variety of mediums, at least 3 different mediums from the list below. For example, you could share 3 photographs, a video, and a digital illustration. Another example could be a game level, an animation, and 4 examples of graphic design.

- Video
- Photography
- VFX / Compositing
- Animation
- Game Design
- Graphic Design
- Digital Illustration
- UI/UX, app or digital product design

2. A brief description of each piece submitted. This should include:

- The title of your artwork
- A few words describing your artwork and medium (how it was made)

Submit all portfolio materials to the Department Chair, Ryan Sin at rsin@oakarts.org.

THE INTERVIEW

The live portion of the audition process will be in an interview format. Applicants should be prepared to discuss the technical and conceptual aspects of the artwork submitted in their portfolio, and also be prepared to discuss a recent film or show they've watched, showing critical thinking about media making.

Production Design

Middle & High School Requirements:

THE PORTFOLIO

1. Three (3) figure drawings. (Do not draw from pictures but rather from real life observation).
2. Three (3) nature drawings. (Do not draw from pictures but rather from real life observation).
3. Three (3) still life drawings. (Do not draw from pictures but rather from real life observation).
4. Build a three dimensional (3-D) creative object (completely designed and built by the student). *If do you size or transportation, you cannot bring objects to OSA, photos are accepted.
5. A current sketchbook. We encourage you to include a variety of examples of your artwork.

The portfolio should be in digital format submitted electronically one week prior to the audition. Email link to enrollment@oakarts.org

THE INTERVIEW

A portion of the audition process will be in an interview. Applicants should be prepared to discuss the artwork submitted in their portfolio. Applicants will be asked to discuss a recent project (independent or collaborative) as well as share their interest and reason in joining the Production Design subpathway.

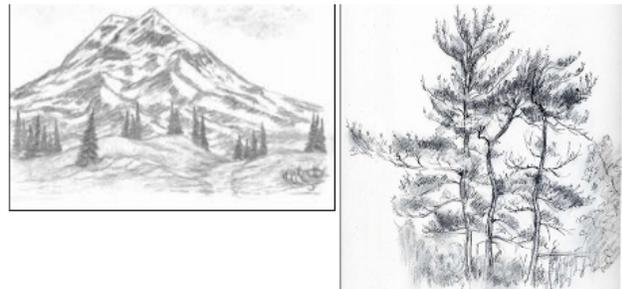
Examples from Student Portfolios

Drawings created by students after taking sketching classes. We do not necessarily expect students who audition to enter with this level of ability. Rather, your drawings and sketchbook provide us with insight on your current approach and skillset.

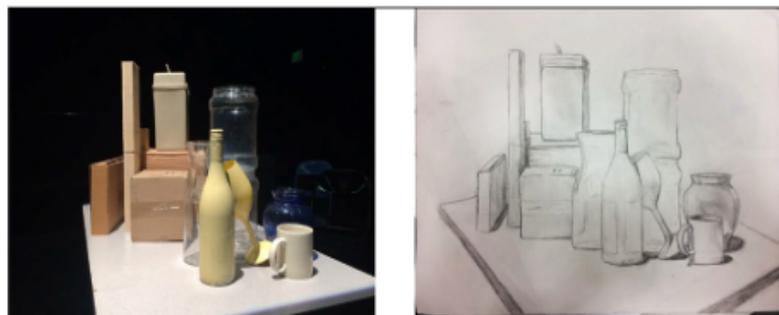


Figure Drawings
(Requirement #1)

Nature Drawings
(Requirement #2)



Still Life Drawings (Requirement #3)



Theatre

Middle & High School Requirements:

PERFORMANCE:

1. One Monologue: Prepare a 60-90 second monologue from a published play. The monologue can be in any style or genre, and should be memorized. **It is ideal if students can read the entire play so they can have a better understanding of the context of the monologue and the character's motivations.**

PLEASE NO MONOLOGUES FROM MOVIES OR TV SERIES

2. Slate/Introduction: Before students perform the monologue, please use the following slate to do a self-introduction and introduce the monologue:
 - a. a. "Hi, my name is (your full name), and I've prepared (character name) from (title of play) by (playwright).
3. If you are interested in Musical Theatre, Please prepare 16 bars of a song of any genre.

INTERVIEW:

In addition, students should prepare to talk about their process as well as discussing the pieces themselves.

Please prepare to answer questions about the monologue selection. The questions are meant to gauge the student's level of engagement with the monologue they chose.

- a. What about the monologue personally resonates with you?
- b. What does your character want in the monologue? What are they trying to achieve/communicate?
- c. Who is your character talking to? How does your character feel about them, and describe these feelings in detail. Be as specific as possible

Visual Arts

Middle & High School Requirements:

PORTFOLIO

Students are required to present a portfolio featuring a minimum of 10-12 artworks created within the last 2 years. Artworks may be in 2-Dimensional (flat), 3-Dimensional (sculpture or object), or Digital formats. While all types of submissions are encouraged, we recommend including pieces such as painting, drawing, landscape studies, and figure drawing. The artwork within your portfolio should be solely created by you and can be produced independently, at school, in an art camp, or under the guidance of a private instructor.

Among the 10-12 pieces, students must bring the following required pieces:

- 1) PLACE: Create an artwork about a place (inside, outside, nature, city, outer-space, etc.) The place can be made from observation (real life), from your imagination or from memory. It can be made in any medium.
- 2) THINGS: Create a still-life with three or more objects in it. This still-life drawing or painting may be done in any medium. It must be done from observation (real life - not photo). The objects you choose should relate to each other in some way or tell a story.
- 3) IDEA: Create an artwork about an idea (personal, political, social, or cultural). Please include a one-paragraph explanation about the idea you are trying to communicate through this artwork. The artwork can be in any medium.

SKETCHBOOK

Please bring all the sketchbooks you've used within the past two years. We are interested in observing both your completed work and the way you approach and develop ideas. If there are pages you don't want to share with us, you can always use a paperclip to hide them.

INTERVIEW

Your interview will be with 1-2 Visual Art Faculty and take 10 minutes. The interview is all about getting to know you as an artist. We want to hear about what gets you excited, what you're passionate about, and how you want to grow. Why do you want to be a part of Visual Art at OSA? Can you handle three hours of art every day?

The portfolio should be in digital format submitted electronically one week prior to the audition. Email link to enrollment@oakarts.org

Vocal Music

Middle & High School Requirements:

1. Prepare and perform an excerpt from a song.
 - a. The excerpt should be 1-2 minutes in length. The student will sing the song a capella (without accompaniment).
 - b. The song can be from any of the following genres of music: Jazz • Musical Theatre • Contemporary • Gospel/Spiritual

2. Be prepared to attempt sight reading for pitch and rhythm comparable to level 1 and level 2 on Sightreading Factory.com.

3. Be prepared to demonstrate pitch recognition. Proctor will play notes on the piano and ask the auditioner to sing them back.

4. Be prepared to engage in a short interview with the proctor(s).

Pathway Chair Information

For additional information about the requirements, email the pathway chair:

Kumar	Butler	Chair, Audio Production & Engineering	kbutler@oakarts.org
Heidi	Cregge-Cabra	Co-Chair, Media Arts	hcregge@oakarts.org
Amanda	Lacro	Director of Enrollment	alacro@oakarts.org
Andrew	Junge	Asst. Chair, Visual Arts	ajunge@oakarts.org
Jordan	Karnes	Chair, Literary Arts	jkarnes@oakarts.org
Stephanie	Verrieres	Chair, Fashion Design	sverrieres@oakarts.org
Rolando	Morales	Co-Chair, Theatre	rmorales@oakarts.org
Liam	O'Connor	Chair, Visual Arts	loconnor@oakarts.org
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Jean-Francois	Revon	Chair, Production Design	jfrevon@oakarts.org
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Questions about the process, email enrollment@oakarts.org