

# Applying to Schools as an Art Major



Hingham High School  
School Counseling Department

# Art School vs. College/University

If you are interested in taking your art to the next level or just enjoy art as a hobby, there are plenty of options to pursue your passion. From attending an art school to joining an art club, there are many different opportunities to continue doing what you love. Below are a few of the options for pursuing art after high school.

## Degrees

**Bachelor of Fine Arts (B.F.A)**- Degree typically earned at an art school (RISD, Massachusetts College of Art and Design). A BFA degree focuses on intensive work in the visual arts supported by a program of general studies

**Bachelor of Arts in Art (BA)**- Degree typically earned at a liberal arts school, focuses on art and design in the context of a broad program of general studies.

\*\*Art schools may require English and math courses, while most four-year college and universities will have additional requirements such as English, math, and science.

## Dual Degree Programs:

These programs offer visual art students the ability to earn both degrees, Bachelor of Fine Arts and Bachelor of Arts, and often take additional time to complete both degree requirements. They usually require acceptance by two separate institutions.

- School of the Museum of Fine Arts & Tufts University (BA or BS & BFA)
- Rhode Island School of Design and Brown University (BA & BFA)
- Parsons School of Design and Eugene Lang College (BFA & BA)
- Pacific Northwest College of Art and Reed College (BFA & BA)
- Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts and University of Pennsylvania (joint BFA program)

## Variety of Art Majors:

3D Design | Advertising | Airbrush | Animation | Apparel Design | Architecture | Art Administration | Art Criticism | Art Direction | Art Education | Art History | Art Therapy | Art-General | Blacksmithing | Book Arts | Calligraphy | Cartooning | Ceramics | Cinematography | Commercial Art | Computer-Aided Design (CAD) | Computer Art/Design | Crafts | Design | Desktop Publishing | Drafting | Drawing | Enameling | Environmental Design | Exhibit Design | Fashion Design | Fibers/Textiles/Weaving | Film/Video | Fine Arts | Floral Design | Footwear Design | Furniture Design | Game Design | Graphic Design | Illustration | Industrial Design | Interior Design | Jewelry | Landscape Design | Layout and Production | Lettering | Liberal Arts | Lighting | Marbling | Media Arts | Medical Illustration | Multimedia | Museum Studies | Painting | Photography | Printmaking | Product Design | Restoration | Sculpture | Stained Glass | Toy Design | Transportation Design | Website Design

**Regionally-accredited non-profit independent professional art and design colleges offering BFA degrees:**

- Alberta College of Art and Design
- Art Center College of Design
- The Art Institute of Boston
- California College of the Arts
- California Institute of the Arts
- Cleveland Institute of Art
- College for Creative Studies
- Columbus College of Art and Design
- Cooper Union
- Corcoran College of Art and Design
- Cornish College of the Arts
- Emily Carr University of Art and Design
- Fashion Institute of Technology
- Kansas City Art Institute
- Laguna College of Art and Design
- Lyme Academy College of Fine Arts
- Maine College of Art
- Maryland Institute College of Art
- Massachusetts College of Art and Design
- Memphis College of Art
- Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design
- Minneapolis College of Art and Design
- Montserrat College of Art
- Moore College of Art and Design
- New Hampshire Institute of Art
- Nova Scotia College of Art and Design University
- Ontario College of Art and Design
- Oregon College of Art & Craft
- Otis College of Art and Design
- Pacific Northwest College of Art
- Paris College of Art
- Parsons The New School for Design
- Pratt Institute
- Rhode Island School of Design
- Ringling College of Art and Design
- Rochester Institute of Technology
- San Francisco Art Institute
- Savannah College of Art and Design
- School of the Art Institute of Chicago
- School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

**Some colleges/universities to consider:**

- Virginia Commonwealth University
- Carnegie Mellon University
- Bard College
- Temple University
- University of Iowa
- University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth

To find an Accredited Institutional Members of the National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD), please visit:

[http://nasad.arts-accredit.org/index.jsp?page=List\\_Accredited\\_Members](http://nasad.arts-accredit.org/index.jsp?page=List_Accredited_Members)

**Portfolio**

Your portfolio represents you to a college as a potential student and young artist. Preparing your portfolio should be an exciting and thoughtful process that you engage in both in art classes in school and on your own at home. Most students will have completed 10 finished pieces for every one that is actually included in the final portfolio. Selecting what to include should not be a nerve-racking experience. Most art programs will want to see works that fall into three distinct categories: observational art, personal art or a home exam (RISD's "bicycle"). Some colleges will require a combination of two or three categories, and others will want to see only one category. Be sure to check the portfolio requirements at each school.

**National Portfolio Day**

National Portfolio Day is an event specifically for visual artists and designers. It is an opportunity for students who wish to pursue an education in the visual and related arts to meet with representatives from colleges to review your artwork, discuss their programs and answer questions about professional careers in art. High school students, parents, teachers, guidance counselors and college transfer students are encouraged to attend.

**For more information on National Portfolio Day and check location dates and times, please visit:**

<http://www.portfolioday.net/>

## **Tips for Applying to Art School**

- Research, research, research...
  - Online information
  - Talk to counselors, art teachers, local artists, alumni
  - Visit a variety of schools (universities and art schools)
- Work on independent projects
- Connect with art school students or alumni
- Try Art Pre-College Summer Program
- Schedule interviews
  - Interviews are a great way to showcase your work as well as your personality
- Keep track of applications, requirements, and deadlines
  - Use a chart or organizer
- Grades and SAT scores still matter.
  - Art schools want to know that their students are serious about education. Your transcript tells colleges what kind of student you'll be if you attend their school.
  - Grades and test scores also determine which students receive scholarships.