

## About NOCCA

As Louisiana's arts conservatory for high school students, New Orleans Center for Creative Arts (NOCCA) provides professional arts training to talented Louisiana students in Classical Instrumental Music, Classical Vocal Music, Creative Writing, Culinary Arts, Dance, Drama, Jazz, Media Arts, Musical Theatre, Theatre Design, Visual Arts, and Academics. Attendance options include full-day, half-day, and after school.

A successful NOCCA student is expected to maintain a professional level of commitment to training and progress. NOCCA's rules, procedures, and grading system mirror those of the professional arts world, so that students receive rewards and setbacks at NOCCA based on the same criteria they would face in an arts career.

NOCCA is tuition-free, but students are required to pay a Department Fee to cover supply costs. Financial assistance is available to cover some or all of the Department Fees, based on the student's needs.

## Program Eligibility

Students who are residents of Louisiana and currently attending a public, private, or parochial school, or homeschool program in the:

- 6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> grade may apply for Middle School Arts Instruction in Classical Instrumental Music, Dance, or Musical Theatre. Attendance in these programs is after school.
- 8<sup>th</sup> grade may apply for High School Arts Instruction in any arts discipline and the Academic Studio. Attendance in these programs may be full-day, half-day, or after school.
- 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> grade may apply for High School Arts Instruction in any arts discipline. Attendance in these programs may be half-day or after school.

## Application Requirements

1. You must be a resident of the state of Louisiana and enrolled in a middle or high school program (public, private, parochial, or state-approved homeschool).
2. You must have at least a 2.0 (C) overall grade point average from your present school.
3. Applicants may only apply for one arts discipline.
4. A complete application consists of Parts A, B, C, and D, as well as any other materials listed in the Audition Requirements section under the arts discipline for which you are applying.
5. A complete application must be received before the application deadline in order for you to be considered for an audition. Paper applications can be submitted in person or by mail. **Faxed applications will not be accepted.**
6. Once your complete application is received and you are deemed eligible, you will be scheduled for an audition. Cancelled or missed auditions will not be rescheduled.

## Frequently Asked Questions

**I know that my audition date and time will be scheduled by NOCCA on one of the three audition dates posted. What do I do if I know I have an unavoidable conflict on one of those dates?** If you have a previously scheduled event on one of the three audition dates posted that would be very difficult to change, you may include a letter with your application requesting that we not schedule you on that date.

**May I submit parts of my application at different times?** It is strongly advised that you submit all parts of your application together. NOCCA is not responsible for lost or missing application materials.

**Are only 8<sup>th</sup> grade students eligible to apply for Academic Studio?** Yes. Students must enter the Academic Studio as freshman; therefore they must apply during their 8<sup>th</sup> grade year. The Part A: Academic Studio portion of the application is to be used only by 8<sup>th</sup> grade students who are interested in being considered for the Academic Studio. If you are not an 8<sup>th</sup> grade student interested in the Academic Studio, you do not need to complete this portion of the application.

**How will I be notified that my application has been received?** If you submit your complete application by the deadline and you meet the minimum requirements, you will receive a notification of your audition date and time.

**How many arts disciplines can a student audition for?** Because of the intensity of the application and audition process, NOCCA requires that students apply for one arts discipline. NOCCA recommends that families attend Open Studio Day and Audition Information Sessions to help them decide which arts discipline their student is most passionate about.

**How will I know if I am accepted to NOCCA?** You will be notified by mail of your admission status approximately 3-4 weeks after the last audition date. Admission status information will not be provided by phone. Registration packets will be sent in the summer, but you should start preparing for registration upon receipt of the acceptance letter by discussing attendance options with your academic school.

**What Partner School should a student attend to be able to also attend NOCCA?** NOCCA asks parents and students to discuss scheduling options with their academic schools once they have been admitted to NOCCA. NOCCA offers a wide range of attendance options to accommodate various partner school schedules, but we cannot guarantee that an academic school will allow a student to attend NOCCA. We do not encourage parents and students to consider changing schools in order to accommodate NOCCA attendance.

# Audition Requirements

## Classical Instrumental Music

Students currently in 6<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> grades may apply.

**At the audition:** Students will need to prepare to perform two contrasting pieces from memory, such as a movement of a sonata, sonatina, concerto, or etude, and demonstrate skills in major/minor scales and sight reading music. “Contrasting” refers to two different time periods (i.e. Baroque, Classical, Romantic, Impressionistic, Contemporary). In order to show different types of skills (technical, musical, etc.), students may choose one fast piece and one slow piece, but that is not a requirement. Students should not play two pieces by the same composer or two movements of the same piece.

## Classical Vocal Music

Students currently in 8<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> grades may apply.

**At the audition:** (1) Demonstrate a singing voice with professional potential in classical music by singing one prepared and memorized song from *24 Italian Songs and Arias of the 17th and 18th Centuries* (G. Schirmer), such as “Caro Mio Ben,” “Sebben Crudele,” or any other song in that book, or one of these two English songs: “Danny Boy,” or “Drink to Me Only with Thine Eyes.” **No other songs or unaccompanied singing will be accepted.** (2) Bring the appropriate sheet music with you to your audition in the correct key for your voice type to give to the accompanist provided at the audition. Most of this music may be downloaded from our website in several different keys, so that you may determine which key is most comfortable for you to sing in. **If you do not have your music with you, you will not be allowed to sing at the audition.** (3) Demonstrate your ability to match pitches and melody patterns played for you on the piano, repeat clapped rhythms, and sing a major scale in tune on either syllables or numbers. (4) Be able to discuss your grades and express a strong desire to explore Classical Vocal Music. (5) Pass a test in elemental music theory. (6) Perform basic sight-reading skills and be able to read and perform with accuracy basic rhythmic and melodic sequences involving stepwise motion and simple beat patterns. An example of this may be downloaded from our website.

## Creative Writing

Students currently in 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> grades may apply.

Because of the academic nature of the creative writing program, successful students usually have high reading scores on standardized tests (85<sup>th</sup> percentile or above), high grade point averages (3.0 or above), and demonstrate superior reading comprehension.

**Include with your completed application:** (1) An original work of creative writing. This can be a poem or short story that you have spent time revising, and that you consider to be an example of your best work. (2) A list of books you have read over the past three months.

**The list should include the title and author of each book.** (3) A creative work (poem or short story) that describes what you see outside a window in your house. Please include sensory

details (how things look, smell, taste, sound, or feel) and at least one simile or metaphor. Limit: 10 lines of poetry or 100 words of fiction. (4) An essay discussing a poem, short story or novel you read that influenced you as a writer. Please tell us how this work/author changed the way you think about writing, and use quotes and examples from the text to support your ideas. The essay should be between 300 and 500 words.

All writing submissions should be typed using a standard 12-point font and black ink. Please proofread your submissions to ensure that they are free from grammatical and spelling errors. Selected students will be asked to advance to the Audition Process.

**At the audition:** (1) Students invited to audition must bring an additional writing portfolio consisting of at least 10 typed pages of original creative writing (poetry or short fiction). At the audition, students should demonstrate a strong desire to read and write, and a willingness to do more than the work required. (2) Students may be asked to write a short piece assigned by the instructor and/or read aloud and discuss a published poem or story excerpt. (3) All students invited to audition should be prepared for a one-on-one interview with a faculty member. Consider these questions prior to your audition date: Why do you want to study writing? Are you willing to spend many hours outside of class on your reading and writing? What do you need to know about NOCCA and the writing program in order to determine if it's the right fit for you?

## **Culinary Arts**

**Students currently in 8<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> grades may apply.**

**At the audition:** (1) You will be scheduled for an interview with the chef instructor who will ask you a series of questions about your experiences, expertise, and commitment. Prepare to discuss your interest in culinary arts, what or who inspires you, and any experience or training. A second interview may be required. (2) Be prepared to be involved in an individual or group practical exam which may include, but not be limited to, weights and measures, conversions, basic knowledge of leading/mother sauces, stock making. (3) Be prepared to get creative and provide menu or product ideas for thematic events.

## **Dance**

**Students currently in 6<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> grades may apply.**

**At the audition:** (1) You will be assessed on your acquired skills in all areas of dance and personal fitness for dance. You must demonstrate knowledge of dance terminology in ballet, modern, and jazz. (2) Come dressed in dance clothes (girls: black leotards, pink tights; boys: black tights, white T-shirt). You must bring ballet and jazz shoes. NO JAZZ SNEAKERS. Hair should be pulled back and away from the face. Those not appropriately dressed or arriving late will not be allowed to audition. No jewelry can be worn into the audition. (3) You will take a class in ballet, jazz, and modern. The class will start with a ballet barre followed by center and adagio, a quick jazz warm-up followed by traveling combinations and a center combination, and then a modern class with traveling and a center variation. You will be judged upon your demonstration of the following skills: mental ability, energy level within the classes, flexibility of back, legs, feet and foot articulation, musicality and phrasing, rhythmic accuracy, quick recall of combinations, presence and

carriage, and ability to perform given combinations with confidence. Do not prepare choreography for this audition. You will take instructions from NOCCA dance faculty. (5) You will be interviewed by a member of the Dance faculty.

## **Drama**

**Students currently in 8<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> grades may apply.**

**Include with your completed application:** A written or typed resume or list of your training and experiences in performance/acting.

**At the audition:** (1) You will be asked to participate in movement and vocal exercises (appropriate dress required, such as gym shoes, gym clothes, and tights). (2) Perform a memorized monologue selection provided by the Theatre Department (visit [www.nocca.com](http://www.nocca.com) for the list of acceptable choices/NO ORIGINAL SPEECHES OR POEMS) and be familiar with the play from which the monologue was taken. (3) Respond spontaneously in directed improvisational exercises. (4) Read an unfamiliar text out loud with clarity of speech and understanding of meaning. (5) Read Tennessee Williams' *Glass Menagerie*. You will be asked to take a short test and provide a synopsis on the play.

## **Jazz Instrumental Music**

**Students currently in 8<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> grades may apply.**

It is strongly recommended that all students first attend the NOCCA Jazz Audition Information Session before attempting the official NOCCA Jazz audition. Students who audition for NOCCA are expected to be able to perform ALL audition requirements. Students should have been taking PRIVATE MUSIC LESSONS for at least ONE FULL YEAR with a QUALIFIED jazz instructor to have the necessary skills required to pass the NOCCA audition.

**At the audition:** (1) Play the melody and improvise with the blues scale over a basic 12-bar blues form. Pianists and guitarists should know some basic jazz chord voicings. Students may choose one of following blues tunes or another similar blues tune: St. Louis Blues (F Blues), Tenor Madness (Bb), Blue Monk (Bb), Second Line (Bb Blues), Sonny Moon for Two (Bb Blues), Now's the Time (F Blues), etc. Students may prepare a more advanced jazz tune if they wish, but at the very least they must be able to improvise over the basic 12-bar blues form. (2) Play and spell major scales, minor scales, (preferably dorian), and dominant 7th scales (preferably mixolydian) EVENLY and ACCURATELY with PROPER FINGERINGS in keys up to 3 flats and 3 sharps (C, F, Bb, Eb, G, D, A). (3) Play ARPEGGIOS for major, minor (preferably dorian), and dominant 7th chords EVENLY and ACCURATELY with PROPER FINGERINGS in keys up to 3 sharps and 3 flats (C, F, Bb, Eb, G, D, A). (4) Students should have solid knowledge of key signatures, music theory, and basic diatonic intervals for keys up to 3 sharps and 3 flats (C, F, Bb, Eb, G, D, A) notes in BOTH clefs. (5) Students should have the ability to sight-read a simple melody accurately with correct rhythm and intonation. (All students, all instruments.) Tab reading is NOT accepted. (6) Know how to sight-read and play basic rhythm patterns accurately (basic 8<sup>th</sup> note and simple 16<sup>th</sup> note patterns, including basic time signatures). (7) Be able to match pitches and short melodic patterns by ear (from the piano or CD) and play them back on your instrument accurately and relatively quickly.

Drummers must also be responsible for all of the above requirements and will be asked to play scales and find notes on the piano by ear. It is strongly recommended that drummers have some experience playing the piano or some other melodic instrument. All students at NOCCA study music theory and drummers must be able to fulfill these requirements at the same level as every other student. Drummers who cannot fulfill these minimum requirements at the audition will not be admitted into the program.

## **Media Arts**

**Students currently in 8<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> grades may apply.**

**At the audition:** (1) Present a portfolio of your work in film, video, audio recording, motion graphics or animation. Include a short statement that describes the work: Did you do this for a class project? What did you intend? What equipment did you use? If the work is a collaboration, state exactly what role you served in the production. Specifically describe your creative role. If you do not have portfolio material as described above you can submit one of the following:

- A storyboard with text and visual instructions for a short film, video, or animation. Simple sketches are sufficient.
- A series of photographs that tell a story (at least 15).
- A detailed critique of the sound/music and visual elements of a feature film or television production that discusses the atmosphere, emotional content, and overall effect of these elements.
- A short screenplay (no more than 10 pages).

(2) Be prepared to answer a series of questions about your portfolio, expertise, favorite film, video or television production, music album, or animation. (Avoid discussing your personal likes and dislikes. Describe the work's content, effectiveness and how the director achieved it.) (3) You will be shown a short film and will write a critique of the film and sound elements.

## **Musical Theatre**

**Students currently in 6<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> grades may apply.**

**Include with your completed application:** A written or typed resume or list of your training and experiences in performance/acting.

**At the audition:** (1) Perform 1 side of your choosing from the downloadable list taken from the musical "Oklahoma!" An Audition Reader will be present to read your scene partner's lines. While being off-book or having the material memorized is not required, it is strongly suggested that you have a firm understanding of the text and of the world of the play.

**MALES:** Choose either Curly or Will Parker. **FEMALES:** Choose either Laurey or Ado Annie. In addition to performing the side at the audition, applicants should be prepared to discuss the play, the character they chose, and the context of the side. (2) Perform from memory one song (a musical theatre standard of your choice). A pianist will accompany you at the audition. Be prepared to discuss the plot of the musical from which the song is taken and

the situation of the character. YOU MUST BRING WITH YOU SHEET MUSIC WITH PIANO ACCOMPANIMENT IN THE CORRECT KEY. (3) You will perform vocal exercises taught at the audition that demonstrate your understanding of pitch and rhythm. (4) You will be taught a Musical Theatre style dance by a NOCCA faculty member to be performed to the best of your ability. Wear clothing that allows you to move.

## **Theatre Design**

**Students currently in 8<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> grades may apply.**

**Include with your completed application:** A written or typed resume or list of your training and experiences in theatre tech, performances, backstage work and/or Theatre Design.

**At the audition:** Submit a sample of work (portfolio) in Theatre Design and technical crew work (design renderings, paperwork, photos of completed designs, crew sheets, or program credits). Please be specific and give exact descriptions of the actual work completed by labeling the named examples. You may submit an example of a practice design of sets, costumes and/or lighting for a generally recognized play, such as a classic Greek tragedy, Broadway musical, or opera. Potential students do not need to be visual artists; simple sketches are sufficient.

## **Visual Arts**

**Students currently in 8<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> grades may apply.**

**Include with your completed application:** (1) One technical drawing drawn directly from observation. Its subject matter can be either: A) A pair of tennis shoes/boots; or B) an arrangement of kitchen tools/utensils. (2) One personal expression drawing, which can be your choice of subject matter.

Both drawings should be drawn in pencil on 8 1/2 by 11" white paper. In both drawings, be sure to use the entire page, consider composition, and use full range of value. Drawings submitted with the application will not be returned. Selected students will be asked to advance to the Portfolio Review.

**Portfolio Review:** Selected students will be asked to present a portfolio of carefully chosen examples of work. Portfolios will be due prior to the student's scheduled audition day and time. Students will be notified of a portfolio drop-off day at NOCCA. Students should submit outstanding original work that demonstrates commitment and investment with an emphasis on work from direct observation. Consider quality before quantity; 10-15 pieces are typical. Include a variety of media, including work in color. All work should fit into a large portfolio case or envelope with your name, address and phone number labeled on the outside. **Do not submit framed pieces.** Sculptural work and works on canvas may be included but should be represented by a photograph or a digital print. Do not send the actual sculptural work or canvas. Portfolios will be returned to students at the end of the audition. Any portfolios remaining after auditions have ended cannot be stored and will be discarded.

**At the Audition:** (1) You will be required to produce a drawing from observation during the audition. (2) Faculty members will talk with you while reviewing your portfolio, drawings and reading ability, and evaluating academic strengths.