

# 2023-24 AUDITION REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL DISCIPLINES

## About NOCCA

**Thank you for your interest in New Orleans Center for Creative Arts!**

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, Entertainment Production & Design, Jazz, Media Arts, Musical Theatre, Visual Arts, and Academics. Attendance may be full-day or half-day.

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 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. Assistance may be available to help pay for such fees, based on the student's needs.

## Program Eligibility

Students must be residents of Louisiana and attending a public, private, or parochial school, or homeschool program at the time of enrollment.

Current 6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> grade may apply for Middle School Arts Instruction in Classical Instrumental Music or Dance.

Current 8<sup>th</sup> grade may apply for High School Arts Instruction in any arts discipline and the full-day program, Academic Studio. Attendance in these programs may be full-day or half-day.

Current 8<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> grade may apply for High School Arts Instruction.

Pending results of the audition, attendance in these programs may be half-day or after school.

## Application Requirements

1. Applicants will submit a 1-2 minute video of themselves answering the question, "Why do I want to train at NOCCA?"
2. Applicants must have at least a 2.0 (C) overall grade point average from their present school.
3. Applicants will provide the name and email address of one recommender.
4. Applicants may apply for only one arts discipline.
5. A complete online application must be received before the application deadline in order to be considered for an audition.

## Auditions

Eligible applicants with complete applications may be invited for an audition on the NOCCA campus. Missed auditions will not be rescheduled.

## Audition Requirements for ALL Disciplines

### **Classical Instrumental Music**

*Students currently in 6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> grades may apply for Middle School Arts Instruction.*

*Students currently in 8<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> grades may apply for High School Arts Instruction.*

The **Classical Instrumental** program offers extensive pre-professional training to intermediate and advanced instrumental students in Piano, Strings, Brass, Winds, and Guitar. Instruction will focus on areas such as exploration of the standard repertoire, chamber music, theory, musicianship/ear training, as well as scales, etudes, and accompaniment.

It is strongly recommended that all students first attend the NOCCA Classical Instrumental Audition Information Session before attempting the official NOCCA Classical Instrumental Audition. In order to have the necessary skills required to pass the NOCCA audition, students should have been taking individual music instrumental lessons (one-on-one) for at least one full year with a professional and qualified classical instructor that is a specialist for their instrument.

#### **Video Audition (Pre-Screening Round)**

**Video Recording Requirements:** For the first, pre-screening round of the audition any student applying for any instrument will need to submit a continuous unedited performance video. Videos must not be filmed more than two weeks prior to submission. Video recordings must be unedited and continuous (may not be cut or paused between each repertoire selection and the scales). Videos taken by cell phones and other non-professional video devices are acceptable. Selected students will be invited to the Live In-Person Audition Round at NOCCA.

**Repertoire Requirements:** Any applicant applying for any instrument will need to submit (1) two \*contrasting pieces, such as a movement of a Sonata, Sonatina, Concerto, Two-part Invention, Etude, Characteristic Piece, etc., and (2) two major or minor scales. It is recommended that the audition pieces best demonstrate the student's ability to play in both technical and lyrical styles. Scales for all instruments must be performed from memory. Please see below for specific requirements concerning each instrument/area.

\*"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 and one slow piece, but that is not a requirement and what is meant with "contrasting." Students should not play two pieces by the same composer or two movements of the same piece.

#### **Instruments:**

**Classical Piano:** Perform (1) two contrasting pieces (see definition of contrasting above) from memory that best demonstrate student's good sound, technique, sense of rhythm, expression, and overall musicality; and (2) two scales of their own choosing and be able to perform them in a speed that is allowing the student to demonstrate evenness, good articulation, and correct fingering. It is highly recommended (but not mandatory) that the student is able to perform the scales in two to four octaves and hands together. Students should record all the required materials on a piano (preferably acoustic, electric/digital is acceptable if needed). The video must be filmed with both the pianist's face and hands in the frame at all times.

Classical Strings (Violin, Viola, Cello, Double Bass): Perform (1) two contrasting pieces from memory; and (2) two scales of their own choosing. High School applicants are recommended that the scales are performed in three octaves for Violin, Viola and Cello and in two octaves for Bass, and include one major and one melodic minor scale.

Classical Guitar: Classical Guitar applicants will need to (1) demonstrate proper sitting position with a footstool showcasing good posture and left and right-hand position and function of the fingers as referenced in Pumping Nylon by Scott Tennant. (2) Perform two contrasting pieces from memory (see definition of contrasting above), such as a movement of a Sonata, Sonatina, Concerto, stand-alone piece, or Etude that demonstrate good sound technique, good sense of rhythm, expression, and overall musicality. (3) Demonstrate two-octave major scales (Segovia C-major moveable pattern) from 1st to 7th position and a first position chromatic scale on all six strings—alternation of index and middle fingers from the big knuckle should be evident.

Classical Woodwinds (Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Bassoon, Saxophone), and Classical Brass (French Horn, Trumpet, Trombone, Euphonium, Tuba): Students will need to prepare to perform (1) two contrasting pieces (see definition of contrasting above). Selected works may be chosen from standard works for the instrument (individual movements from a Concerto, Sonata, Etude or other solo work). Selections cannot be excerpts or individual parts from band or orchestra works. Audition pieces should best demonstrate the student's ability to play in both technical and lyrical styles. It is recommended (but not mandatory) that at least one of the selected pieces is performed from memory. (2) In addition, applicants must prepare two major scales of their own choosing (one or two octaves). Scales must be performed from memory. (3) Applicants should demonstrate proper posture and hand position for their instrument.

Selected applicants from the first Video Pre-Screening Round will be invited to the second In-Person Audition Round at NOCCA.

### **In-Person Audition Round at NOCCA (by invitation only)**

Students will be asked to perform live, in front of the Classical Instrumental faculty, both of the pieces they have submitted for the first (Video Pre-Screening) round, and to perform scales and demonstrate skills in sight-reading music. Students should be able to discuss their grades and express a strong self-drive and motivation to advance in their art form. Students may also be given a written test in elemental music theory, so that they are placed at the most suitable theory level should they be accepted at the Classical Instrumental Program at NOCCA.

### **In addition to individual department requirements, all applicants will:**

- Upload to the application a **1-2 minute video** of the applicant answering the question, "Why do I want to train at NOCCA?"
- Upload to the application a copy of the **most recent report card**. Applicants must have at least a 2.0 GPA.
- Be prepared with the **email of an adult** who is not related to you to complete your **recommendation**. Your recommender will receive an email from Acceptd with a link to fill out a recommendation form online.

## **Classical Vocal Music**

*Students currently in 8<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> grades may apply for High School Arts Instruction.*

The **NOCCA Classical Vocal Music Department** accepts talented students who have an aptitude and interest in pursuing classical vocal music. The Vocal Music Curriculum is designed to develop the

student's vocal technique, performance skills, and musicianship. Classes include Voice Class (vocal technique and repertoire), Music Theory, Musicianship (ear training and sight singing), Piano Class, Opera Workshop and Choral Ensemble.

**At the live in-person audition, which will take approximately 10-15 minutes, you will be asked to:**

- Demonstrate a singing voice with potential in classical music by singing **one** prepared and memorized song from the following list:
  - Any Italian art song from the 24 Italian Art song book (G. Shirmer). We recommend Caro mio ben or Sebben crudele for beginning students.
  - One of these songs: "Danny Boy," "Drink to Me Only with Thine Eyes"
  - Two verses of a hymn
  - A traditional spiritual

No other song genres are permitted. Some of these songs are linked below for download. Please bring the sheet music in your key for our accompanist to play for you at your audition. You must sing with our piano accompanist- no a capella singing, please. Please dress appropriately for an audition (in nice clothes) and memorize your audition piece.

- Demonstrate the ability to match pitches and melodies that will be played for you on the piano.
- Repeat clapped rhythms (example available in link below).
- Sing a major scale ascending and descending.
- Be able to discuss with the Vocal Music faculty your grades and your desire to explore Classical Vocal Music.
- Demonstrate basic music sight-reading skills involving simple rhythmic and melodic sequences (An example of the sight singing may be downloaded from the link below)
- Answer basic music theory questions.
- Read aloud a short poem in English that will be given to you at the audition.

[click here for clapped rhythm and sight singing examples](#) and [click here for song examples](#).

**In addition to individual department requirements, all applicants will:**

- Upload to the application a **1-2 minute video** of the applicant answering the question, "Why do I want to train at NOCCA?"
- Upload to the application a copy of the **most recent report card**. Applicants must have at least a 2.0 GPA.
- Be prepared with the **email of an adult** who is not related to you to complete your **recommendation**. Your recommender will receive an email from Accepted with a link to fill out a recommendation form online.

## **Creative Writing**

*Students currently in 8<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> grades may apply for High School Arts Instruction.*

The Creative Writing program is looking for curious, imaginative students who love language and are willing to work hard to develop their craft and grow as an artist. We study a variety of literature in many genres to explore the possibilities of literary expression and to make connections to our current moment as writers. Students are encouraged to develop their own voice and vision through reading, writing, discussion and critique, while supporting fellow writers in their own endeavours.

**Include with your completed application (First round pre-screen):**

1. An original work of creative writing. This can be a poem, short story, or work of creative nonfiction that you have spent time revising and 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 (in italics) and author (first and last name) of each book. Your list should reflect your interests and also how you've challenged yourself as a reader. If you need reading recommendations, teachers and librarians are excellent resources.
3. A writing sample (poem, short story, or creative nonfiction) that describes what you see outside a window in your home. 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 prose (fiction/non-fiction).
4. An essay discussing a poem, short story or book you read that influenced you as a writer. Please tell us how this work/author changed the way you think about writing. 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.

Selected applicants from the first Pre-Screening Round will be invited to the second In-Person Audition Round at NOCCA.

**At the audition (Second round by invitation only):**

- Students invited to audition must bring an additional writing portfolio consisting of at least 10 typed pages of original creative writing (poetry, short fiction, or creative nonfiction) and an updated list of recently read books.
- Students may be asked to write a short piece assigned by the instructor and will be asked to read aloud and discuss a published poem or story excerpt.
- All students invited to an 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? Successful students demonstrate a strong desire to read and write as well as a willingness to do more than the work required.
- Students may also be asked to attend a creative writing class.

**In addition to individual department requirements, all applicants will:**

- Upload to the application a **1-2 minute video** of the applicant answering the question, "Why do I want to train at NOCCA?"
- Upload to the application a copy of the **most recent report card**. Applicants must have at least a 2.0 GPA.
- Be prepared with the **email of an adult** who is not related to you to complete your **recommendation**. Your recommender will receive an email from Acceptd with a link to fill out a recommendation form online.

## **Culinary Arts**

*Students currently in 8<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> grades may apply for High School Arts Instruction.*

The **Culinary Arts Department** offers a four-year course of study for talented and disciplined students who aspire to be chefs and/or foresee a career within the broad scope of culinary. NOCCA's Culinary

Arts program, developed in collaboration with the Emeril Lagasse Foundation, features the first of its kind curriculum for high school students. In classes concentrating on hands-on training and technique, students are provided the opportunity to work side by side with industry leading chefs who serve as professional mentors while delivering all aspects of curriculum. Students are treated like young professionals and held to high expectations in basic cooking techniques, uniform standards, sanitation and growth of skill set.

**Include with your completed application:**

1. An essay explaining what culinary means to you, including your relationship with food and how culinary affects your daily life.
2. A short video (2 mins max) of you cooking and explaining your favorite dish.
3. A short video (1 min max) of you demonstrating your knife skills. [Knife Skills Demo](#)

**During the audition:**

1. You will be interviewed by one or more of the chef instructors 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 discussion which may include, but not be limited to, weights and measures, recipe conversions, product identification, and basic knowledge of cooking techniques. [Weights and Measurements](#)
3. Be prepared to get creative and provide menu or product ideas for thematic events.

[Watch This Fun Video About Applying to Culinary Arts!](#)

**In addition to individual department requirements, all applicants will:**

- Upload to the application a **1-2 minute video** of the applicant answering the question, "Why do I want to train at NOCCA?"
- Upload to the application a copy of the **most recent report card**. Applicants must have at least a 2.0 GPA.
- Be prepared with the **email of an adult** who is not related to you to complete your **recommendation**. Your recommender will receive an email from Acceptd with a link to fill out a recommendation form online.

## **Dance**

*Students currently in 6-7th grades may apply for Middle School Arts Instruction.*

*Students currently in 8-11th grades may apply for High School Arts Instruction.*

It is the mission of the **Dance Department** at NOCCA to provide a complete and comprehensive dance education experience in a nurturing and disciplined environment to all of our students. We use dance as a foundational vehicle to integrate physical, intellectual, and emotional capacities and as a catalyst for the development of students' self-discipline, integrity, responsibility, aesthetic awareness, and creative problem solving. Our ultimate goal is to develop and mentor fine young citizens who will complete their artistic requirements for completion of this program, leaving them prepared for their future endeavors.

The NOCCA Dance Program maintains a supportive, rigorous and challenging dance atmosphere that

prepares students for the requirements of today's professional dance world. Students receive technical dance training grounded in Classical Ballet, Modern (Horton Technique), Jazz, Tap, Contemporary, Hip-Hop and African Diasporic Dance, with supplemental instruction in Dance Conditioning, Nutrition for Dancers, Dance Anatomy, Dance History, Dance Improvisation, Composition, Master Classes, and Student Choreography Projects. Additional training is provided through our visiting Artist in Residence program, which gives students the opportunity to work closely with world renowned choreographers and performers. Our curriculum reflects the quality of intense training and artistic development that any young aspiring dancer will need to succeed at the college level, and in the professional dance world. Utilizing the artist-teacher instructional concept students have the advantage of learning, knowing and experiencing dance as an artistic form.

NOCCA Dance has the following levels of instruction: Middle School, Intro, and Levels I-IV. Some high school students may be accepted into the Intro program. Through the Intro Program we offer 9th and 10th grade students, who exhibit potential and have a strong desire to participate in the NOCCA High school dance program, the opportunity to train intensively and prepare to audition for the leveled high school program the following year.

### **With your completed application:**

Film yourself answering the following interview questions related to your goals and your vision for your future in dance:

1. What style of dance are you strongest in? (ex. ballet, hip hop, jazz, etc)
2. Describe your interest in dance, and what role you see dance having in your future post high school.
3. Describe an experience that reflects your passion for dance.
4. Describe a specific instance when you received a personal correction in dance class.
  - a. How did it make you feel when you received the critique?
  - b. What was the correction?
  - c. How did you apply the correction at that specific moment?
  - d. Were you able to maintain the adjustment, or did you receive the same correction the next time you came to class?

While filming, ensure the lighting in your room is bright enough so we can see you. Set up your device so that your body from the waist up is in full view of the camera. This recording must be submitted with the application.

### **Prepare for the audition:**

- Come dressed in dance clothes.
  - Females
    - Modern, Improvisation - Black leotard, black convertible tights
    - Jazz - Black leotard, black convertible tights, jazz shoes, (NO JAZZ SNEAKERS)
    - Tap - Black leotard, black convertible tights, black oxford style (lace up) tap shoes, (tap shoes will be provided if a student does not have access to them)
    - Ballet - Black leotard, pink tights with pink ballet shoes or flesh tone tights with flesh tone ballet shoes
  - Males
    - All Disciplines - black tights, white T-shirt, ballet, jazz and tap shoes (tap shoes may be provided to students that do not have access to them, or jazz shoes will be allowed)

- Hair should be pulled back away from the face and secured tightly in a puff or a bun (or as close to a puff or a bun as possible). No jewelry can be worn and nails must be trimmed to the edges of the fingertips.
- Those not appropriately dressed or arriving late will need to politely ask permission to join the audition.

**The audition:**

- Live Classes: You will take abbreviated dance classes in ballet, modern, jazz and tap technique with an opportunity to showcase your best movement qualities through improvisation.
- Assessment: You will be assessed on 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; and your overall passion for dance.

Do not prepare choreography for this audition. You will take instruction from the NOCCA dance faculty.

**In addition to individual department requirements, all applicants will:**

- Upload to the application a **1-2 minute video** of the applicant answering the question, "Why do I want to train at NOCCA?"
- Upload to the application a copy of the **most recent report card**. Applicants must have at least a 2.0 GPA.
- Be prepared with the **email of an adult** who is not related to you to complete your **recommendation**. Your recommender will receive an email from Acceptd with a link to fill out a recommendation form online.

**Drama**

*Students currently in 8<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> grades may apply for High School Arts Instruction.*

The **Drama Division** seeks to assist young theater students in discovering who they are as an artist. Through rigorous training, we hope to prepare them for conservatory-style college programs and for a career in theater. Our program gives students the opportunity to study acting in depth - not only through traditional scene study and the performance of monologues, but through Movement training modalities such as Suzuki Training, Commedia, Le Coq, mask work and Viewpoints. They will receive foundational training in vocal technique for the stage and explore improvisational work in order to build listening skills, spontaneity and an understanding of comedy. Students will also have the ability to pursue theatrical interests beyond acting through courses in playwriting, directing and devising for the theater. We hope to instill in young artists the importance of collaboration in an ensemble and the ability to improve their work through the application of notes from constructive critique. We hope our students will leave NOCCA with a sense of where they fit in the world of theater, an ability to make the most of future training, and most importantly, that they will bring willingness, courage and open-mindedness into their future careers.

**Include with your completed application:**

A written or typed list of your training and experiences in performance/acting (a resume works too.)

**At the audition:**

1. You will be asked to participate in exercises that will require some movement. Please wear clothes and shoes that will allow you to move safely and freely.
2. Respond spontaneously in directed improvisational exercises.
3. We will show a clip of a play during the audition and ask you to discuss the clip with the group.
4. Perform a memorized monologue selection provided by the Drama Department (see below for the list of acceptable choices/NO ORIGINAL SPEECHES OR POEMS) and be familiar with the play from which the monologue was taken.
5. You may be asked to participate in an individual interview if the faculty needs further clarification concerning your application to NOCCA.

[Link to Monologues](#)

**In addition to individual department requirements, all applicants will:**

- Upload to the application a **1-2 minute video** of the applicant answering the question, "Why do I want to train at NOCCA?"
- Upload to the application a copy of the **most recent report card**. Applicants must have at least a 2.0 GPA.
- Be prepared with the **email of an adult** who is not related to you to complete your **recommendation**. Your recommender will receive an email from Acceptd with a link to fill out a recommendation form online.

## **Entertainment Production & Design**

*Students currently in 8<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> grades may apply for High School Arts Instruction.*

The **Entertainment Production & Design Department** is created for students who wish to become theatrical designers and stage technicians. Students learn by doing, through hands-on instruction in stage lighting, sound design, costuming, make-up, hair, set construction and stage management. Entertainment Production & Design students provide resources and support to NOCCA student productions in all the performance arts.

**Include with your completed application:**

- A resume or a list of your training and experiences in production and design, performance, and any backstage or theatre crew work.
- A one to two-page essay describing your interests in production and design and why you would like to be a part of NOCCA's Entertainment Production & Design Department.
- Digitally upload 10-15 samples of your design work, which could include set design sketches, set models, fashion designs, theatrical paperwork, or make-up/hair designs. This can also include any production photos of completed theatrical design work. Potential students do not need to be visual artists. However, we require that you upload an additional 5 images of your art projects that might have used different mediums and might not be related directly to theatre design. Some examples are photography, pottery, sewing, and painting.
  - Make sure all examples are labeled and be prepared to discuss your work during the interview process. We strongly recommend that you submit an example of a practice design of set and/or costumes for a generally recognized play, musical, ballet or opera.

**At the audition:**

Be prepared to discuss your design work that you submitted with your application.

**In addition to individual department requirements, all applicants will:**

- Upload to the application a **1-2 minute video** of the applicant answering the question, "Why do I want to train at NOCCA?"
- Upload to the application a copy of the **most recent report card**. Applicants must have at least a 2.0 GPA.
- Be prepared with the **email of an adult** who is not related to you to complete your **recommendation**. Your recommender will receive an email from Acceptd with a link to fill out a recommendation form online.

## **Jazz Instrumental Music**

*Students currently in 8<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> grades may apply for High School Arts Instruction.*

The **Jazz Instrumental Music Department** is designed to create not only a proficient Jazz performer, but a well-educated and literate musician. Students are taught scales, chords, and fundamental stylistic elements of various periods of Jazz through specific repertoire of Jazz literature. Students are expected to memorize a minimum of four songs with solo transcriptions each semester and perform these works in a combo setting in class and the weekly student performance class. Students will also perform these requirements at the Jazz juries at the end of each semester. Also, students are taught via books, handouts, master recordings, performance videos, and various guest artist master classes about the great Jazz artists and their significant contributions to Jazz history. Students also learn about the masterworks of Classical music and study comparisons in the various styles.

It is strongly recommended that all students first attend the NOCCA Jazz Audition Information Session before attempting the official NOCCA Jazz audition.

Students should take INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP MUSIC LESSONS OR PARTICIPATE IN AN ORGANIZED MUSIC PROGRAM 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:**

Students who audition for NOCCA are expected to be able to do ALL of the following:

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 the major, mixolydian (7th tone lowered a 1/2 step), and dorian scales (3rd and 7th tones lowered a 1/2 step) EVENLY and ACCURATELY with PROPER FINGERINGS in keys up to 3 flats and 3 sharps (C, F, Bb, Eb, G, D, A).
3. Have solid knowledge of key signatures (up to 3 flats and 3 sharps), music theory, and basic intervals (minor 2nd, major 2nd, minor 3rd, major 3rd, perfect 4th etc.) for keys up to 3 sharps and 3 flats (C, F, Bb, Eb, G, D, A., and notes in BOTH clefs.
4. Sight-read a simple melody accurately with correct rhythm and intonation. (All students, all instruments.) Guitar Tab reading is NOT accepted.

5. Sight-read and play basic rhythm patterns accurately (basic 8th note and simple 16th note patterns, including basic time signatures).
6. Match pitches and short melodic patterns by ear (from the piano) and play them back on your instrument accurately and relatively quickly.

Drummers are responsible for all 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.

### [Jazz Instrumental Scale Exercise](#)

### [Jazz Instrumental Theory Study Guide](#)

**In addition to individual department requirements, all applicants will:**

- Upload to the application a **1-2 minute video** of the applicant answering the question, "Why do I want to train at NOCCA?"
- Upload to the application a copy of the **most recent report card**. Applicants must have at least a 2.0 GPA.
- Be prepared with the **email of an adult** who is not related to you to complete your **recommendation**. Your recommender will receive an email from Accepted with a link to fill out a recommendation form online.

## **Media Arts:**

*Students currently in 8<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> grades may apply for High School Arts Instruction.*

The **Media Arts Department** at NOCCA spans the fields of Filmmaking, Animation and Music Production. Our curriculum gives an introductory framework in each of those general areas, while also allowing students to work on personalized projects based on individual aesthetics, professional goals, and conceptual interests. NOCCA Media Arts students have worked in Motion Graphics, 2-D Game Design, Frame-by-Frame Animation, 3-D Modeling and Animation, Stop Motion, Screenplay Development, Color-Grading, Film-Acting Techniques, Film Pre-Production, Graphic Design, Visual Language, Film-Acting, Pre-Production, Storyboarding, Representation in Film, Directing Actors, Audio Engineering, Studio Techniques, Live-Sound and Studio-Sound Mixing, DAW Music Production, Vinyl Production, Music Composition, Scoring, Sound Design, and Post-Sound Mixing.

Media Arts houses a professional recording studio with a green screen, professional lighting, and multiple PC and Mac computer labs with drawing tablets running industry-standard software including the Adobe Suite, Ableton Live, Dragon Frame, Clip Studio and Avid Pro Tools Studio. Students are able to utilize (both on-and-off campus) professional-grade DSLR's, Cinema Cameras, lighting rigs, portable audio recording equipment, and studio-grade audio interfaces. Media Arts annually updates equipment to reflect the ever-evolving state of the creative fields.

Admission to the Media Arts program is based on the application and audition. Students who complete the application on time will be scheduled for an audition. The audition consists of a portfolio review and interview.

**Upload with your completed application:**

- Select a piece of media created by someone else (film, song, game, animation, etc) that inspires you, and write a short paragraph about why.
- A portfolio that includes any 3 of the following (can have more than 1 of each type): short film, photo story, storyboard, screenplay, electronic or recorded music, music video, short animation, animatic or a video game.

Your portfolio should **ONLY** include your 3 strongest works, finished or unfinished.

The strength of your work will be largely analyzed based on Media Arts' roots as a time based medium. Therefore, demonstrating one's understanding of how story, character, space and/or tone develop over time is an essential element of the portfolio. We are looking for originality, creativity, curiosity, and a passion for storytelling.

All applicants are ranked based on a score from their audition. Class sizes are limited, and admittance to NOCCA goes to the top-ranked students. Placement into levels is determined at the discretion of the Media Arts faculty.

**In addition to individual department requirements, all applicants will:**

- Upload to the application a **1-2 minute video** of the applicant answering the question, "Why do I want to train at NOCCA?"
- Upload to the application a copy of the **most recent report card**. Applicants must have at least a 2.0 GPA.
- Be prepared with the **email of an adult** who is not related to you to complete your **recommendation**. Your recommender will receive an email from Acceptd with a link to fill out a recommendation form online.

## **Musical Theatre**

*Students currently in 8-11th grades may apply for High School Arts Instruction.*

### **AUDITION OVERVIEW (AND AN IMPORTANT TIP!)**

As Musical Theatre artists, we are storytellers. We tell our stories using a combination of music, spoken word, and dance.

The Musical Theatre audition consists of elements in these three areas: Singing, Dancing, and Acting. The audition process for each of these three elements is explained below.

#### **With your application, please provide:**

A photograph of yourself. It can be an informal picture or a professional headshot; as long as the photo is current, clear, and an accurate likeness. Beware the blurry selfie!

A resume (or a list) with the experiences you have had in Musical Theatre shows and classes - the experiences that are most important and formative to you. Include dance classes, voice lessons, and acting workshops, as well as your most significant performance experiences. Help us get to know you as a performer.

An important tip: Give yourself plenty of time with the material before the audition.

We talk a lot about "process" in the MT classes, we believe that the path you take to get to the performance is as important - if not more important-as the performance itself. Take time to discover the

material - to memorize it, to research the background, to play with different possibilities in how the material can be performed. Not only will you be less nervous and more confident, your performance will be detailed, spontaneous, and unique! And who doesn't want that?

## **MUSIC AUDITION**

Choose and prepare a song to perform at the audition.

For your song choice, there are two options:

Option 1: Choose any song that you enjoy singing.

Any style is acceptable, though songs from musicals are preferred.

Memorize the song. You may hold a page with the lyrics or the sheet music if necessary, however, you should know the lyrics and melody well enough to look up and articulate clearly. Please do not read directly off the page.

For the song that you choose, **you must have sheet music with piano accompaniment**; at the audition, you will perform with an accompanist. There are many sources for sheet music: a music teacher at school or music minister at church can help, or you can purchase sheet music for many songs online (musicnotes.com is a popular site). You may also contact Jefferson Turner, Chair of the Musical Theatre Department - [jturner@nocca.com](mailto:jturner@nocca.com) with any sheet music requests. If the sheet music is unavailable, you will need to choose a different song. Applicants should not prepare to sing a capella (unaccompanied) or with a recorded accompaniment track.

Option 2: Sing "Over the Rainbow."

For this song, sheet music is provided, along with recorded rehearsal accompaniment tracks.

[Somewhere Over the Rainbow-low, medium, high sheet music](#)

[Over The Rainbow-low melody](#)

[Over the Rainbow-low accompaniment](#)

[Over the Rainbow-medium melody](#)

[Over the Rainbow-medium accompaniment](#)

[Over the Rainbow-high melody](#)

[Over the Rainbow-high accompaniment](#)

Choose the vocal range that suits your voice. Three different ranges, or "keys" are provided: a higher range (key of Eb), a medium range (key of C), and a lower range (key of Ab). The key that best shows off your voice is the correct one to use.

Memorize the song to perform at the audition. You may hold a page with the lyrics or the sheet music if necessary. However, you should know the lyrics and melody well enough to look up and articulate clearly. Please do not read directly off the page.

At the audition, you will perform with an accompanist. You should have the sheet music to refer to as you prepare, though at the audition we will have copies for the accompanist.

If you have any questions about the song choice or preparation, feel free to reach out to Jefferson Turner, Chair of the Musical Theatre Department - [jturner@nocca.com](mailto:jturner@nocca.com).

### **ACTING AUDITION**

The song that you choose for your Music audition (either "Over the Rainbow" or your own choice) will also be used in the Acting audition.

Be prepared to speak the text of the song. As you prepare, think outside of the rhythm of the words when they are sung. What do the words mean? Can you make the meaning clear and conversational when the words are spoken?

Research the context of the song. If you are singing a song from a musical, chances are the character who is singing wants something. Find out as much as you can about the scene. Even if the song is not a musical theatre song, there is a story in the lyrics. What is it?

Research the background of the song. Who wrote it? If from a musical, what show? Who has performed it? When was it written? How would you describe the style?

In the audition, we will give direction for the text of the song - different ways to approach and act the material. The best way to prepare for this is to concentrate on the meaning and intent behind the words. Who are you speaking to? Make a specific choice. How does your performance change if you are speaking to someone else? For example, your performance would be different if you were speaking to a friend versus your teacher. Be open to any possibility; do not limit yourself to a single choice.

### **DANCE AUDITION**

The Dance portion of the audition will be a movement class with one of the Musical Theatre Department's dance instructors. In that session, you will have a physical warmup, movement exercises, and a short piece of choreography.

The session is for you to show your flexibility, strength, ability to recall movements and follow instructions, but most importantly, for you to show us the dynamic performer that you are. Remember: we are storytellers, and an important way to tell stories is through movement. The movement class helps us see your physicality. It is not about how many years of dance class you have had (prior dance experience is not required), but it is about being open to what is given in the moment and being willing to step out of your comfort zone.

For the movement class: Wear comfortable clothes and be prepared to move. You may wear dance clothes if you have them, but it is not necessary. Do not wear tight jeans or clothing that restricts your movement. You may wear dance shoes (if you have them) or go barefoot.

You do not need to prepare choreography or dance combinations ahead of time - all of the movement will be given as part of the class itself.

### **INTERVIEW**

An important part of the audition process is an interview with the faculty. We will discuss your audition and preparation, your past experience with musical theatre, what you hope to achieve as part of the Musical Theatre Department, as well as anything else that comes up in conversation. Think of it simply as a conversation - we want to get to know YOU as a performer and as a person.

**In addition to individual department requirements, all applicants will:**

- Upload to the application a **1-2 minute video** of the applicant answering the question, "Why do I want to train at NOCCA?"
- Upload to the application a copy of the **most recent report card**. Applicants must have at least a 2.0 GPA.
- Be prepared with the **email of an adult** who is not related to you to complete your **recommendation**. Your recommender will receive an email from Acceptd with a link to fill out a recommendation form online.

## **Visual Arts**

*Students currently in 8<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> grades may apply for High School Arts Instruction.*

The **Visual Arts Department** creates a supportive and challenging arts environment that enables students to experience, first-hand, the discipline, knowledge and dedication required in the visual arts field. Artist-teachers and visiting artists serve as mentors to the student artist, introducing students to contemporary art, and the principles of artistic form. Critiques allow students to learn to exercise their aptitude at art analysis, improve their own work through viable feedback, and to discuss the work of others. In two- and three-dimensional studio classes, students are encouraged to concentrate on technical proficiency, creative problem solving and self-discovery. This focused curriculum increases confidence and skill, and allows students to explore new possibilities and become increasingly self-directed.

NOCCA Visual Arts has the following levels of instruction: Levels I-IV.

### **With your completed application (First round pre-screen):**

#### Submit Your Portfolio for Review:

All applicants will upload a digital portfolio of carefully chosen examples of work. Images of the work can be taken with a cell phone or a camera or a scanner. Please be sure that the images are clear and present your portfolio at its best. To avoid glare on the image, it is recommended that work that is framed and under glass be taken out of the frame when photographing. Here is a video that may be helpful, made by our photography teacher, about how to take high quality images with your cell phone and available light: [Tips for Photographing Your Work](#)

Students should submit outstanding original work that demonstrates commitment and investment, with samples of drawings or paintings from direct observation. There must be at least one drawing from observation in the portfolio. Consider quality before quantity; up to 10 pieces are requested. Include a variety of media and approaches (drawing, painting, sculpture, ceramics and photography are all accepted). All work should have been created within the last two years.

Following a review of the applications and portfolios, selected students will be invited to an in-person audition on NOCCA's campus.

**At the audition (Second round by invitation only):**

This entire process could last 1.5-2 hours and students will draw at least one hour.

1. **Drawing:** In a group drawing class environment with other attendees, each at their own drawing spaces, applicants will create a drawing from “direct observation” from existing “still life” set ups. Drawing from “direct observation” means creating a drawing while looking at the real objects (not from a picture). “Still life” means objects set up together that vary in shapes, colors and textures. The drawing should be completed in pencil on an 8 1/2” by 11" white piece of paper (provided). We recommend that your composition fill the whole page and that you use a full range of value (value means adding the lights and darks you see, using shading in your drawing).
2. **Writing:** Applicants will write a response to an image of an artwork based on open-ended questions. This activity will be about five minutes and the written work will be read by the applicant during the interview.
3. **Interview:** Faculty members will talk with applicants about their two activities, the written artwork response, reading ability, and academic strengths. They will let the students know via (e)mail regarding the best recommendations going forward including which level or non credit classes. The interview will last about five minutes.

**In addition to individual department requirements, all applicants will:**

- Upload to the application a **1-2 minute video** of the applicant answering the question, "Why do I want to train at NOCCA?"
- Upload to the application a copy of the **most recent report card**. Applicants must have at least a 2.0 GPA.
- Be prepared with the **email of an adult** who is not related to you to complete your **recommendation**. Your recommender will receive an email from Acceptd with a link to fill out a recommendation form online.