Every year, Menlo students consider pursuing arts-based majors in college. To help students start thinking about whether they want to pursue the arts, and at what level, here is a list of questions to consider, broken down by discipline.

**DANCE**
- Are you taking dance classes regularly? In ballet? In modern dance? What style is your strength?
- Are you on any competitive dance teams or performance groups? Do you go to conventions?
- Have you taken dance classes at Menlo School? Are you involved with the School’s dance program?
- Do you enjoy taking dance classes?
- What feedback have you received from your teachers?
- How many public performances have you done?
- How did you feel during the rehearsal stage? During the performance? Afterward?
- Have you auditioned for competitive summer programs? For regional productions? What was the outcome?

**THEATER**
- Have you participated in theater productions at your school? How did you feel during the rehearsal stage? During the production? Afterward?
- Have you taken drama courses at school?
- Do you participate in theater programs outside of school?
- Where do you study theater outside of school?
- What summer programs have you participated in?
- What is the feedback that you have received like?
- What kind of acting are you interested in? Film? TV? Musical Theater? Theater?

**MUSIC**
- Do you enjoy using your musical skills to connect and create with others?
- Do you spend a significant amount of time studying, creating, and/or performing music?
- Are you active in the musical culture at your school?
- Are you self-motivated in honing your musical craft?
- Has music significantly impacted your personal and creative identity?

**VISUAL ART**
- Have you taken art classes at school, outside of school, or both? How long have you taken art classes?
- What type of art do you enjoy doing?
- What styles do you enjoy exploring?
- What type of feedback have you received on your art pieces?
- Have you taken part in any summer programs?
TYPES OF DEGREES

Bachelor degrees for visual and performing arts range from:

➤ Bachelor of Arts (BA)
➤ Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA)
➤ Bachelor of Science (BS)
➤ Bachelor of Education (B.Ed)

Although many foundational courses may overlap for these different degrees, the main differences are evident in the types of courses each degree emphasizes. A BA will have you taking more liberal arts courses (general students such as literature, history, etc.), while a BFA or performance degree, will focus more on the craft and performance of your discipline. Art forms can be studied from multiple angles, such as science, technology, and business, but not all schools offer all the different varieties of majors so be sure to each school’s programs. Getting a sense, early on, about the type of degree you are interested in pursuing could help guide the college list development.

TIMELINE

This simplified timeline will help students and parents plan the application process.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FRESHMEN AND/OR SOPHOMORE YEAR:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>☐ Have conversations with instructors, coaches, and teachers for an honest assessment of skills.</td>
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<tr>
<td>☐ Begin collecting/recording work in preparation for admission requirements.</td>
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<tr>
<td>☐ With the help of the college counselor, research both audition/portfolio review and non-audition/non-portfolio schools.</td>
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<tr>
<td>☐ Investigate summer programs to see if students really want to commit to their craft; a trial run!</td>
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<tr>
<td>☐ Hone skill/develop voice/develop portfolio</td>
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<th>JUNIOR YEAR AND SUMMER BEFORE SENIOR YEAR:</th>
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<tr>
<td>☐ Research portfolio requirements; it will vary from school to school.</td>
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<tr>
<td>☐ Continue collecting/recording work in preparation for admission requirements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ Begin to compile a base arts portfolio that you can build on for each school’s specific requirements</td>
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<tr>
<td>☐ Make sure portfolios are in the correct format</td>
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<tr>
<td>☐ Reach out to programs and/or participate in National Portfolio Day; admission officers are eager to help!</td>
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<tr>
<td>☐ With parents, discuss and plan the appropriate number of fall audition and visits. These can be costly.</td>
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<tr>
<td>☐ Develop artistic voice</td>
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<tr>
<th>FALL OF SENIOR YEAR:</th>
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<tr>
<td>☐ Students should start scheduling auditions early; some schools schedule on a first-come, first-serve basis.</td>
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<tr>
<td>☐ Be mindful of admission application deadlines and requirements; they vary from school to school!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ Be realistic; admissions to some performance/audition programs is extremely selective.</td>
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</tbody>
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TIPS/ADVICE ON AUDITIONS AND PORTFOLIOS

DANCE
- Ask if you should bring recorded music or if there will be an accompanist
- If you perform an original piece be prepared to talk about it
- Are you auditioning with a class, solo, or both?
- Make sure you wear appropriate attire for the audition; i.e., musical theater, ballet, etc.

THEATER
- Be familiar with the entire play of the piece you choose and be ready to talk about the character
- Rehearse in the clothes you will wear to the audition
- You are auditioning from the minute you walk in so be yourself

MUSIC
- Acquire a letter of recommendation from your primary instrument instructor
- You may be asked to sight read or sing, so be prepared
- Prepare a solo that demonstrates your level of musicianship
- Singers should bring original sheet music in the correct key

VISUAL ART
- Be an expert on your work and be able to talk about why you created the piece
- In an art portfolio, the more variety, the better—consider including work in several studio areas
- Be sure you present your work the way the school asks
- Be comfortable creating artistic statements
Here are a sampling of strong arts programs, grouped by discipline (note; the lists are not exhaustive; please see your college counselor with questions about particular programs):

### DANCE
- Arizona State University
- University of Arizona
- University of the Arts
- The Boston Conservatory
- California Institute of the Arts
- California State University - Long Beach
- Chapman University
- University of Cincinnati
- University of Colorado, Boulder
- Connecticut College
- Alonzo King LINES BFA at Dominican University of California
- University of Florida
- Florida State University
- Fordham University
- University of Hawaii at Manoa
- The Hartt School
- Harvard University
- University of Idaho
- University of Illinois at Urbana - Champaign
- Indiana University at Bloomington
- The Juilliard School
- Lawrence University
- University of Maryland - College Park
- University of Miami
- University of Michigan
- University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
- New York University
- Pace University
- University of Southern California
- Southern Methodist University
- Syracuse University
- Rutgers University
- University of Texas, Austin
- Tulane University
- University of Utah

### MUSIC
- Arizona State University
- Belmont University
- Berklee College of Music
- The Boston Conservatory
- Boston University
- Bucknell University
- Butler University
- University of California, Irvine
- California Institute of the Arts
- California State University - Long Beach
- California State University - Los Angeles
- California State University - Northridge
- California State University - Sacramento
- Carnegie Mellon University
- Chapman University
- University of Cincinnati
- University of Colorado, Boulder
- University of Connecticut
- University of Denver
- DePaul University
- University of Georgia
- University of Hawaii at Manoa
- University of Houston
- University of Idaho
- University of Illinois at Urbana - Champaign
- Indiana University at Bloomington
- The Juilliard School
- Lawrence University
- University of Maryland - College Park
- University of Miami
- University of Michigan
- University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
- New York University
- Pace University
- University of Southern California
- Southern Methodist University
- Syracuse University
- Rutgers University
- University of Texas, Austin
- Tulane University
- University of Utah

### THEATER
- The Boston Conservatory
- Boston University
- California Institute of the Arts
- Chapman University
- University of Cincinnati
- University of Colorado, Boulder
- University of Connecticut
- DePaul University
- Emerson College
- University of Florida
- Fordham University
- The Juilliard School
- University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- Ithaca College
- University of Miami
- University of Michigan
- University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
- New York University
- Pace University
- University of Southern California
- Southern Methodist University
- Syracuse University
- Rutgers University
- University of Texas, Austin
- Tulane University
- University of Utah

### VISUAL ARTS*
- Cal Arts
- *California College of the Arts
- *Cooper Union
- Chapman
- *Chicago Arts Institute
- Loyola Marymount Institute
- *Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA)
- NYU
- *Parsons School of Design
- *Pratt Institute
- *Ringling College of Art and Design
- *Rhode Island School of Design (RISD)
- *Savannah College of Art & Design (SCAD)
- University of California, Los Angeles
- University of Southern California

*These schools require a portfolio for entrance into their program. Most colleges and universities have a visual arts major, such as studio art, that does not require a portfolio.