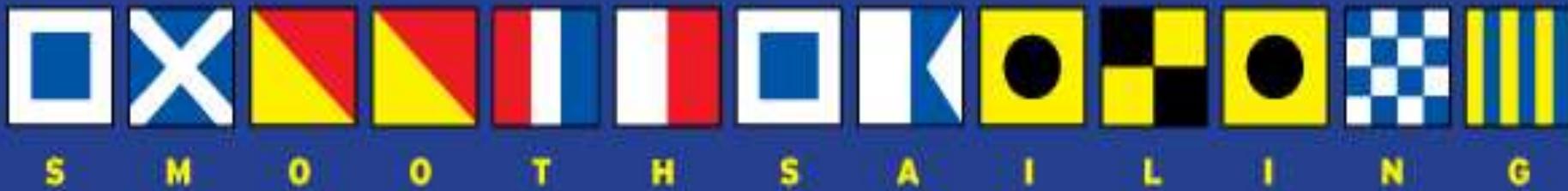


College Admissions for Visual and Performing Arts Students

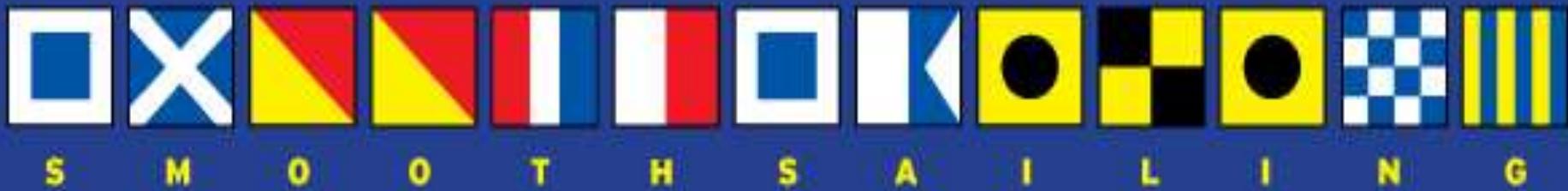
October 3 and 6, 2016



A few important opening thoughts:

- Our priority in the college counseling program at Minnetonka High School – helping the student to find the right fit!
- “College is a match to be made, not a prize to be won!” -- Frank Sachs, The Blake School
- Every student is encouraged to follow this application “mantra”:

“You apply for admission to a college because you want to go there!”



An additional opening thought:

- Visual and performing arts students have discovered an essential (and important) component of their college preparatory work – they love to create!!! They love to perform!!!
- The key consideration in the college search is “the tipping point.” Does music come first, and then the college? Is art at the top of the list? Is the student going to major in theater?



An upcoming event for all visual arts students:

National Portfolio Day

Sunday, October 9, 2016

12:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Main Building, Minneapolis College of Art and Design

Over 25 colleges and universities from throughout the USA and abroad

More information at:

<http://mcad.edu/portfolioday>



An upcoming event for all performing and visual arts students:

National college fair – for performing and visual arts

Saturday, October 8

1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Concordia University, St. Paul

Over 50 colleges and universities from throughout the USA

More information at:

www.nacacfairs.org/pvamidwest



The college search for the visual arts student

- It's best to seek early counseling and review/critique of your work – certainly before the end of the junior year
- Visit colleges and request an appointment with someone in your medium. Bring along samples of your work – or get the email address to send in your portfolio
- Consider attending a summer art program on a college campus



Art student, continued

- Portfolios

10-15 works – a collection of a student's best work

Do not send originals – use DVD or

<http://www.slideroom.com/>

Include a cover essay to discuss the theme, intent, and artistic growth

The key question: “Can this student demonstrate that they are creative, intellectually curious, and seriously committed to making art?”



Art student, continued

- Colorado State University
 - 24,433 undergraduates
 - 583 BFA undergrads
 - Primary fields: drawing, graphic design, painting, photography, pottery, sculpture.
 - Creative arts scholarships
 - 27% of all students live on campus (95% of freshmen)

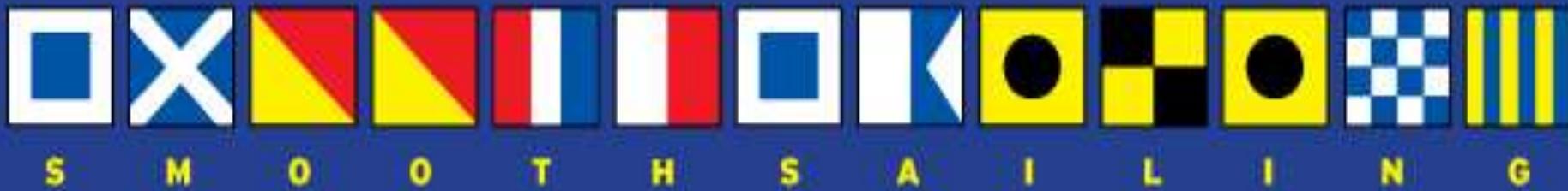




Art student, continued

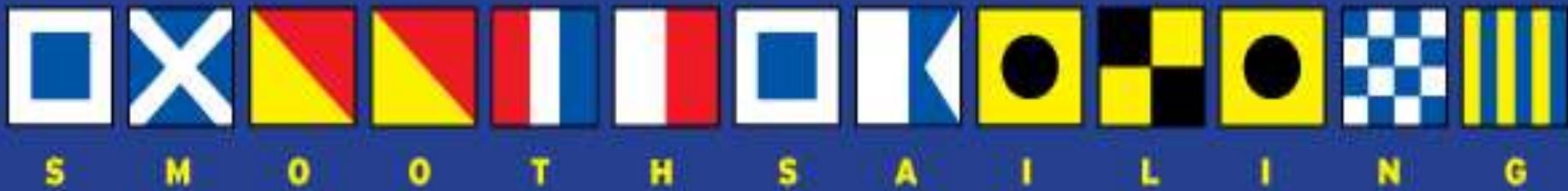
- Kansas City Art Institute
 - 645 undergraduates
 - 645 BFA undergrads
 - Primary fields: animation, art history, ceramics, fiber, graphic design, illustration, painting, photography, printmaking, sculpture
 - 100+ merit-based scholarships for talent
 - 20% of all students live on campus (90% of freshmen)





The college search for the performing arts student

- Dance
- Drama/Theater
- Instrument music
- Vocal music
- Music education



Music student – college search

- What's the best degree program:
 - Bachelor of Music (B.M.)
 - Bachelor of Music Education (B.M.E.)
 - Bachelor of Arts (B.A.)
- What's the best college setting?
 - Conservatory
 - Liberal arts college
 - Major university



Music student, continued

- It's best to seek early counseling and review/critique of your work – certainly before the end of the junior year
- Visit colleges and request an appointment with someone in your performance area.
- Consider attending a summer music program on a college campus



Music student, continued

- Auditions
- The importance can vary from one school to the next – a rule of thumb: the more selective the school, the more important the audition.
- For conservatories, the audition might be the single determining factor
- Look for regional auditions (like Unifieds), which are usually videotaped or audiotaped



Music student, continued

- Auditions can contain one judge and up to 10 judges
- Auditions might last 10 minutes or up to 45 minutes
- If the audition will include sight reading, you will know!
- Repertoire is always posted in advance
- Ask about “past performance” in your instrument – do they accept 10% or 50% in your area?



Music student, continued

- Audition by CD/DVD – identify other performers.
- Acceptable video formats include: .mov, .wmv, .avi, and .mpeg
- Recordings must be high quality, labeled with your name, instrument/voice part, and repertoire.
- Resume should include
 - Teachers and directors with whom you worked
 - Competitions you have entered/prizes won



Music student, continued

- Sample programs from around the country
- Lawrence University
 - 1561 undergraduates
 - 284 B.M. undergrads
 - Primary fields: music education, music theory and composition, performance (classical guitar to harpsichord to voice to opera to percussion)
 - 60 performance scholarships, based on audition
 - 96% of all students live on campus (99% of freshmen)



LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY



Music student, continued

- Indiana University
 - 36,419 undergraduates
 - 952 B.M undergrads in Jacobs School of Music
 - Primary fields:
 - B.M. – performance (including bassoon, flute, jazz studies, tuba, viola, voice), musical theater
 - B.M.E. – choral and instrumental teaching
 - B.S. – audio recording, opera scenic technique, music
 - 35% of all students live on campus (95% of freshmen)





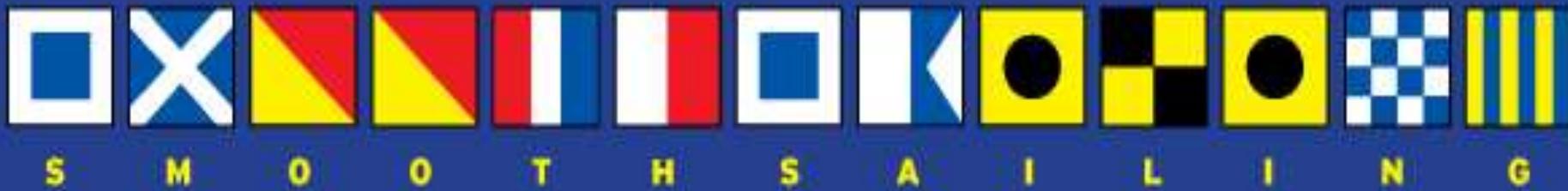
Questions to ask for all arts students:

1. What's the focus of the program? Is it a good match?
2. What's the campus atmosphere? Is it super competitive? Supportive and nurturing? Is it a good fit?
3. Does the location suit your needs and preferences?
4. How often will you have the chance to perform? How many student performance groups are there?



Questions, continued

5. Consider the total enrollment – and how many people are in your program area. What's the student-faculty ratio in your area?
6. Does the faculty include guest artists and artists-in-residence? How long do they stay on campus? Do the top professors work with undergrads?
7. Are the program's alumni working in the field?



Questions, continued

8. Does the school offer an internship program? How about study abroad opportunities?
9. Is there a career center to help you assess your skills and pursue post-graduate opportunities?
10. What are the details of the graduation requirements – is there a final project required for the diploma?



- **The final word!**
- The general rule about applying to a college as a visual arts/performing arts student: you should apply when you have discovered the school is the **right choice for you**.

Phillip Trout
College Counselor
Minnetonka High School
952-401-5746
collegeguy@minnetonka.k12.mn.us

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