

# 5 Tips to Submit a Successful Art School Application

Just as every art student is different — with individual strengths, experiences, passions and ideas — every art school has different requirements and expectations. There is no one formula that determines an applicant's potential for success, but we can offer some advice to help you feel better prepared to apply to an art program.

## → Research your options

- **Start to gather information** by attending college fairs, speaking with representatives from colleges that visit your high school, and going on campus tours.
- **Things for you to consider:**
  - What major(s) do you wish to study?
  - Do you want to attend a large, medium, or small-sized school?
  - What type of campus would you prefer? Urban, suburban, or rural?
- **Ask questions!**
  - What kind of degree(s) are offered at the colleges you're interested in?
  - What is the student-to-faculty ratio at the college?
  - What kinds of financial aid does the college offer?

## → Prepare

- **Do your homework.**
  - What are the basic application requirements?
  - Are there any additional application requirements that are major-specific?
- Many art programs typically require a portfolio as part of the application process. We're all a little different, so it's important to learn the **specific portfolio requirements** for each school.



## → A Successful Application

- **Keep those grades up!** MassArt looks to admit students with a grade point average of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale (or the equivalent of a letter grade B average). Students with below a 3.0 can still be admitted, but staying in communication with your teachers, your school counselors, and receiving all the support you can during your high school career may make all the difference!

*\*Remember, these are just our requirements at MassArt. Make sure you check with each school individually.*

- Your **college essay** is an opportunity to let admissions counselors learn about who you are in your own voice:
  - Choose a topic that appeals to you (check school's requirements)
  - Be authentic and show who you are through your writing
  - Write a few drafts and proofread

## → The Portfolio

- Start building your portfolio early
- Familiarize yourself with portfolio requirements at each school
- Create original artwork that communicates your unique ideas
- Include work in your portfolio that shows your strengths
- Photograph your work along the way. You'll need to upload images of your work when you apply

\*Check out additional portfolio tips on our website at [massart.edu/portfolio-tips](https://massart.edu/portfolio-tips)

## → Getting Feedback

- **We're here to help!** Get in touch with an admissions counselor for specific questions about the application and for personalized feedback about your work.
- Attend a National Portfolio Day in your area to meet with representatives from the nation's best colleges of art and design. Visit [nationalportfolioday.org](https://nationalportfolioday.org) for more information.
- Schedule an informal virtual portfolio review with a MassArt admissions counselor or attend a virtual information session at [massart.edu/connect](https://massart.edu/connect)

