

# 2025-26 AUDITION REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL DISCIPLINES

## About NOCCA

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

As Louisiana's arts conservatory, New Orleans Center for Creative Arts (NOCCA) provides professional arts training to talented Louisiana students in Classical Instrumental Music, Creative Writing, Culinary Arts, Dance, Entertainment Production & Design, Jazz Instrumental Music, Media Arts, Theatre Arts, Visual Arts, and Vocal Music. Students admitted for arts training are in attendance 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 is available to help pay for such fees, for those who qualify.

## Program Eligibility

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

Current 6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> grade may apply for After School Arts Instruction (7-8 Grade) in Classical Instrumental Music or Dance.

Current 8<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> grade may apply for Half-Day Arts Conservatory (9-12 Grade) in any arts discipline.

In addition, if accepted, current 8<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> grade may request an application for the full day program, Academic Studio.

## 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 8-11th grades may apply for the Half-Day Arts Conservatory (9-12 Grade)*

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. 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. The repertoire selections must consist of classical published compositions – selections from Pop, Jazz, and other genres besides classical, are not appropriate for the Classical Instrumental Auditions. 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 (selections cannot be excerpts or individual parts from orchestra work); 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. 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.

**In addition to department requirements, each applicant 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.

*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.

## **Classical Instrumental Music for Middle School Age Students**

*Students currently in 6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> grades may apply for After School Arts Instruction (7-8 Grade)*

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. 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.

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\*"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 (selections cannot be excerpts or individual parts from orchestra works); and (2) two scales of their own choosing. Recommended scales for Prep (Middle School) applicants:

- Violin: G, A, B-flat major 2-octave scales for Prep
- Viola: C, D major 2-octave scales for Prep
- Cello: C, D major 2-octave scales for Prep
- Bass: E, G major 1-octave scales for Prep

**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. 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.

**In addition to department requirements, each applicant 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.

*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)**

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

## **Creative Writing**

*Students currently in 8th-11th grades may apply for the Half-Day Arts Conservatory (9-12 Grade)*

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 endeavors.

**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.

**In addition to department requirements, each applicant 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.

*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):**

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. Students may also be asked to attend a creative writing class.

## **Culinary Arts**

*Students currently in 8th-11th grades may apply for the Half-Day Arts Conservatory (9-12 Grade)*

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, nutrition, gardening 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. You are welcome to upload a resume detailing any professional work experience, if applicable.
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](#)

**In addition to department requirements, each applicant 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.

#### **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!](#)

## **Dance**

*Students currently in 8th-11th grades may apply for the Half-Day Arts Conservatory (9-12 Grade)*

The NOCCA Dance Department accepts talented students who have an aptitude and interest in pursuing classical and contemporary forms of dance. Academic and performance standards are the same for all students, whether or not a career path is ultimately followed.

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. Through rigorous technical training and performance opportunities we aim to develop the next generation of young dance artists and prepare them for the requirements of today's professional dance world.

The Dance program offers extensive pre-professional dance training to intermediate and advanced dance students. The NOCCA Dance Curriculum is designed to prepare students for auditions and admittance into university colleges of dance or conservatories. Applied classes in classical and contemporary dance forms are at the heart of the curriculum. Instruction will focus on rigorous technical training, physical conditioning, theory and history. Students take courses in Classical Ballet, Point, Modern, Contemporary, Jazz, Tap and African Diasporic Dance forms. Other curriculum elements include Dance Conditioning, Dance Anatomy & Nutrition, Dance History and Dance Improvisation & Composition with the goal of developing fully educated dance artists and effective performers.

Students currently in 8th-11th grade can apply for the 5-day/week Half-Day Arts Conservatory (9-12 Grade). It is strongly recommended that all students first attend the NOCCA Dance Audition Information Session before attempting the official NOCCA Dance audition. In order to have the necessary skills required to pass the NOCCA audition, students should have been taking dance classes for at least on full year with a professional and qualified instructor that is a specialist in ballet, modern, contemporary, jazz, or tap dance.

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

Film yourself answering the following interview questions:

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.

- What was the correction?
- How did it make you feel when you received the critique?
- How did you apply the correction at that specific moment?
- 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.

**In addition to department requirements, each applicant 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.

**Prepare for the audition:**

Auditioning students are expected to demonstrate a high level of proficiency in dance with professional potential by taking abbreviated dance classes in classical ballet, modern, jazz, and tap. The audition will conclude with an improvisation section during which auditioning students will have an opportunity to showcase their best movement qualities. Choreography should NOT be prepared for this audition, and auditioning students should be prepared to take instructions from the NOCCA dance faculty.

Dress Requirements-Students should be fully and appropriately dressed for the audition. Hair must be secured away from the face, off the neck in a tight bun or puff for natural hair. Fingernails must be clipped at the fingertip. Jewelry (earrings, bracelets or anklets, necklaces, rings and watches) must be removed before entering the classroom. Additional garments such as warm up clothes are not permitted.

- Female Dance Attire:
  - Ballet - Black leotard, pink or flesh tone tights, pink or flesh tone ballet slippers, pink or flesh tone pointe shoes, NOTE- tights and ballet or pointe shoes must always match in color
  - Jazz - Black leotard, black tights (footless or convertible), black or flesh tone jazz shoes, (no jazz sneakers)
  - Modern & Improvisation - Black leotard, black tights (footless or convertible), no shoes (barefoot)
  - Tap - Black leotard, black tights (footless or convertible), black Oxford style lace-up (no slip-on) tap shoes
- Male Dance Attire:
  - Ballet - White T-shirt, black tights, dance belt, thin white socks, and white ballet shoes
  - Jazz - White T-shirt, dance belt, black tights (footless or convertible), black jazz shoes (no jazz sneakers)
  - Modern & Improvisation - White T-shirt, dance belt, black tights (footless or convertible), no shoes (barefoot)
  - Tap - White T-shirt, dance belt, black tights (footless or convertible), black Oxford style lace-up (no slip-on) tap shoes

**Assessment at the audition:**

All auditioning students will be scored on Technical Ability/Execution, Recall of Exercises/Combinations, and Performance/Artistry. Students auditioning for the Half-Day Arts Conservatory (9-12 Grade) should

demonstrate at least an intermediate level of proficiency in at least two of the four dance disciplines below.

**Classical Ballet** - The ballet portion of the audition will consist of one ballet barre exercise and one center ballet exercise. Auditioning students should be prepared to demonstrate proficiency in the execution of plie, tendu, proper body alignment, transfer of weight, balance, clean and clear positions of the feet, port de bras and smooth transitions between steps. Flexibility of the back/legs/feet, foot articulation, energy, musicality and the ability to pick up and recall combinations quickly are also assessed.

**Modern** - The modern portion of the audition will consist of two modern center exercises in the Horton technique and one contemporary phrase of choreography. Auditioning students should be prepared to demonstrate body awareness, proper body alignment, transfer of weight, balance, proper usage of the head and arms and smooth transitions between steps. Flexibility of the back/legs/feet, foot articulation, energy, musicality and the ability to pick up and recall combinations quickly are also assessed.

**Jazz** - The jazz portion of the audition will consist of one center jazz exercise, one across the floor progression and one phrase of jazz choreography. Auditioning students should be prepared to demonstrate proper body alignment, transfer of weight, balance, proper usage of the head and arms and smooth transitions between steps. Flexibility of the back/legs/feet, foot articulation, energy, musicality and the ability to pick up and recall combinations quickly are also assessed.

**Tap** - The tap portion of the audition will consist of a tap warm-up and one rudimentary exercise. Auditioning students should be prepared to demonstrate foot articulation, rhythmic accuracy, transfer of weight and balance. Energy, musicality and the ability to pick up and recall combinations quickly are also assessed.

**Improvisation** - During the improvisation portion, auditioning students will have an opportunity to showcase their best movement qualities. Three different songs will be played for one minute each, and auditioning students will be expected to improvise movement to each one. Auditioning student should be able to demonstrate their own personality, performance quality, and an ability to connect to the music. No choreographed movement is allowed.

### **Acceptance and Advancement:**

All students are admitted on a probationary basis.

The dance faculty may at any time decide it is in the best interest of the student to be removed from the program. Consistent participation, as well as attendance, punctuality, preparation, good behavior and self-discipline are absolutely critical for continued enrollment at NOCCA.

Accepted students for the regular 5-day/week Half-Day Arts Conservatory (9-12 Grade) are placed into Level I. Entrance into subsequent levels is based on satisfactory completion of a full school year's study in the current level. Students should maintain a B average GPA to remain in good standing. Any student who fails any class during a quarter is placed on probation via a Growth Plan. While at NOCCA, students undergo periodic counseling sessions with dance faculty to discuss progress and overall assessment. Faculty may request that an individual repeat any level and all decisions by faculty are final.

## **Dance for Middle School Age Students**

*Students currently in 6th-7th grades may apply for After School Arts Instruction (7-8 Grade)*

The NOCCA Dance Department accepts talented students who have an aptitude and interest in pursuing classical and contemporary forms of dance. Academic and performance standards are the same for all students,

whether or not a career path is ultimately followed.

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. Through rigorous technical training and performance opportunities we aim to develop the next generation of young dance artists and prepare them for the requirements of today's professional dance world.

The NOCCA Middle School Dance Prep program is a comprehensive, in-depth study for middle school students in 7th and 8th grade who are preparing for serious training in dance. Our ultimate goal is to develop and mentor fine young students who have an avid interest in the arts, giving them a solid technical and artistic foundation in dance. Students are instructed in classical ballet, modern, jazz, and tap.

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

Film yourself answering the following interview questions:

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.
  - o What was the correction?
  - o How did it make you feel when you received the critique?
  - o How did you apply the correction at that specific moment?
  - o 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.

### **In addition to department requirements, each applicant will:**

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- 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.

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

Auditioning middle school students are expected to demonstrate a high level of talent and potential by taking abbreviated dance classes in classical ballet, modern, jazz, and tap. The audition will conclude with an improvisation section during which auditioning students will have an opportunity to showcase their best movement qualities. Choreography should NOT be prepared for this audition, and auditioning students should be prepared to take instructions from the NOCCA dance faculty.

**Dress Requirements-**Students should be fully and appropriately dressed for the audition. Hair must be secured away from the face, off the neck in a tight bun or puff for natural hair. Fingernails must be clipped at the fingertip. Jewelry (earrings, bracelets or anklets, necklaces, rings and watches) must be removed before entering the classroom.

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### **The audition:**

#### **Assessment:**

All auditioning students will be scored on Technical Ability/Execution, Recall of Exercises/Combinations, and Performance/Artistry. Students auditioning for the middle school program should demonstrate a strong passion for dance and the ability to learn beginner to intermediate levels of technique in at least two of the four dance disciplines below.

**Classical Ballet** - The ballet portion of the audition will consist of one ballet barre exercise and one center ballet exercise. Auditioning students should be prepared to demonstrate proficiency in the execution of plie, tendu, proper body alignment, transfer of weight, balance, clean and clear positions of the feet, port de bras and smooth transitions between steps. Flexibility of the back/legs/feet, foot articulation, energy, musicality and the ability to pick up and recall combinations quickly are also assessed.

**Jazz** - The jazz portion of the audition will consist of one center jazz exercise, one across the floor progression and one phrase of jazz choreography. Auditioning students should be prepared to demonstrate proper body alignment, transfer of weight, balance, proper usage of the head and arms and smooth transitions between steps. Flexibility of the back/legs/feet, foot articulation, energy, musicality and the ability to pick up and recall combinations quickly are also assessed.

**Modern** - The modern portion of the audition will consist of two modern center exercises in the Horton technique and one contemporary phrase of choreography. Auditioning students should be prepared to demonstrate body awareness, proper body alignment, transfer of weight, balance, proper usage of the head and arms and smooth transitions between steps. Flexibility of the back/legs/feet, foot articulation, energy, musicality and the ability to pick up and recall combinations quickly are also assessed.

**Improvisation** - During the improvisation portion, auditioning students will have an opportunity to showcase their best movement qualities. Three different songs will be played for one minute each, and auditioning students will be expected to improvise movement to each one. Auditioning student should be able to demonstrate their own personality, performance quality, and an ability to connect to the music. No choreographed movement is allowed.

**Tap** - The tap portion of the audition will consist of a tap warm-up and one rudimentary exercise. Auditioning students should be prepared to demonstrate foot articulation, rhythmic accuracy, transfer of weight and balance. Energy, musicality and the ability to pick up and recall combinations quickly are also assessed.

**Acceptance and Advancement:**

All students are admitted on a probationary basis.

The dance faculty may at any time decide it is in the best interest of the student to be removed from the program. Consistent participation, as well as attendance, punctuality, preparation, good behavior and self-discipline are absolutely critical for continued enrollment at NOCCA.

Accepted Middle School students are placed in the 4-day Prep Program offered Middle School students. Prep students are required to attend Monday-Thursday from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. during the regular school year at NOCCA. Students enrolled in the Prep Program would need to re-audition when they are in 8th grade in order to be considered for acceptance into the Half-Day Arts Conservatory (9-12 Grade) for the following school year, but acceptance is not guaranteed.

## **Entertainment Production & Design**

*Students currently in 8th-11th grades may apply for the Half-Day Arts Conservatory (9-12 Grade)*

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 and Design Department.
- Digitally upload 10 samples of your art work, which could include set design sketches, set models, fashion designs, theatrical paperwork, or make-up/hair designs. Potential students do not need to be visual artists. Some examples are photography, pottery, sewing, and painting. Your art projects may use different mediums and might not be related directly to theatre design.
- Digitally upload an additional 5 samples of a practice design of set and/or costumes for a generally recognized play, musical, ballet or opera. This can also include any production photos of completed theatrical design work.

Make sure all examples are labeled and be prepared to discuss your work during the interview process.

**In addition to department requirements, each applicant 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.

**At the audition:**

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

# **Jazz Instrumental Music**

*Students currently in 8th-11th grades may apply for the Half-Day Arts Conservatory (9-12 Grade)*

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.

## **Each applicant 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.

## **At the audition:**

Students who audition for NOCCA are expected to be able to do ALL of the following during our audition (which should take roughly 15 minutes):

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. Play **ARPEGGIOS** for major 7th (1-3-5-7-5-3-1), dominant 7th (1-3-5-b7-5-3-1), and minor 7th chords (1-b3-5- b7-5-b3-1) **EVENLY** and **ACCURATELY** with **PROPER FINGERINGS** in keys up to 3 sharps and 3 flats (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 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.

[Jazz Instrumental Scale Exercise](#)

[Jazz Instrumental Theory Study Guide](#)

## **Media Arts:**

*Students currently in 8th-11th grades may apply for the Half-Day Arts Conservatory (9-12 Grade)*

The **Media Arts Department** at NOCCA provides a foundational framework for film, animation, audio arts, and immersive media to prepare students for this dynamic and transformative field. From story development to visual storytelling to sound design, students are immersed in the fundamentals of media arts while being challenged to work critically and creatively as artists.

NOCCA Media Arts students have the opportunity to explore filmmaking from script to screen, animation, stop motion, motion graphics, 3-D modeling, and audio arts from sound design to audio engineering.

Media Arts houses a professional recording studio with a green screen, professional lighting, and two Apple-based computer labs. Industry-standard software including the Final Draft, Studio Binder, Adobe Suite, Ableton Live, Avid Pro Tools Studio, Toonboom, and Dragon Frame. 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 current industry standards of the creative fields.

### **Upload with your completed application:**

- An Artist Statement answering the following questions.
  - Why do you like to make media art?
  - What subjects/themes do you explore?
  - What processes and techniques do you use?
  - What are your goals and aspirations as an artist?
  - Who or what inspires you?
- Creative self-portrait video (1-2 minutes in length) describing yourself as an artist and collaborator.
- A portfolio that includes any 3 of the following (can have more than 1 of each type): short film, photo story, storyboard, comic, illustration that tells a story, two to five page 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 department requirements, each applicant 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.

**At the Audition:**

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.

**Theatre Arts:**

*Students currently in 8th-11th grades may apply for the Half-Day Arts Conservatory (9-12 Grade)*

The **Theatre Arts Department** 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.

Theatre Arts contains two tracks - Drama and Musical Theatre. Students auditioning for Theatre Arts may choose whether they want to be considered for Drama, Musical Theatre or Both.

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.

Our **Drama** 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, Acrobatics, 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.

**Musical Theatre's** rigorous training includes a slate of Voice, Acting and Dance training classes as well as classes in a wide variety of theatrical skills in order to help students find their passion and place in the theatre. Students will engage in a number of Musical Theatre styles during their time here in order to be versatile, adaptable young artists. Students will also have the chance to engage in Text Analysis classes and in their fourth year, Directing.

**All Applicants: Include with your completed application:**

A photo 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 theatre-the experiences that are most important and

formative to you. Include classes, lessons, and workshops, as well as any performance experiences. Help us get to know you as a performer.

**In addition to department requirements, each applicant 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.

**At the audition:**

We will start the day with some group warm ups and improvisational exercises that will require some movement. Please wear clothes and shoes that will allow you to move safely and freely. Please wear comfortable clothes that you can move in and rubber soled shoes with no heel. Following the group work, everyone will participate in a group vocal warm up. Then we will see individual applicants.

Drama and Musical Theatre applicants will perform a memorized monologue selection provided by the Theatre Arts 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. There is more information and a link to approved monologues below.

Applicants wishing to be considered for Musical Theatre will also perform a song. More information below. You may be asked to participate in an individual interview if the faculty needs further clarification concerning your application to NOCCA.

**Audition Information**

Set yourself up for success; give yourself plenty of time to prepare your song and monologue. It will not only lead to better results, it will allow for a less stressful audition day for you.

***Acting Audition***

For the Acting portion of the audition, you will perform a memorized monologue selection provided by the department (see below for the list of acceptable choices/NO ORIGINAL SPEECHES OR POEMS).

Please take some time to be familiar with the play from which the monologue was taken. Read the play, understand the context, and be prepared to answer questions about your character. If you are having trouble locating a copy of the play, please reach out to Amy Holtcamp ([aholtcamp@nocca.com](mailto:aholtcamp@nocca.com)) for assistance.

[Link to Monologues](#)

***Music Audition - Only for applicants who want to be considered for the Musical Theatre track***

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). Please reach out to Jose Simbulan ([jsimbultan@nocca.com](mailto:jsimbultan@nocca.com)) with any questions about sheet music. 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.

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.

[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](#)

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 Jose Simbulan ([jsimbultan@nocca.com](mailto:jsimbultan@nocca.com)).

## **Visual Arts**

*Students currently in 8th-11th grades may apply for the Half-Day Arts Conservatory (9-12 Grade)*

The **Visual Arts Department** creates a supportive and challenging arts environment that enables students to experience the discipline, knowledge and dedication required to excel in the Visual Arts field. Artist-teachers and visiting artists serve as mentors to student-artists-introducing students to contemporary and historical art, and the principles of artistic forms. Critiques allow students opportunities to practice art analysis, to improve their own work through feedback, and to discuss the work of their peers. 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 artwork can be taken with a cell phone or a camera. 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 with artwork that is framed under glass, that the glass be removed before photographing. Here is a helpful video, 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 time and care:

- **10 pieces are required**
- There must be **at least 2-3 artworks from direct observation** in the portfolio. "Direct observation" means creating an artwork while looking at the real objects (**not from a picture or screen**).
- You can **include a variety of media and approaches** (drawing, painting, sculpture, ceramics, printmaking, photography and digital art are all accepted).
- All work should have been **created within the last 2 years** by the applicant.
- **No AI** (Artificial Intelligence) generated work allowed.

**In addition to department requirements, each applicant 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.

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.

1. **Drawing:** In a group drawing class environment, 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 an arrangement of objects that will be the subject of the drawing. The drawing will be completed in pencil on a piece of printer paper (8-1/2"x11" paper). *We will provide all needed materials.* We recommend that your drawing fills the whole page and that you use a full range of values. "Value" means using shading (drawing the lights and darks that you see) in your drawing. **Students will draw for at least one hour.**
2. **Writing:** Applicants will write responses to an image of an artwork based on open-ended questions. **This activity will last 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 still-life Drawing, their Writing activity, their academic strengths, and why they want to attend NOCCA. **The interview will last about five minutes.**

*Students will be contacted via email with the faculty's recommendations: acceptance to Level I or Level 2, or recommendation of non-credit "Experience NOCCA" classes.*

## **Vocal Music**

*Students currently in 8th-11th grades may apply for the Half-Day Arts Conservatory (9-12 Grade)*

The **NOCCA Vocal Music Department** accepts talented students who have an aptitude and interest in pursuing vocal music. The Vocal Music Curriculum is designed to develop the student's vocal technique, performance skills, and musicianship by focusing on classical vocal repertoire and technique in order to build a solid vocal foundation, which can then serve as a basis for future collegiate musical study in a variety of genres. Classes include Voice Class (vocal technique and repertoire), Music Theory, Musicianship (ear training and sight singing), Piano Class, Opera Workshop and Choral Ensemble.

**Each applicant 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.

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

- Demonstrate a singing voice with potential 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 nicely for your audition 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 Vocal Music at NOCCA.
- 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](#).