



What To Expect During Your Interview

If you haven't applied yet, please do so as soon as possible! You can apply here:

<https://www.nmschoolforthearts.org/admission/apply/application/>

The interview process consists of three parts: a department orientation, master class with department panel, and an individual interview, which includes a portfolio review or an audition.

Part 1: Department Orientation with your parent or guardians

Applicants and their parents/guardians are invited to attend a 30-minute department orientation. You will meet your admissions team member and department panelists. This is an informal opportunity to meet the faculty and ask any questions you may have about the school, academics, and the department.

Part 2: Master Class with applicants and department panels

At this time, parents/guardians are invited to leave the meeting. Students will remain for the department Master Classes.

Creative Writing and Literature: 1 hour total

- The applicant will participate in a 30-minute master class with panelists.
- The class will include a discussion of characterization, setting, and imagery in short stories
- After the master class, applicants will produce a short piece of creative writing based on a prompt provided by the faculty member. We allow 30 minutes for the writing portion of this class
- Applicants will complete the writing portion on a computer

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Dance: 1 hour and 30 minutes total

- Applicants will participate in a 1-hour ballet master class with panelists, followed by a 30-minute contemporary movement combination class with panelists.
- Wear form-fitting yet comfortable clothing and have water and a snack handy

Music: 30 minutes total

Applicants will participate in a 30-minute informal ice-breaker group class.

Theatre: 30 minutes total

- Applicants will participate in a 30-minute master class with panelists
- The class will include physical and vocal warm-ups, some group improvisations, and creative imagination exercises

Visual Arts: 1 hour and 30 minutes total

- Applicants will take part in an observational still-life drawing lesson.
- All materials provided. Bring comfortable clothing/shoes/water/snack.

Part 3: Individual Interviews and Portfolio Review or Audition (AND WHAT TO PREPARE)

The interview is a two-way conversation designed to give panelists time to get to know you as a person and as an aspiring artist and to give you a clearer sense of your chosen department, the school, and the faculty. The following additional requirements are specific to each department—please review and prepare carefully.

Creative Writing and Literature: 15 minutes total

- *Before* attending the demonstration class and interview, applicants must provide a portfolio of writing. The portfolio should include:

7-10 pages of original writing from one or more of the following genres: poetry, fiction (short stories or a brief excerpt from a novel), play, screenplay, personal

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essay, academic essay, memoir, or journalism (news article or editorial). You may send a mix of writing to reach the minimum of seven pages.

Optional: Applicants may include 1 link to a recorded performance (for example, an original poetry reading), but this is not a requirement.

Dance: 15 minutes total

- You will perform a solo piece you have prepared
- Your solo piece should be one-to-two (1-2) minutes in length and should demonstrate how you move best
- You can pick any style of dance

Music: 20 minutes total

- Prepare two contrasting pieces or songs in a style of your choosing.
- You will begin your individual audition by performing the two contrasting pieces or songs for the audition panel.
- In addition to your prepared pieces, you will participate in a brief Ear Training exercise (listening to a short melody and singing or playing it back).

Theatre: 15 minutes total

- Please prepare two monologues (no more than 2-minutes each)
- Monologues should vary in mood and setting
- Monologues must be from a play
- You will begin your individual audition by presenting your 2 contrasting monologues at the end of which, our panelists will ask you to do one of them again with some direction

Examples of monologues can be found in the links below:

- [The Monologuer](#) - resource to find dramatic and comedic monologues to assist you in preparing for auditions.
- [YouthPLAYS Free Monologues](#)
- [Actorama Monologue Search](#)

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Visual Arts: 15 minutes total

- At your scheduled interview time, you will be asked to speak about your portfolio artwork with the Visual Arts Faculty Panel
- Panelists will ask you questions that encourage you to speak about yourself, your artwork, and your interest in Visual Arts
- You will also have time to ask us about the department and the school
- The conversation is meant to give us some time to get to know each other so that you will have a clearer sense of the Visual Arts Department
- We will gain a clearer picture of you as a person and as an aspiring artist

Visual Arts Portfolios should include the following:

5 – 20 Artworks

- These artworks can include: Any combination of 2D (e.g. sketchbook pages, drawing, painting, photography, printmaking, collage), 3D (e.g. beadwork, sculpture, ceramics) and/or 4D (time-based work e.g. video (1 minute max), animation, web/game design, coding, computer art, digital drawing/painting, 3D models, etc.) artworks from the last two years
- Bring these artworks to your portfolio review.

Creative Upcycled 3D Sculpture

- Make a small, easy to carry, 3D sculpture from only recycled/upcycled, trash, and/or found materials that shares something about your community.
- Your 'community' is defined by you and may be real or imagined, include friends, family, local or global groups, be about where you live or wished you lived, or reflect your future dreams or much more! This is open to your interpretation and imagination.
- Be creative, inventive, expressive, and resourceful! Have fun!!
- Bring to your portfolio review.

Observational 2D Skill Value Drawing

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- Complete an accurate 1.5 hour observational still-life drawing in the morning drawing class with Visual Arts Instructors.
- Bring to your portfolio review.

If you have any questions, please contact our Fred Graham, at fred.graham@nmsa-ai.org or 505.629.9245