

CONSERVATORY PLACEMENT ACTIVITY GUIDELINES

PRODUCTION & DESIGN CONSERVATORY (GRADES 7-12) Digital Portfolio Submission & In-Person Placement Activity

Production & Design students are creators, problem-solvers, builders, organizers, designers, and storytellers. We understand that many students entering OCSA may not have prior theatre or production experience. Your portfolio should showcase your creativity, curiosity, and willingness to learn rather than technical theatre expertise. Show us your art! Show us WHO you are! Tell us what you have done that has made you proud!

Application & Portfolio Submissions:

Please digitally submit a completed application and your portfolio project as detailed below.

Portfolio Project Guidelines:

Please submit a portfolio that demonstrates how you think, create, solve problems, and express ideas.

- Submit as a single PDF or digital slide presentation (Google Slides)
- Clearly label each project.
- Include a brief description (3–5 sentences total) for each piece explaining what it is, your role in creating it, and why you included it.
- Minimum Length: 10 pages/slides. Maximum length: 20 pages/slides.

Examples of submitted work may include but are not limited to::

Visual Art: Drawings: Paintings, Sketchbooks, Digital art, Graphic design, Photography

Building & Making: LEGO creations, Model building, Robotics projects, Engineering projects, Woodworking, Crafts, 3D printing, DIY projects

Design & Technology: CAD drawings, Architecture projects, Coding projects, Website design, Video production, Animation

Costuming: Sewing projects, Fashion design, Costume creation, Fiber arts, Makeup Design

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Leadership & Organization: Event planning, Stage crew work, School projects, Community service projects, Team leadership experiences

Theatre Experience (if applicable): Crew work, Set construction, Lighting, Sound, Costumes, Stage management, Production photos, Playwriting, Performance

Remember: We are not looking for perfect work. We are looking for students who are creative, thoughtful, collaborative, and excited to learn!

In-Person Placement Activity Guidelines:

Students will be scheduled into a 90-minute small group, in-person placement activity following the successful submission and review of their online application and portfolio. This activity consists of two (2) parts: a design/creative session (no design experience necessary) and an interview. Applicants might do either session first.

- Students will meet for a group interview that lasts approximately thirty (30) minutes, then have up to one (1) hour to complete the design prompt announced for that session.
- All design work must be done in person, and materials will be provided for this.
- No electronic devices or assistance is allowed during this process.
- The in-person placement activity will be scored alongside/in combination with the online portfolio.
- Should significant or noticeable skill differences be detected between the portfolio and the in-person activity, the in-person activity will be given greater weight, possibly sole weight.

Sample Interview Questions:

1. What is YOUR definition of Production & Design?
2. Why are you interested in the Production & Design Conservatory?
3. What do you hope to learn from being in the Production & Design Conservatory?
4. What types of creative projects do you enjoy?
5. Describe a project or challenge you are particularly proud of.
6. What is your personal favorite design aesthetic?
7. What is your definition of teamwork?

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Applicants who are English language learners, have a disability, or need technology assistance are encouraged to reach out for support with the admissions process. Please contact admissions@ocsarts.net or 714.560.0900 ext. 5510 for more information.

Hay asistencia disponible para los solicitantes aprendiendo inglés, que tienen una discapacidad, o los que necesitan asistencia tecnológica. Favor de ponerse contacto con nosotros por correo electrónico admissions@ocsarts.net o por llamar 714.560.0900 ext. 5510 para más información.

Applicants requesting accommodations must have established eligibility under IDEA, Section 504 or an established Academic Support Plan (private schools only). The documentation must be provided at the time of application submission. Confidential documents must be sent directly to Lauren Reynolds, Director of Special Services, at lauren.reynolds@ocsarts.net.

Accommodations must be requested 15 days in advance of placement activities for planning purposes.