

Choosing Art as a Career after High School

**A Resource Packet for Parents and
Students**

Santa Margarita Catholic High School Visual Arts
Department

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Choosing Art as a Career after High School

The staff of the Visual Arts Department at Santa Margarita High School is frequently asked by parents what their son or daughter should do if they decide to choose art as a career after high school. Frequently asked questions include; what courses should my son or daughter take in high school to help prepare them for a career in art? What are the career opportunities in art? Where should my son or daughter attend art school? What is the best way to build a portfolio for art school submission?

This resource packet will give the parent and student information to help meet the goal of choosing art as a career after high school.

List of Career Paths for Visual Art Majors: What can you do with a degree in art?

Advertising Artist	Advertising Designer
Airbrush Artist	Animator
Architect	Architectural Renderer
Art Administrator	Art Buyer
Art Center Education Director	Art Conservator
Art Consultant	Art Critic
Art Curriculum Director	Art Director
Art Dealer	Art Exhibition Coordinator
Art Fair Coordinator	Art Graphic Assistant
Art Historian	Art Lawyer
Art Magazine Editor	Art Museum Director
Art Restorer	Art Teacher
Art Therapist	Art Professor
Artist	Artist's Agent
Assistant Curator	Audio Visual Artist/Designer
Author of Art Education Materials	Author of Art Education Texts
Art Museum Educator	Billboard Artist
Book Jacket Designer	Cake Decorator
Camera Person	Caricaturist
Cartoonist	Catalog Illustrator
CD Cover Designer	Ceramic Artist
Ceramic Engineer	Cinematographer
Color Expert	Costume Designer
Decorator	Designer
Design Consultant	Courtroom Sketcher
Direct Mail Layout Designer	Display Artist

Display Designer
Educational Software Designer
Etcher
Fabric Designer
Fiber Artist
Floral Designer
Floor Covering Designer
Game Designer
Graphic Designer
Illustrator
Interior Designer
Internet Homepage Designer
Jewelry Designer
Landscape Designer
Layout Artist
Lighting Designer
Magazine Designer/Illustrator
Make-Up Artist
Artist
Medical Illustrator
Mold Maker
Municipal Graphic Designer
Museum Docent
Newspaper Layout Artist
Paper Maker
Photojournalist
Portrait Artist
Printing Layout Artist
Quick Sketch Artist
Sculptor
Silkscreen Artist
Studio Artist
Trademark Designer
Typographical Artist
Website Designer

Editorial Illustrator
Engraver
Exhibit Designer
Fashion Designer
Film Editor
Furniture Designer
Gallery Owner
Graphic Arts Technician
Greeting Card Artist
Industrial Designer
Interior Decorator
Interior Design Photographer
Label Designer
Landscape Architect
Leather Worker
Magazine Cover Artist
Mail Order Art Supplier
Mechanical and Production
Drafter
Metal Smith
Motion Picture Animator
Museum Curator
Mural Artist
Newspaper Illustrator
Photographer
Photo Stylist
Printing designer
Product Designer
Scene Painter
Set Designer/Illustrator
Space Planner
Textile Designer
Typographer
Wall Covering Designer

This list of art careers does not end here. Check the site below for more interesting careers in the arts.

http://www.naea-reston.org/research_students.html

Suggested Course(s) of Study for Students Planning on Majoring in Art in College

The Visual Arts Department at Santa Margarita High School has compiled a list of suggested courses for those students interested in pursuing a career in the visual arts after high school. The following courses are recommended for the career path listed. These courses do not need to be taken in any particular order except in the order of prerequisite requirements.

A Career in Graphic Design

Graphic Design I
Graphic Design II
Graphic Design III
Photography I
Drawing I
Drawing II
Application Class - i.e. - Yearbook, Journalism, Web Design

A Career in Art Education

Art History (multiple)
Drawing I
Drawing II
IB Art I
IB Art II
College Prep Portfolio
2 2D Studio Courses (Painting I-II, Photo I-II, Digital Image Design I-II,)
2 3D Studio Courses (Ceramics I, II, III, Sculpture I, II)

A Career in 3D Fine Arts

Drawing I
Drawing II
Sculpture I
Sculpture II, Ceramics III, or Wheel Throwing
Ceramics I
Ceramics II
IB Art
Art History (multiple)

A Career in 2D Fine Arts

Drawing I
Drawing II
Drawing III
Painting I
Painting II
Painting III
College Prep Portfolio
IB Art
Art History

A Career in Art History

Drawing I
Drawing II

Painting I
Painting II
Sculpture I, II
Art History (multiple)
Photography I, II, III

A List of Courses Offered in the Art Department at Santa Margarita High School- Course descriptions are available in the Course Description Booklet through guidance.

2-D Courses

Drawing I
Drawing II
Advanced Drawing
IB Art
AP Art Studio
Photo I
Photo II
Graphic Design I
Graphic Design II
Painting I
Painting II
AP Art History

3-D Courses

Sculpture I
Sculpture II
Ceramics I
Ceramics II
Wheel Throwing

The following area institutions offer classes for high school students outside of the high school setting. Taking art classes outside of high school offers the student the opportunity to build extra work for their portfolio.

**Art Center Saturday School for High School Students
Pasadena, CA**

**Laguna College of Art and Design (LCAD)
Laguna Beach, CA.**

**Saddleback College Classes for High School Students
Mission Viejo, CA.**

**Irvine City College- Figure Drawing
Irvine, CA.**

Building a Portfolio for Art School:

One of the most important aspects of building a comprehensive portfolio is to start early. Begin saving work from your beginning classes and never throw any artwork away. You should also keep a sketchbook. Every school has different criteria for portfolios so check your art school of interest for their specific requirements. Most schools will want to see drawings from direct observation, a self portrait, personal artwork, and some sketchbook entries.

Most art schools will not want you to include cartooning or anime in your portfolio. Below are links from a few top art schools describing their portfolio requirements as well as some advice on how to go about organizing your portfolio. As you will see, each school has different portfolio requirements. Some schools have very specific requirements and others are more open. If you have any questions about what to include in a portfolio, ask one of the art department teachers.

Cal Arts, Valencia , CA.

<https://calarts.edu>

Art Center, Pasadena, CA.

<http://www.artcenter.edu/accd/admissions.jsp>

Rhode Island School of Art and Design (scroll down to portfolio)

http://www.risd.edu/apply_fresh.cfm

Pratt

<http://www.pratt.edu/application/freshmen#>

School of the Art Institute of Chicago

http://www.saic.edu/admissions/ug_admiss/portfolio/index.html

Ringling School of Art and Design

<http://www.ringling.edu/AdmissionRequirements.28.0.html>

Savannah College of Art and Design

<http://www.scad.edu/admission/undergraduate/portfolio.cfm>

Kansas City Art Institute

<http://www.kcai.edu/admissions/portfolio/>

Students at Santa Margarita High School have two major opportunities to get help with their portfolio outside of school.

National Portfolio Days

National Portfolio Days takes place every October. Top art schools from across the country send representatives to the to review student portfolios. This is a wonderful opportunity for a student to get serious professional feedback on their portfolio as well as gain knowledge about schools they might want to attend. Students take their current portfolio of work to the Art Academy to have a review by as many schools as they want. Many of our students have been accepted to excellent art schools "on the spot" at National Portfolio Days.

Tips for a Successful Portfolio Presentation

1. Stay within the allotted number of works allowed for submission.

2. Quality of work is more important than quantity.
3. Artwork from real-life observation is always preferable to work from photo reference or exclusively from imagination.
4. Portfolios should be neat with no tattered or torn edges. Matting helps protect edges of paper but is usually not required. Lay a clean sheet of paper between each work but do not attach it to the work itself.
5. Organize your work by year completed with your earliest work first.
6. Drawing, paintings, etc. should show consideration of background and composition. Avoid floating or haloed figures or objects.
7. Check the portfolio requirements to see if you can include gesture drawings.
8. Most fine arts schools will not want to see cartoons or mechanical/technical drawings. If you show cartoons they will need to be original.
9. If showing a sketchbook, flag the best pages for viewing.
10. If you participate in a personal portfolio review, dress accordingly and act in a professional manner. Speak using proper English and do not use slang.
11. Try to show strongest work rather than work from many media.
12. If possible include finished figure drawings. (Take a class at the Art Academy!!!)
13. CONCEPTS (ideas), ORIGINALITY, AND CREATIVITY are extremely important! Understand your work and be able to verbally communicate to the interviewer what your work is about.
14. Large or three-dimensional work can usually be shown as a slide or image. Make sure slide/ image is good quality and include details if you need to.

Excellent Article on Building a Portfolio

<http://www.artschools.com/articles/portfolio/>

Things to Consider when Choosing an Art School:

Deciding on where you want to attend college is a big decision, one that should always be discussed with your parents. The following are some things you may want to consider as you embark on this journey.

- What part of the country do you want to attend school? Do you want to stay close to home? Go east? Etc. knowing what part of the country you want to attend school will help narrow your choices
- Financial responsibilities; who will be paying for your schooling? Your parents? Student loans? Scholarships? You? A little of each? Know how you will pay for college so that you can make necessary arrangement for scholarships and financial aid.
- Type of school. Do you want to attend a university such as Cal State Fullerton, a college such as Chapman University, or an art school such as CAL Arts or Pratt? Do you want to attend a school with a small student body or large? Do you want a 4-year degree or a 2-year degree?
- In what will you major? Some schools specialize in certain majors. Always check your school of interest to make sure they have your major. Remember that most of you will be trying to achieve either a bachelor or art or a bachelor of fine art. Within that degree will be your major. This will also help narrow your decision.
- Admission requirements, what type of GPA do you need to get into this institution? Make sure you check out admission requirements for the university as well as art department requirements.

Scholarships:

Check the guidance office as well as the University Website for a listing of available scholarships. There are also many websites that list the many scholarships available to high school students.

Become Involved:

Many Colleges and Universities like to see students participate in activities outside of school. Below are some suggestions on how to become involved in activities outside of school and build your show resume.

High School Art Shows:

The Art Department at Mason High School submits student artwork to the following high school art shows each year:

Scholastics Art and Writing Awards (January)
 Santa Margarita High School Art Show (January)
 Color It Orange (LCAD) (March)
 Imagination Celebration (April)
 Laguna Beach Festival of the Arts (May thru August)

There are more opportunities to show your work. Do a search on the internet to find more opportunities to show your artwork.

Art Related Activities at the High School:

National Art Honor Society

Students must have at least a 3.0 in all art classes. To maintain membership, students maintain their GPA in their art classes and participate in art related community service activities each month. Students are recommended by their teachers for NAHS each year.

Varsity Art Club

Anyone can join and participate in various art activities throughout the school year.