

Requirements for Admission

Applicants for admission to the Mississippi School of the Arts (MSA) must meet the following criteria:

- Be a resident of Mississippi;
- Be a current tenth grader with a minimum of 12 Carnegie units of study upon the completion of the tenth grade;
- Have earned Carnegie units of study in the following courses upon completion of the tenth grade¹
 - English—2 credits (English I and II),
 - Mathematics—2 credits (Including Algebra I),
 - Physical Education—0.5 credit,
 - Science—2 credits (Biology and Chemistry recommended),
 - Social Studies—2 credits (Including World History, World Geography, and Mississippi Studies),
 - Health—0.5 credit,
 - Business and Technology—1 credit (in accordance with Appendix A of MS Public School Accountability Standards) and
 - Foreign Language—Students are encouraged to complete at least 1 unit of the 2 units required for college admission.
- Demonstrate artistic achievement in the visual, performing, or literary arts;²
- Have an overall high school grade point average of 2.5 at the conclusion of tenth grade (Schools must include all arts course grades in calculating overall GPA);³
- Submit a completed application packet, **copy of cumulative folder, and discipline record**;
- Complete an on-site interview (by invitation);
- Audition and/or present a portfolio for review on-site (by invitation): Visual and Literary Arts require students to submit a portfolio in the arts discipline in which they are applying; Media requires a film to be submitted in advance of audition;
- Students must take the ACT a minimum of one time prior to the start of their junior year (there is no minimum score required).

Students who are missing any of the courses listed above may still apply. However, if selected to enroll, students may have to take additional courses toward graduation online after school or during the summer.

¹ Students that do not meet the required coursework may ask for an exception from the Executive Director and/or Principal of MSA. There must be an extenuating circumstance (e.g. relocation due to natural disaster or long term illness) in order to qualify for an exception and documentation will be required.

² Six programs of study for students entering the eleventh grade will be offered: dance, literary arts, media arts, theatre, visual arts, and vocal music.

³ All students who make it through the audition phase of the admissions process must provide a final transcript at the end of their sophomore year in order to be fully admitted. Students without the minimum 2.5 GPA may not be allowed to enroll.