

Department of Art Portfolio Review

Admission Portfolio Requirement

After being admitted to the University, all students seeking to major in art must submit a portfolio reflecting studio course work the student has completed for review directly to the Art Department. The portfolio will be considered in relation to other admission materials, including class standing, ACT/SAT scores, and prior college-level records, for admission to the Art Department. Please fill out the portfolio review application on the other side of this page, and return it with your portfolio.

Applicants are encouraged to contact the art department they intend to apply to for specific portfolio requirements. Check the department web site to see if this information include there. If materials are not specified, the typical portfolio should include the following materials:

1. 8 to 12 artworks, including:
 - 3 drawings from direct observation: 1 still life, 1 landscape, 1 self-portrait
 - Drawings must be originals, not copies or drawn from any photographic source. Any pastel or charcoal drawings must be treated with permanent fixative.
 - Other works may be submitted through photographs, slides, and/or video.
 - 3D work: Only photographic or electronic representations of three-dimensional work will be accepted. Two views of each object are suggested to ensure full evaluation. Do not send the original art works.
 - Sketchbook: You may submit a sketchbook (size permitting) as one of the art works.
2. Personal Statement (about 250 words):

This should include, but is not limited to, the following:

- Who are your art influences?
- Define your interest in art.
- Describe why and how you create art.
- What are your artistic goals and how do you intend to achieve them?

Additional writing requirement for transfer students only:

- Submit a graded essay from an art history class, or other class in the humanities or sciences, which you took at your prior college.

3. Transcripts:

Incoming freshman should include a copy of an unofficial high school transcript. Transfer students must include a transcript from each college they have attended. These transcripts are in addition to those submitted with your university application.

Your artwork should exhibit knowledge of how to present your work in a professional manner.

- All 2-D work must be contained in a portfolio that is labeled with the student's name, phone number and address.
- Each artwork must be clearly labeled with the student's name, phone number and address.
- All 2-D work must be matted, shrink wrapped, or mounted with cover or slip-sheets. This is to prevent smearing or damaging the surface of the artwork.
- All mats and edges must be neat and clean.
- All 3-D work must be documented by way of slides, printed photographs, or burned onto a CD. Make sure the object to be reviewed is in focus and fills the picture frame so the reviewers can see details. Each slide, photograph or CD image must have the student's name, title, and media used either written directly on the slide mount or the back of the photograph. This information must be included on the CD and associated with the image being viewed on the monitor.

Portfolio Delivery & Return Shipping

There is no required portfolio size. Portfolios may be mailed or delivered directly to the Art Department office and must either be picked up by the applicant or have a reusable mailing container with prepaid return postage affixed for return of the materials after the review has been completed. Be sure to include both a container and return shipping postage. Portfolios not ready for return shipping will not be returned.

Send materials to:

The Department of Art - Admissions Committee

DATE DUE: _____

_____, IL _____

Office Phone Number: _____

Office Email Address: _____

Department of Art Portfolio Review

Application for Admission

Name _____ Intended area of study _____

Address _____
Street City State Zip

Telephone _____ Email _____

I attended high school at _____ Graduated _____

I attended a community college at _____ Graduated _____

I previously attended a university at _____

Check List for Portfolio:

_____ Still Life Drawing.
Describe the project or list the project title: _____

_____ Landscape
Describe the project or list the project title: _____

_____ Self-portrait
Describe the project or list the project title: _____

_____ 5 to 9 additional pieces
Describe the project or list the project title: _____

Describe the project or list the project title: _____

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Describe the project or list the project title: _____

Describe the project or list the project title: _____

Describe the project or list the project title: _____

_____ Personal Statement

_____ Additional essay for Transfer Students

_____ Transcript(s)

Make sure that all the categories above are checked and included in your portfolio.

This form must be securely attached to your portfolio.

Portfolio Assessment Criteria

In general:

Original and Creative Work

Original work will impress the reviewer. Work that appears to be copied will usually receive a negative interpretation. The artwork should exhibit the ability to take an idea or image and push it to new levels.

Exhibit Skill and Versatility

Demonstrate the ability to skillfully render from direct observation. Still lifes or self portraits (not from photographs) are good choices. Demonstrate a range of competence with a variety of media. It is important to exhibit mastery in one media or another but it is equally important to show that you can work in a broad range of media.

Focus and Direction

Your work should begin to demonstrate a focus or direction you intend to pursue. This means you have settled into a series of similar images, ideas or expressions that are basically consistent rather than a series of one-of-a-kind examples.

Presentation

Artworks must be presented in a manner consistent with the profession.

Demonstrate through your artwork, the use of:

Elements and Principles

Demonstrate the ability to employ the elements and principles of visual language that goes beyond the parameters of classroom assignments resulting in a more individualized creative outcome.

Composition

To include an understanding of positive/negative space placement – the ability to see the image as a unified whole; understanding of size and proportion – spatial relationships; and manipulation of compositional elements.

Line and Mark Making

To include a wide range of drawing tools, sensitivity to mark making and expressive use of materials and supplies.

Perspective and Spatial Illusion

To include the ability to suggest spatial depth; understanding figure/ground relationships; sensitivity to different vantage points; ability to foreshorten on a two dimensional plane.

Volume and Spatial Relationships

To include the ability to demonstrate the relationships between three-dimensional objects; axial orientation, interstices, shadow, scale and proportion.

Value/Tone

To include the ability to understand and appropriately utilize light/dark relationships; the ability to use tone to suggest form and/or spatial relationships; evince a sensitivity to a full range tonal range.

Texture

To include sensitivity to surface texture and quality; ability to create texture through a variety of means.

Color

To include an understanding of concepts involved with color usage; show evidence of the ability to mix and control color media; demonstrate sensitivity to color possibilities.

Craftsmanship

Demonstrate an awareness of craftsmanship - skill in the use of tools and selected materials – as it relates to the final intention of the artwork.

Sketchbook:

If you submit a sketchbook, it must contain evidence that it was used conscientiously. The work inside must relate to the portfolio artwork and be more than just an occasional sketch to meet previous course requirements.