

The Center of Excellence for the Creative Arts offers students unique experiences in music, theatre, creative writing and visual art – experiences that challenge the imagination and spur artistic creativity, experiences that last a lifetime. **Guest artists, faculty and staff work in conjunction** with business, industry and government to implement ongoing touring projects and artists-in-the-schools programs that take the Center's activities to the local community, as well as to state and region.

**Curricular activities sponsored by the Center** include classes, lectures, workshops, seminars, master classes, and symposia focusing on the various arts disciplines and interdisciplinary nature of the arts for both undergraduate and graduate students, as well as members of the community.

**Performances, exhibitions, and readings** are held in facilities designed to enhance the arts experiences of students and the community. They include: the \$9.4 million Music/Mass Communication Concert Hall, ranked as one of the best concert venues in the country; the Trahern Theatre, an intimate proscenium space; Clement Auditorium; Trahern Gallery, which features ongoing visual arts exhibitions throughout the year; and the Mabel Larsen Gallery, which houses the university's permanent art collection.

**The Center is an advocate for arts education** for young people in and out of school. The Center and Humanities Tennessee co-sponsor the Tennessee Young Writers' Workshop—a weeklong intensive where 7-12 grade students from around the state meet on the Austin Peay campus and work with a talented faculty made up of published writer-teachers. The Center also has partnered with the Clarksville-Montgomery County School System to bring professional development opportunities to arts educators in the school district, as well as to bring faculty and students into the schools to enhance K-12 learning opportunities.

**Symbolic of the University's commitment** to the enrichment of life, which can be realized only through an understanding and appreciation of the arts, the Center sponsors quality arts programs that emphasize collaboration between recognized artists and University fine arts students, resulting in the highest possible standards of artistic achievement. The Center sponsors interdisciplinary projects between the fine arts departments, experimental in nature, which allow students to learn from artists in multiple artforms who share their innovative spirit and abilities to take artistic risks.

**The Center collaborates with other university departments** to foster interdisciplinary learning. The creative process is not just something employed by artists but also a process that can be applied to all academic disciplines and the Center presents a new model in the development of creative thinking.



**Application and Admission**

For information concerning admission procedures, as well as general information about APSU, call (931) 221-7661 or 1-800-844-2778.

For more information concerning the arts at APSU, contact:

→ Center of Excellence for the Creative Arts  
P.O. Box 4666  
Austin Peay State University  
Clarksville, TN 37044  
(931) 221-7876

or  
on the Internet at [www.apsu.edu/creative arts](http://www.apsu.edu/creative arts)



# Center of Excellence for the Creative Arts

engaging

students

art

&

creative writing

community

dance

music

theatre

Austin Peay  
State University's  
Center of  
Excellence  
for the

Center of Excellence for the **Creative Arts**

The Center of Excellence

for the Creative Arts

offers a liberal arts

learning environment

where you can develop ideas,

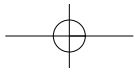
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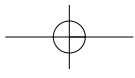
and competencies

to enter a creative profession.

was established by the Tennessee State Legislature in 1985 as part of Governor Lamar Alexander's program to improve all levels of education in the state. Designated as an "accomplished" Center by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission in 1988, the Center is the only program of its kind in the state, offering students rare opportunities to work with nationally acclaimed faculty and guest artists in the preparation and study of the arts in a one-on-one environment.

Austin Peay State University, a Tennessee Board of Regents institution, is an equal opportunity employer committed to the education of a non-racially identifiable student body. AP-068/08-09/3M/





The department of **art** offers a wide range of study and creative approaches while encouraging experimental and technical innovation that develops from an understanding of the historic traditions of fine art. The Department of Art's vision is to provide a structured, creative environment that enables students to ask questions, solve problems, and take risks as they gain the knowledge, skills, and attitudes for a meaningful and productive life as global citizens. The faculty are practicing artists with national and international reputations. A cast of experts and visionaries who lecture and teach on an adjunct basis further enrich the program. As a component of the Center of Excellence for the Creative Arts, funding is available to support ongoing educational opportunities, such as the Visiting Artist Lecture Series, and various residency and workshop opportunities with noted artists, designers, and craftsmen.

Three galleries on campus assure constant exposure to unique, contemporary and traditional exhibitions of art: Trahern Gallery houses numerous exhibits that offer the University and the general public a variety of visual arts experiences; the Mabel Larson Gallery is used exclusively to display and store the University's permanent art collection; and Gallery 108 features weekly exhibits of works by graduating art majors and visiting artists.



Five to six main stage productions each year, along with a summer workshop program, offer Austin Peay theatre students a variety of forms and periods of theatre works. With the help of the talented and experienced APSU faculty, students can attain their goals in front of the footlights or behind the scenes, as they develop skills in performance, creativity, and professional development. APSU **Theatre and Dance** offers a full range of courses to support the theatre student, including courses in playwriting, theatre history, acting, directing, theatrical design, voice, and movement. The APSU theatre faculty have provided leadership in the Southeastern Theatre Conference, the nation's largest regional theatre organization as well as the Tennessee Theatre Association and the United States Institute for Theatre Technologies.



The department of **music** presents an exciting program of over 150 performances each year by students, faculty and nationally and internationally-recognized performers. On-going programs include the Clarksville Community Concert Series, Dimension New Music Series, Mid-South Jazz Festival, Young Composers Competition, Choir Festival, Orchestra Festival, Opera Workshop, Honor Band, Piano Camp and GuitarFest. Further collaborations with the Center of Excellence for the Creative Arts include commissions and CD recordings performed by the department's nationally and internationally recognized faculty.



The area of **dance** provides students with balanced training in dance technique, choreography, and performance opportunities in APSU Theatre and Dance musical productions, the Annual Spring Dance Concert, the Annual Fall Student Choreography Showcase, and at various other performing venues on and off campus. Students are encouraged to explore a wide variety of dance styles and to sharpen their critical thinking skills in relation to the performing arts. Dance students can expect to share their work at state, regional, and national dance conferences and to work with visiting artists who are prominent in the discipline.



"Art enables us to find ourselves and lose ourselves at the same time."  
Thomas Merton

Through the Center and the Department of Languages and Literature, the **creative writing** program sponsors readings by writers of regional or national reputation. Notable participants in the Visiting Writers Series have included Richard Wilbur, Louise Erdrich, Carolyn Forché, Robert Hass, Ann Patchett, Lorrie Moore, Eavan Boland, Li-Young Lee, Paul Guest, Yusef Komunyakaa, and others. The program publishes a campus literary magazine, The Red Mud Review, and an international literary journal, Zone 3. Zone 3 sponsors the annual Benfolly Prize for Poetry and the Zone 3 Fiction Award as well as a biennial first-book prize in poetry. Other activities include symposia on George Orwell, Robert Penn Warren, and Nobel Prize winner Gabriel García Márquez, and a conference on regional writers Evelyn Scott and Caroline Gordon. The creative writing faculty have published widely and have conducted workshops regionally, nationally, and internationally.

Austin Peay creative writing alumni have published books of poetry and criticism and have become editors themselves.



**Acuff Chair of Excellence**

Established in 1985, the Roy Acuff Chair of Excellence in the Creative Arts brings regionally, nationally, and internationally acclaimed artists to Austin Peay State University to work with students and the community in a dynamic atmosphere of unrestricted experimentation.

Former Acuff Chairs include:

- Louise Erdrich**  
*internationally acclaimed author.*
- Lawrence Goldhuber**  
*acclaimed choreographer, dancer, actor, and performance artist.*
- The Second City Touring Company**  
*internationally acclaimed comedy touring company.*
- Cantus**  
*one of America's finest professional male vocal ensembles.*
- Lee Hoiby**  
*master composer and classical pianist.*
- Michael Blumenthal**  
*internationally renowned poet and memoirist.*
- George McCauley**  
*acclaimed ceramicist.*
- David Bradley**  
*African American scholar and novelist.*
- Cedric Dent**  
*Grammy award-winning singer, pianist, arranger, conductor, and producer.*
- Frances Whitehead**  
*internationally acclaimed sculptor.*
- Carolyn Forché**  
*poet and global champion of the oppressed and downtrodden.*
- Elizabeth Van Dyke**  
*multi-award winning actress and director.*
- Jim Nutt**  
*internationally distinguished painter.*
- John Haines**  
*two-time Guggenheim Fellow, poet and essayist.*
- Ted Orland**  
*nationally recognized photographer.*
- Arthur Kopit**  
*internationally acclaimed American playwright.*

**Scholarships**

**The Center of Excellence for the Creative Arts**

provides scholarships for academically superior and talented students in art, creative writing, dance, music, and theatre. For information concerning eligibility, awards, criteria, and audition dates, contact:

Center of Excellence for the Creative Arts  
PO box 4666  
Austin Peay State University  
Clarksville, TN 37044  
931.221.7876

