

AUSTIN PEAY STATE UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF ART

PORTFOLIO PREPARATION

The most important part of your scholarship application is your portfolio; it gives the faculty a clear idea of your potential abilities as a visual artist. Think of it as the basic foundation of your scholarship application. It is in light of this work that we will consider the other parts of your application.

At APSU academics complements the studio program at every level of study. APSU is a liberal arts university, and your success here will depend partly on your success in academic courses. Because of this, the Department of Art also requests your high school GPA and ACT or SAT scores, in addition to a portfolio of artwork.

Your portfolio should include no more than eight (8) pieces of original artwork or digital images, especially if the work is very large or three-dimensional. If you do use digital images you may show more than one view of a work, but represent no more than eight works total). These works should represent your drawing skills in different media, your use of color, and good solid sense of design (in both two and three dimensions, if that's possible). The following is offered as some suggested guidelines for preparing and presenting your work.

DRAWING: Drawing is the most fundamental skill needed for an artist to communicate. Regardless of your choice of concentration, whether it is sculpture, photography, painting, printmaking, ceramics, or graphic design, you will probably need drawing skills in the production of your work. Your scholarship portfolio should include only your best drawings.

If possible, it is important to include drawings made from observation; draw familiar objects and surroundings. You may include self-portraits, portraits, figure drawings, still life, landscapes, etc.

One of the most common problems in portfolios is lack of value development. Much of your drawing work (except on linear projects, like blind contour drawings) should be developed with a full range of values, from very dark shadows to very light highlights, with many values of gray between. Drawings without value development often look flat. When possible, work large. It is difficult for us to assess your skills on drawings less than 8"x10". However, only submit work that will fit into the case in which you will be delivering it. (This case does not need to be a formal or expensive portfolio; a cheap cardboard version will work just as well). Work that hangs out of a portfolio often gets damaged. Larger work might best be represented using digital images.

You may also include paintings, prints, photographs, etc., of course. A strong portfolio often shows a personal point of view. Drawing subjects that have meaning for you personally could provide the basis for this. Avoid overused subject matter, like sunsets, kittens, dragons and unicorns- these often lack imagination, while a view of your closet floor is unique to you.

COLOR: Your portfolio should demonstrate an exploration of color. This can be accomplished in many ways. If you have experience in oils, acrylics, watercolors, pastels or colored pencils, include this. Collage and sculptural pieces that explore color could also be included.

DESIGN: Design/composition refers to the arrangement of elements within the boundaries of the work, either on a page or in space. Your attention to this should be

evident throughout your portfolio. Try to avoid including too many compositions with objects centered on the page; your sense of design should be clearly evident. Make sure that some drawings include the entire page; even quick sketches should be well composed.

Limit drawings or paintings inspired by photographs- instead, concentrate on the familiar things in your own environment. We want to see artwork that reflects your ability to work from life.

PREPARING WORK: Overall neatness is very important. All work should be flat and clean. If possible, mount each piece of work: this protects it and shows that you respect your work. If you mat your work, limit your choices to neutral tones- black, white or gray. Colored mats often distract or detract from artwork. Also, identify all work with your name and address on the back, in case it gets separated from your portfolio. Include this on the outside of your portfolio as well.

DIGITAL IMAGES: Dimensions of digital images should be 1920 pixels x 1920 pixels at 72 dpi. File format should be baseline JPG. The canvas background color should be black. If your image is horizontal there would be black horizontal bands on the top and bottom. If your image is vertical there would be black vertical bands on the left and right. Please include an image list to correspond with file names. Files should be named yourlastname001.jpg, (Your last name, the image number and the file extension). Submit your digital images on a CD. (images only, do not embed in PowerPoint or Keynote)

IMAGE LIST: Please include an image/work list. List the work submitted (numbered to correspond with digital images if you are submitting a CD). Include title, date completed, medium and dimensions.

Please come to visit the Department of Art at APSU. Though campus visits are not required as part of the scholarship application procedure, we would be happy to have the chance to show you around the facilities and talk with you about the program. If you would like to make an appointment, call us at 931/221-7333, or contact the admissions office at 1-800-221-7661. www.apsu.edu/art