



VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS- STUDENT APPLICATION

Program and Selection Process Overview

The Governor's School for Excellence is a week-long program sponsored by the Office of the Governor of Delaware that provides traditional and non-traditional college-level education, leadership training, and social activities for academically and artistically gifted rising eleventh graders. Students nominated for Governor's School must reside in the state of Delaware and attend a selected Delaware High School. The program is held at the University of Delaware, Newark Campus on **Sunday, July 13 - Friday, July 18, 2025**.

PLEASE NOTE:

Nominees are generally selected by arts-related teachers, guidance counselors, or the principal based on their talent and previous experience. **Nominations are only accepted when accompanied by the Principal Nomination Form. Do not send in an application form independently.**

The selection process for the Governor's School is highly competitive. There is space for only one accepted student for every 4-6 students who are nominated by their school. Acceptance to any of the arts programs is based on performance criteria, and judges include University faculty members, instructors, and outside experts in the arts. Each school may nominate up to 8 students for Music, 2 students for Dance, and 2 students for Visual Arts.

There are 7 Visual and Performing Arts programs offered. **You may only apply for ONE (1).**

1. **MUSIC:** 30-32 students accepted
 - a. Choral Music
 - b. Brass
 - c. Piano
 - d. Percussion
 - e. Woodwinds
 - f. Strings
2. **DANCE:** 8-10 students accepted
3. **VISUAL ARTS:** Painting and Drawing; 8-10 students accepted

Choral Music Instructions

Overview

Students selected for the Choral Music program will have an opportunity to rehearse and perform several kinds of music. They will work with professional vocal artists and instructors to improve their technique and knowledge, both as solo performers and as participants in a chamber vocal ensemble.

Applying Instructions

Students must submit to the principal/designee a resume letter to include any vocal training, experience as a performer (solo, group or chorus), and any music honors or awards received.

Audition: March/April 2025

For the Audition:

1. You will be asked to sing a solo vocal selection of your choice. We would prefer that the selection be chosen from the classical vocal art song repertoire. However, a popular song or Broadway musical selection is acceptable.
2. You will be asked to sight sing and perform vocal exercises at the discretion of the vocal judge.
3. Audition requirements are subject to change by the instructor.
4. Final student selection will be made by the Governor's School faculty and instructors who teach in the program. Selection is solely based on performance criteria, so it is important to prepare thoroughly for the audition.

Notification of acceptance: May 2025

Brass-Instrumental Music Instructions

Students who play brass instruments with proficiency are invited to apply and audition. Final student selection will be made by University faculty and instructors who are associated with Governor's School. Selection is based on performance criteria at the audition.

How to Apply:

Students must submit to the principal/designee a resume letter to include any instrumental training, experience as a performer (solo or group), and any music honors or awards received.

Audition: March/April 2025

For the audition:

1. You will select one piece from your repertoire to perform.
2. The judges may select a second piece from your repertoire to perform.
3. You may also be asked to sight read from music provided by the judges and/or to play scales to four sharps and four flats.
4. Audition requirements are subject to change by the instructor.
5. Final student selection will be made by the Governor's School faculty and instructors who teach in the program. Selection is solely based on performance criteria, so it is important to prepare thoroughly for the audition.

Notification of acceptance: May 2025

Piano/Percussion-Instrumental Music Instructions

Students who play percussion instruments with proficiency and advanced pianists are invited to apply and audition. Final student selection will be made by the University faculty member and outside instructors who teach in the program. Selection is based on performance criteria at the audition.

Pianists selected for the program will perform primarily in group activities as pianists and percussionists. There will be some solo work, but this program is primarily ensemble activity!

How to Apply:

Students must submit to the principal/designee a resume letter to include any instrumental training, experience as a performer (solo or group), and any music honors or awards received.

Audition: March/April 2025

At the audition:

1. You will select one piece from your repertoire to perform.
2. The judge(s) may select a second piece from your repertoire to perform.
3. You may be asked to sight read from music provided by the judge.
4. Audition requirements are subject to change by the instructor.
5. Final student selection will be made by the Governor's School faculty and instructors who teach in the program. Selection is solely based on performance criteria, so it is important to prepare thoroughly for the audition.

Notification of acceptance: May 2025

Woodwinds-Instrumental Music Instructions

Students who play woodwind instruments with proficiency are invited to apply and audition in the category. Final student selection will be made by University faculty and instructors who teach in the program and will be based on performance criteria at the audition.

How to Apply:

Students must submit to the principal/designee a resume letter to include any instrumental training, experience as a performer (solo or group), and any music honors or awards received.

Audition: March/April 2025

For the audition:

1. You will select one piece from your repertoire to perform.
2. The judges will select a second piece from your repertoire to perform.
3. You may also be asked to sight read from music provided by the judges and/or to play scales to four sharps and four flats.
4. Audition requirements are subject to change by the instructor.
5. Final student selection will be made by the Governor's School faculty and instructors who teach in the program. Selection is solely based on performance criteria, so it is important to prepare thoroughly for the audition.

Notification of acceptance: May 2025

Strings-Instrumental Music Instructions

Students who play string instruments with proficiency are invited to apply and audition. Final student selection will be made by the University faculty member and outside instructors who teach in the program. Selection is based on performance criteria at the audition.

How to Apply:

Students must submit to the principal/designee a resume letter to include any instrumental training, experience as a performer (solo or group), and any music honors or awards received.

Audition: March/April 2025

At the audition:

1. You will select one piece from your repertoire to perform.
2. The judge(s) may select a second piece from your repertoire to perform.
3. You may be asked to sight read from music provided by the judge.
4. Audition requirements are subject to change by the instructor.
5. Final student selection will be made by the Governor's School faculty and instructors who teach in the program. Selection is solely based on performance criteria, so it is important to prepare thoroughly for the audition.

Notification of acceptance: May 2025

Dance Program Instructions

Students who have demonstrated talent and a strong interest in dance are invited to apply and audition. Experience in dance at school is a plus, but the final selection is based on performance criteria at the audition, as determined by the Governor's School Selection Committee.

How to Apply:

Students must submit to the principal/designee a resume to include listing of dance courses completed, dance experience (either formal or informal), training and/or experience in choreography, and any honors or awards received for dance.

Audition: March/April 2025

At the audition:

Attire: Clothing should be form-fitting and solid-colored. For safety, no large jewelry should be worn, and hair should be secured off the face and neck.

1. You will participate in a 90-minute group class, which will include a variety of styles and may include improvisation.
2. You are expected to perform one dance solo/movement combination (a minimum of 45 seconds and a maximum of 90 seconds in the style of your choosing).
3. In addition, you may be asked to speak with the faculty selection committee.
4. Please bring a letter of recommendation from one dance instructor/teacher/coach, a photo/headshot (does not have to be professional), and a resume, outlining the following:
 - Styles of Dance you have studied
 - Number of years dancing
 - What High School you attend
 - Where you trained in dance
5. Please write a one to two paragraph essay describing your interest in attending Governor's School for dance.
6. Audition requirements are subject to change by the instructor.
7. Final student selection will be made by the Governor's School faculty and instructors who teach in the program. Selection is solely based on performance criteria, so it is important to prepare thoroughly for the audition.

Notification of acceptance: May 2025

Visual Art Program Instructions

Students who have demonstrated talent and strong commitment to art should apply for consideration in the area of drawing/painting. *(The program does not include three-dimensional art.)* The emphasis in drawing will be to provide the student with the basic elements of visual thinking through drawing media and techniques as used in contour line drawing. Line, line systems, and form will be emphasized along with the concept of light, three-dimensional space, and texture. The media used in painting will be watercolors and acrylics.

How to Apply:

Important date to remember: Portfolio due on March 31, 2025

Submit to (Jetzain@Udel.edu): Due on March 31, 2025

1. Resume letter to include listing of art courses completed both in and out of regular school, amount of experience (i.e. how many hours per week spent in practicing art), any honors or awards received for artistic achievement, and any plans for future art study. List any outstanding achievements or awards you have received in the arts.
2. Five (5) images of recent works that depict level of achievement in drawing or painting or a combination thereof. *(No three-dimensional artwork accepted.)*
 - a. Digital images must be accompanied by a document listing the dimensions of the painting/drawing and the media used. The description page must be clearly labeled with the student's name and school.

Final student selection will be made by the Governor's School faculty and instructors who teach in the program.

Notification of acceptance: May 2025

*Thank you for your interest in applying to the
Governor's School for Excellence!*