

NEW MEXICO'S PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS

Pre-Professional Arts Training • Award-Winning Academics
Residential Dormitory Available • Tuition-Free



ADMISSIONS GUIDE

We believe artists have the power to change the world.

Through learning in the arts, we empower students to become who they were always meant to be and succeed in anything they choose to do.

Students are selected to attend NMSA based on their demonstrated passion and drive for an art form, **regardless** of their prior academic background. NMSA prepares students for a professional artistic career AND success after NMSA. It is for this reason that we balance a **rigorous academic program** with **pre-professional arts training** to foster students who are exemplary artists, scholars, and citizens.

Passion. Opportunity. Excellence.

Ten years ago, NMSA's co-founders assembled a group of educators, legislators, public officials, entrepreneurs, artists, and innovators to establish New Mexico's public high school for the arts. Created by special legislation, New Mexico School for the Arts was established to provide access to opportunities for passionate youth from across New Mexico. NMSA students receive 2,000 hours of pre-professional arts training and college preparatory academics during their four years at the school. Students who live over 75 miles away from Santa Fe have the opportunity to live in a residential dormitory. The school also provides educational outreach opportunities for teachers and students to engage in and learn more about the arts.

Our School Community

New Mexico School for the Arts fosters a culture of respect to self, others, and the community at large. Our staff and teachers create an environment of acceptance that encourages great artistry where students can effectively collaborate, learn from one another, and grow together. Students who make the commitment to come to NMSA **belong** at NMSA.

More than 50% of NMSA students are economically disadvantaged.

50% of students begin with little to no training in their art.

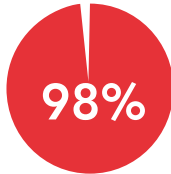
Students engage in over 2,000 hours of arts training by the time they graduate.

As a public school, New Mexico School for the Arts is Tuition-free!

More than \$2 million raised annually from private donors to support arts training, residential dormitory, wellness, and community outreach programs.



**National Blue
Ribbon School**



**Graduation
Rate**



**Retention
Rate**



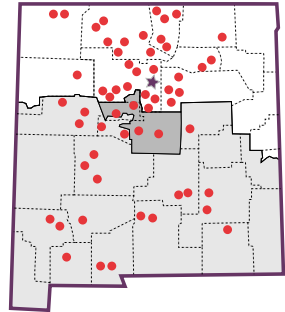
**College
Acceptance**

Abiquiu
Alamogordo
Albuquerque
Alcalde
Alto
Arroyo Hondo
Arroyo Seco
Artesia
Aztec
Bernalillo
Bosque Farms
Carrizozo
Cerrillos
Chimayo
Cloudcroft
Cochiti Lake
Corrales
Deming
Dixon
El Prado
El Rito
Embudo

Española
Farmington
Galisteo
Glorieta
Grants
Hernandez
Hotchkiss
Jemez Pueblo
Lamy
Las Cruces
Las Vegas
Los Alamos
Los Ranchos
Madrid
Medanales
Nogal
Ohkay Owingeh
Pecos
Peña Blanca
Pilar
Pojoaque Pueblo
Embudo

Placitas
Questa
Ranchos de Taos
Ribera
Rio Rancho
Roswell
San Antonio
San Ildefonso
San Jose
Sandia Park
Santa Clara Pueblo
Santa Cruz
Santa Fe
Silver City
Socorro
Taos
Taos Pueblo
Tijeras
Truchas
Valdez
Velarde
White Rock

OUR STUDENTS COME FROM ALL ACROSS NEW MEXICO



\$6+ million in college scholarships offered each year since 2016

- | American University
- | Bard College
- | Barnard College
- | Berklee College of Music
- | Boston University
- | California Institute of the Arts
- | Emerson College
- | Hamilton College
- | Harvey Mudd College
- | Institute of American Indian Arts
- | Johns Hopkins University
- | Kalamazoo College
- | Kenyon College
- | Lawrence University
- | Lewis and Clark College
- | Loyola Marymount University
- | Macalester College
- | Maryland Institute College of Art
- | Massachusetts College of Art & Design
- | Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design
- | New Mexico State University
- | New School, The
- | New York University
- | Oberlin College & Conservatory
- | Occidental College
- | Oklahoma City University
- | Pace University
- | Reed College
- | Rhode Island School of Design
- | Santa Fe Community College
- | Sarah Lawrence College
- | School of the Art Institute of Chicago
- | Southwestern University
- | St. Edward's University
- | St. John's College
- | Texas Technical University
- | University of Colorado
- | University of Denver
- | University of Minnesota
- | University of New Mexico
- | University of Portland
- | University of Puget Sound
- | University of San Francisco
- | University of Southern California
- | Western Washington University

ACADEMICS

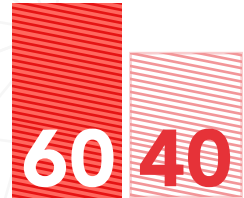
We work with students to identify what their strengths are, what their talents are, and what their needs are. **And we meet those needs.**

	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3	YEAR 4
English	English I	English II*	English III*	English IV*
		Fiction+		Humanities
		Creative Non-Fiction+		CW Workshop+
FL	Spanish I	Spanish II	Spanish III*	
Science	Integrated Science			
	Biology			
			Chemistry*	
			Physics**	
			Anatomy & Physiology+	
		Environmental Science**		
Math	Algebra I	Algebra II*		
	Geometry			
		Pre-Calculus		
				Calculus+
			Financial Algebra	
Social Studies	New Mexico History			
		World History & Geography		
		U.S. History*		
			Government	
			Economics	
Other Programs	Health			
	Physical Education 1 / 2			
	9th Grade Academy+			Senior Seminar+
		Academic Seminar+		

Honors or AP Classes Available* | Elective+ | FL = Foreign Language

Growth Mindset

At NMSA, we understand that failure is necessary for growth and that improvement is possible with hard work. This principle exists in the arts and in academics. It helps students build self-confidence as artists and learners. Our students are learning to learn and developing the motivation to never stop learning.



STUDENTS SPEND A MAJORITY OF THEIR DAY IN ACADEMICS AND MOST OF THE AFTERNOON IN THE ARTS.

The NMSA School Day

9:10am - 2:09pm Academic Block (also includes academic seminars and study hall)

~ **6 minutes** ~ Transition From Academic Block to Arts Block

2:15pm - 4:55pm Arts Block

The Creative Writing and Literature department provides students extensive training and practice in writing, editing, and critical reading. The program prepares writers with the essential fundamentals they need for a professional career or continued studies in writing and literature.

YEAR 1 & 2

Fundamentals: In their first year, students receive a strong foundation in the fundamentals of creative writing. Students will be introduced to literature from the American Southwest, the United States, Western literature, and World literature. During year two, students hone their critical thinking skills by exploring writing and literary genres in more depth. By the end of year two, students select a specialty to explore and engage with in years three and four.

YEAR 3 & 4

Specializations: In years three and four, students study their specialty of choice through a variety of means including program curriculum, dual-credit opportunities, independent study, internships, and master classes. Third-year students complete a collaborative capstone project while fourth-year students complete a portfolio as part of their Senior Thesis project. In all four years, students will receive the opportunity for live readings and other public performances.

Students of all abilities may audition for admission into the CW&L Department. NMSA provides instruction to students who demonstrate a strong natural ability and a desire to learn, regardless of their prior experience or training.



DANCE

Fundamentals • Ballet • Contemporary • Explorations

The Dance Department curriculum is rooted in classical ballet with a focus on modern/contemporary dance. Experiences will include: guest instruction, cross-disciplinary collaborations, site-specific and staged performances, and student-produced projects. The program provides essential fundamentals in preparation for a career in dance.

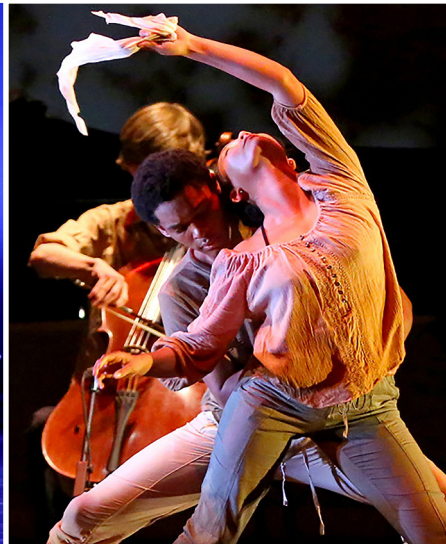
YEAR 1 & 2

Fundamentals: In their first and second years, students are introduced to the fundamentals of technique: focus on quality and awareness of movement (body awareness), basic positions of the body, structure and form, and learning and solidifying dance vocabulary. Music for dancers and an introduction to choreography will develop a dancer's understanding of narrative and phrase linking. Students will go on to explore artistic expression through improvisation and develop facility through movement dynamics, flexibility and strength training.

YEAR 3 & 4

Composition: In their third and fourth years, dancers will dive deeper into exploring individual artistic expression and voice. Students will use movement vocabulary, artistic vision, and improvisation to investigate and create choreography with intention and agency. Their final year at NMSA will conclude with a self-produced and choreographed senior project that will integrate all aspects of their four years of dance instruction.

Students of all abilities may audition for admission into the Dance Department. NMSA provides instruction to students who demonstrate a strong natural ability and a desire to learn, regardless of their prior experience or training.



The Music Department provides well-rounded musical training that includes classes in fundamental skills and musicianship, as well as an in-depth and rigorous training on each student's specific instrument/voice. The program will develop their musicianship with the fundamentals they need for a professional career or continued studies in music.

YEAR 1 & 2

During their first two years, students take Music Fundamentals courses, which focus on aural skills, music theory, music history, and keyboard skills. Additionally, students receive attentive instruction on their voice or instrument that includes opportunities for solo, chamber, and large ensemble playing.

YEAR 3 & 4

During the student's third and fourth years, they are given the opportunity to explore different areas of music, as well as take private lessons with an expert instructor. The areas of study include jazz, composition, vocal performance, and instrumental performance. Students receive in-depth instruction in these areas and culminate their study with a senior recital or project. By the time they finish the program at NMSA, students are well prepared to attend college or conservatory music programs.

Students of all abilities may audition for admission into the Music Department. NMSA provides instruction to students who demonstrate a strong natural ability and a desire to learn, regardless of their prior experience or training.



THEATRE

Fundamentals • Styles • Practical • Explorations

The Theatre Department focuses on developing the art of storytelling through practice and performance while offering a diverse and rigorous curriculum that fosters independent thinking in a challenging and creative community. The curriculum prepares emerging artists of every skill level for higher education and professions in the theatre arts for stage, film, and television.

YEAR 1	Fundamentals: Students study vocal techniques to improve projection, physical techniques to explore body movement and control, fundamental theatre terminology and techniques, and the art of character development.
YEAR 2	Styles: Students start to implement the fundamentals they've learned. They will learn through various theatre exercises, scene study, textual analysis of plays, scripts, playwriting, production, and examination of Shakespeare.
YEAR 3	Practicals: Students begin preparing for the collegiate/professional world by learning auditioning techniques, acting techniques for the camera, specifics about how to work in TV/film, and the evolution of theatre across the world from the primitive to the modern day.
YEAR 4	Explorations: Students craft monologues, further hone their audition skills, learn the intricacies of directing theatrical plays, and showcase their knowledge gained throughout their study with the creation and performance of a senior project.

Students of all abilities may audition for admission into the Theatre Department. NMSA provides instruction to students who demonstrate a strong natural ability and a desire to learn, regardless of their prior experience or training.



VISUAL ARTS

Fundamentals • Styles • Practicals • Explorations

The Visual Arts Department introduces students to a wide variety of mediums and styles over four years, balancing an attention to skill and concept-building. The curriculum exposes students to diverse materials, tools, and processes (including 2D, 3D, and 4D – digital and analog), preparing them for professional careers, college-level learning, or pre-professional work.

YEAR 1 | **Fundamentals:** Students learn the elements and principles of design and work intensively on drawing skills, digital skills, composition, vocabulary, and sketchbook use.

YEAR 2 | **Styles:** Course work revisits issues of design, composition, and visual communication while encouraging students to explore, take risks, be curious, and embrace 'failure'. As a result, emphasis is placed on formation of ideas, revision, and process more than product.

YEAR 3 | **Practicals:** Independent and teacher-guided work - with focuses in research, inspiration, and making - builds upon the previous two years by introducing increasingly rigorous semester-long courses that build depth of experience with materials.

YEAR 4 | **Explorations:** Students convey their ideas visually and verbally with clarity and confidence. An independent senior project that culminates in a student-produced exhibition, action, or product is required for graduation.

Students of all abilities may audition for admission into the Visual Arts Department. NMSA provides instruction to students who demonstrate a strong natural ability and a desire to learn, regardless of their prior experience or training.



ADMISSIONS PROCESS

New Mexico School for the Arts offers passionate young artists from across the state access to an award-winning, pre-professional arts and academic program. We're excited that you are interested in joining our dynamic and driven creative community!

NMSA accepts applications from incoming 9th, 10th and 11th grade students through an audition process.

Admission to NMSA is based solely on a performance audition or portfolio review, no academic criteria are used.

Scan Me



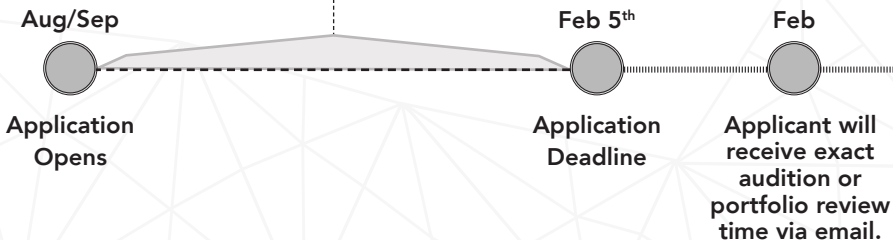
Questions? Contact Us Today!

On **iPhone** use your **camera** to scan the code.
On **Android** download **Google Lens** from the app store.

OR GO TO: nmschoolforthearts.org/inquiry-form

Welcome Wednesday Tours, Open House Events, Audition Workshops, Application Workshops and Shadow Days take place **throughout the admissions cycle from August to February.**

- **Welcome Wednesday Tours** (held from October - February) are 1.5 hour long walking tours conducted during the afternoon arts block, so prospective students and parents can get a better sense of the daily arts instruction by experiencing the arts in motion. They conclude with a Q&A. *RSVP is required (follow the links above)!*
- **Application Workshops** are designed to help students fill out and submit their application, including computer and internet access. The admissions team guides students through the process of submitting an application.
- **Audition Workshops** are led by the Office of Admissions and the NMSA arts departments. These workshops are geared towards students who have already applied to NMSA so they can better prepare for the audition process and interview.
- **Shadow days** give prospective students the opportunity to spend a day on campus by shadowing a current student - only 8th grade and higher. *RSVP is required (follow the links above)!*



STEP 1 - APPLY

Beginning in August/September, applications are available for current 8th-10th graders online at nmschoolforthearts.org/apply. NMSA hosts application and audition workshops, regularly scheduled school tours (see *list on previous page*), shadow days (which give prospective students the opportunity to spend a day on campus by shadowing a current student - limited to 8th grade and higher), and open houses for prospective students and families.

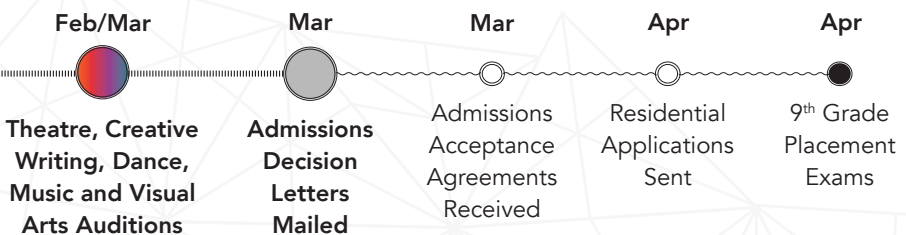
1. Open a web browser and navigate to: nmschoolforthearts.org/apply. Paper applications are available upon request by contacting the admissions office. **Aplicaciones en papel están disponibles a través de su pedido!**
2. Follow the instructions to apply. Please complete all required fields in the **application** (nmschoolforthearts.org/application) including a brief essay response from the applicant.
3. Once the application is submitted, applicants will receive instructions for their recommender who will submit a **recommendation letter** on your behalf.

STEP 2 - AUDITION

Applicants are considered for enrollment in their desired arts discipline by participating in an audition. Students are considered based on their passion, drive, and natural ability for an art form regardless of prior academic, behavioral, or learning background. After submitting their application, all applicants will receive an email from our Admissions office with an exact audition date and time (please refer to the timeline below). Visit nmschoolforthearts.org/audition for complete lists of audition and Interview requirements by department.

STEP 3 - ADMISSION DECISIONS

All auditioned applicants are mailed a letter indicating NMSA's admission decisions. Accepted students will receive an invitation to attend NMSA. Students who live more than 75 miles outside of Santa Fe will be instructed to apply for our Residential dormitory program. Accepted students are required to inform NMSA of their intent to enroll, and participate in academic placement tests (if applicable) to ensure they are placed in the appropriate classes.



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Residential Dormitory Available • Tuition-Free



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On *iPhone* use your camera to scan the code. On *Android* download *Google Lens* from the app store.



Scan Me