

# The **freshman** portfolio for admission: **instructions & information**

Art Department / State University of New York at New Paltz

The Art Department welcomes applications from highly motivated individuals whose art backgrounds may vary considerably. This diversity is regarded as a strength, complementing the broad range of studio experiences for which the SUNY New Paltz Art Department is widely recognized.

## Art Department placement is made according to the strengths of a student's artistic abilities as demonstrated by a portfolio of original work.

All prospective freshman Art or Art Education students are required to submit a portfolio. Portfolios must be submitted directly to the Art Department, FAB 225 / State University of New York at New Paltz / 1 Hawk Drive / New Paltz, NY 12561-2443, either by mail or hand-delivered. For deadlines check the website, [www.newpaltz.edu](http://www.newpaltz.edu), or call the Art Department at 845-257-3830. Early submission is strongly encouraged.

Students who submit portfolios **before** being admitted to SUNY New Paltz are reminded that an approved portfolio **does not** guarantee admission to SUNY New Paltz, which is a separate process through the Admissions Department.

## Undergraduate art degree programs at New Paltz:

- the BS and BA in Visual Arts: Interdisciplinary or Concentrations
- the BS in Art Education
- the BFA in Ceramics, Graphic Design, Metal, Painting and Drawing, Photography, Printmaking, and Sculpture

**Note:** Acceptance to the Art Department and SUNY New Paltz does not automatically grant enrollment as a Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) candidate in a particular area. Upon approval of a student's portfolio, he or she enters the Bachelor of Science or Bachelor of Arts degree program in the Visual Arts or as a pre-major in Art Education. Foundation Year courses are required of all art studio students and are prerequisites to all other art courses; Art Education students are required to take the Foundation Year courses, with the exception of Art Seminar. The choice of a specific studio BFA degree program is usually made at the end of the sophomore or the beginning of the junior year. At that time, a separate portfolio review is required for admission into a particular area's BFA program. Admission reviews for the BFA programs are competitive. The Art Education program requires that interested students complete an application form; applicants must have and maintain a grade point average of 2.75.

**Keep this instruction sheet for your reference!**

## Here's how to apply to the Art Department:

First apply to SUNY New Paltz, then apply to the Art Department.

## Art Department applications must include:

- 1.** The completed **Freshman Portfolio Submission and Review form**, attached. The pink copy will be returned to you with our decision. Please retain for your records.
- 2. Your portfolio.** The Freshman Portfolio is a thoughtful collection of your experiences and activities in the visual arts. Your portfolio should reflect your interests, ideas, creativity, energy, motivation, and previous experience in the arts. You may show a variety of media and techniques or a concentration in one or two. Examples can include drawing, painting, design, printmaking, photography, printed digital imagery, sculpture, ceramics, metals, jewelry, fiber, artists' books, video and more.

The Art Department Admissions Committee values portfolios that demonstrate qualities of craft, creative vision, passion, innovation, and experimentation. We are looking for an indication of your process, development of content, demonstration of visual skills, and an understanding of basic art elements such as composition, line, form, color and space. Include work that shows creative problem-solving and personal investment, whether self-initiated or assigned.

Please submit the portfolio in the folder provided, and label it with your name, address, phone number and email address. Your portfolio should include 12 good-quality prints or printouts (on 8.5" x 11" paper) of your strongest original 2D and 3D work in any medium. 2D and 3D work can be photographed or scanned for output; if you work in video, multiple frames of a video piece may be shown on a single page. Clearly label each printout with your name, title of the piece, dimensions, materials and date when it was made. Organize and assemble this representation of your artistic interests with care and creativity. CDs are not accepted. Do not send your only copy of work; this portfolio will not be returned to you, but will be archived in the SUNY New Paltz Art Department.

- 3. A 1-page Statement of Purpose.** As an artist you will be expected to communicate effectively visually, verbally, and through your writing. For this essay, style, content and personal characteristics are evaluated along with grammar and structure. We are interested in how you think. A Statement of Purpose can describe aspects of your work beyond what the portfolio represents. Tell us about your past experiences, your creative interests, and your future goals as an artist. Your statement should be clear and concise.

**Also:** Freshman applicants may include Advanced Placement scores with their portfolios, in addition to what is required by the Admissions Committee.

**And:** Please note the specific dates set aside during Fall and Spring semesters for portfolio reviews.

**Good luck!**

# freshman applicants portfolio submission & review form

## Art Department / State University of New York at New Paltz

This completed form **must** accompany portfolios that are submitted to the SUNY New Paltz Art Department for evaluation. No portfolio will be reviewed without it. Students who submit portfolios **before** being admitted to SUNY New Paltz are reminded that an approved portfolio **does not** guarantee admission to SUNY New Paltz, which is a separate procedure through the Admissions Department. Good luck!

### Applicants complete this section

name \_\_\_\_\_  
last first mi

address \_\_\_\_\_  
street

city state zip code

anticipated entry date \_\_\_\_\_  
semester year

social security number \_\_\_\_\_

phone number \_\_\_\_\_

email address \_\_\_\_\_

### Your application must include the following:

- 1. This form**, completed (the pink copy will be returned to you with our decision; please retain for your records).
- 2. Your portfolio**. Do not send your only copy of work; this portfolio will not be returned to you, but will be archived in the SUNY New Paltz Art Department.
- 3. A 1-page Statement of Purpose**.

Incomplete applications and work submitted on CDs will not be reviewed.

### Interest areas

 Do you have particular areas of interest? Please tell us.

- \_\_\_ Art education
- \_\_\_ Ceramics
- \_\_\_ Graphic design
- \_\_\_ Metal
- \_\_\_ Painting and Drawing
- \_\_\_ Photography
- \_\_\_ Printmaking
- \_\_\_ Sculpture

### Evaluators complete this section

#### Portfolio review

**Rejection** Your portfolio suggests that success in this program is unlikely.

**No action** See comments, below.

**Conditional art placement** Your work indicates a need for greater proficiency. Contingent upon admission to SUNY New Paltz, register for the course *Introduction to Drawing and Design*. In order for you to reapply for admission into the Art Department, you must submit work produced in this course for portfolio approval by the Art Department Admissions Committee.

**Approval** Congratulations! Your portfolio has been approved by the Art Department; see placement and registration details below. Also note that an approved portfolio does not constitute application or indicate acceptance to SUNY New Paltz; that is a separate process through the Admissions Department.

**Regular art placement** Contingent upon being admitted to SUNY New Paltz, you may register for the required Freshman Foundation Year courses.

**AP course credits** have been applied as follows:

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Because of the quality of your portfolio, **course waivers** have been applied toward the courses listed below. A waiver of courses does not mean that credits are being waived; you still need to fulfill credit requirements but are being permitted to do so with more advanced course work. Upon consultation with faculty in your area of interest, select other courses to replace those being waived.

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#### Evaluator comments

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Evaluator signature / date

Evaluator printed name