

Missouri Fine Arts Academy

What It Is

The Missouri Fine Arts Academy is a unique, three-week, residential summer program for exceptional Missouri artists who have completed their sophomore or junior year of high school. Initiated in 1996, the Fine Arts Academy offers students the opportunity to enhance their skills in the fields of dance, music, theater, and the visual arts; to participate in intensive, stimulating activities of an interdisciplinary nature; and to explore the roles which the arts and they as artists can play in society. Students must be residents of the State of Missouri and be nominated by their public or private Missouri high schools to be considered for admission. **Students** must supply their own transportation to and from the Academy and "pocket money" for personal and incidental expenses.

The Fine Arts Academy will be held from on the campus of Missouri State University in Springfield. Participants are drawn from across Missouri and represent the diversity of the state. No grades or credits are awarded. The program is singularly free from competition, creating an environment that is conducive to building a community of friends and colleagues. Participants have the chance to know and make friends with other talented, enthusiastic artists who have demonstrated commitment to their artistic disciplines. The give-and-take among students from different backgrounds is one of the most treasured aspects of the program.

The Missouri Fine Arts Academy is made possible by a generous, annual allocation from the Missouri General Assembly and operates under the auspices of the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

What It's Like

Students live in a college dormitory with separate quarters for men and women. They learn a great deal about themselves and others as they live together and develop long-lasting friendships. The program provides students, faculty, and staff a rare opportunity to share the joy and discovery of learning and to exchange ideas in a warm community atmosphere. A select group of teachers and mentors, chosen from public schools, institutions of higher education, and the statewide artistic community, works closely with the students in classes, seminars, and co-curricular activities. Well-known speakers and performers, as well as field trips, special events, and a wide range of recreational opportunities, provide an array of stimulating activities which offer fun and enjoyment, along with learning. Student-initiated events are encouraged.

Students who are accepted must be prepared to get involved and to become participating, contributing members of the MFAA community - artistically and socially. Because there is such a variety of opportunities for personal, educational, and cultural growth in this program, students have to make choices at times in order to participate fully. The program offers the opportunity to be responsible for individual learning.

Purpose

The Missouri Fine Arts Academy seeks to help outstanding high school students achieve their artistic and personal potential and to cultivate their leadership capabilities; to expand students' horizons; to develop students' flexibility and creativity while increasing their awareness of future possibilities for themselves, Missouri, and society; and to stimulate excellence in Missouri schools.

Program

The program moves at a swift pace and advanced level as students explore concepts, theory, and practical applications in a cross-section of the arts. The program is designed for the enrichment and advancement of Academy students in their area of artistic specialty. Each student has a major field of study, as well as an interdisciplinary class. **Students are expected to attend all classes for the entire three-week Academy** and to participate fully in the instructional and social life of the Academy community. Nominees should be excellent representatives of their disciplines, functioning well in the school and community setting, and be mature enough to live away from home successfully.

For more information, contact the Gifted Education Programs Section, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, at 573/751-2453; Julie Bloodworth, Director of MFAA at 417/836-6607; or visit www.mfaa.missouristate.edu/.