GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS
A PROGRAM OF
KENTUCKY PERFORMING ARTS

GSA APPLICANT GUIDE

Updated for Virtual Final Round, 2021

Architecture + Design

The Final Round of GSA's 2021 auditions/reviews will be held virtually using AuditionRoom, a feature within the existing application portal powered by Acceptd. Read below to learn what will be required in advance of and during a Final Round audition/review for this art form.

All applicants who advance to the Final Round will receive more instructions on how to access their audition/review; however, you can learn more about AuditionRoom here if desired. All Final Round auditions/reviews will take place on March 19th and/or 20th.

Virtual Final Round Requirements

The Virtual Final Round for Architecture + Design will include:

Submitted via Acceptd by end of day March 14th:

a. Pre-Review Questionnaire
b. Images of Design Exercise
c. Images of Sketchbook/3D experiments

Taking place during your assigned review time on March 19th or 20th:

d. Virtual Portfolio Review and Interview

a. Pre-Review Questionnaire (due via Acceptd end of day, March 14th)

Applicants who advance to the final round will be forwarded to a new section of their application in Acceptd. This new part of the application will include a short questionnaire. This questionnaire may cover a range of topics, including your previous experience in your artform, your favorite artists, and/or your college and career goals. The questionnaire is not a quiz and is not scored, but it is a way for adjudicators to get to know you. The questionnaire may be used to customize questions in your interview.

b. Images of Design Exercise (due via Acceptd end of day, March 14th)

All Architecture & Design Finalists will receive a Design Exercise Prompt to create a piece to be reviewed during their Finalist Review. Each applicant will receive the same design prompt when they learn they have advanced to the final round. You will upload images of your work from the design prompt in Acceptd and then discuss the work with adjudicators during your interview on March 19th or 20th. All relevant instructions will be included with the prompt.

The prompt will reflect the design process at GSA and provide an opportunity to show/discuss your personal creative process. There is no correct way of responding to this design prompt – be creative and let us learn something about your process!

We will use this project as part of our selection process - both the final object which you present, as well as your ability to discuss your personal design strategy.

d. Images of sketchbook or 3D experiments (due via Acceptd end of day March 14th)

Via Acceptd, Finalists will submit up to five photos or scans of pages from their sketchbook and/or 3D experiments that are an important aspect of their creative output. Consider the following:

- These should reflect your creative process or brainstorming.
- The images can include either 'planning' or 'in process' documentation of your current or finished work.
- Use any format, including but not limited to: drawings, experiments, photographs, collages, cut outs, written reflections - any important aspects of your creative thinking.
- These can, but do not need to, relate to any pieces in the portfolio you uploaded in your preliminary application.

e. Virtual Portfolio Review/Interview on March 19th or 20th

Adjudicators will lead a brief conversation with each applicant about their portfolio, design exercise, and artistic motivations. This is an opportunity for the student to verbally express the qualities of their visual work as well as their personal artistic perspective. Finalists do not need to have on hand the portfolio pieces submitted for the preliminary round application; adjudicators will review and utilize images of the portfolio from the initial GSA application on Acceptd for the conversation (although applicants should be prepared to talk about their work and may benefit from having the work or images of the work within view for their own reference, when possible). The duration of the review and interview will vary at the adjudicators' discretion but will likely last no longer than ten minutes.

Criteria

The work of each student will be given an objective review by the adjudicators as to how they fulfill each of the following criteria:

Use of Formal Art Elements

An ideal applicant exhibits successful use of art elements such as line, value, shapes, forms, space, color, and texture. The applicant uses these elements to create structure and meaning and can speak to how they have done so.

Use of Design Principles and Sense of Composition

An ideal applicant utilizes design principles such as balance, contrast, movement, emphasis, and proportion in their work to guide their use of the formal art elements and the organization of the picture plane or three-dimensional form. The applicant uses these principles to create visual impact and meaning and can speak to how they have done so.

Technical Skill

An ideal applicant demonstrates practiced skill and developed technique, as well as an awareness of the specific tools, processes, and approaches required by the specific media being used. This does not necessarily mean each piece requires an extremely detailed finished quality, but rather that each piece is crafted in a way that is connected to ideas and materials.

Craftsmanship and Sensitivity to Materials/Media

The ideal applicant demonstrates a keen sensitivity to a variety of materials, a strong awareness of their intrinsic properties and limitations, and makes deliberate and intentional choices in crafting their work.

Originality & Creative Voice

An ideal applicant's work is consistently approached from a personalized viewpoint, background, or experience. Even if the work is a product of an assignment, it contains an artist's personalized point of view or desire. The applicant can identify and explain how their individuality and perspective are evident across the portfolio.

Dedication to Artform, Growth, and Community

An ideal applicant demonstrates a commitment to and passion for their artform, as well as a desire and ability to grow as an artist. The applicant can thoughtfully and authentically explain why they want to attend GSA and how they are uniquely qualified to contribute to a robust, diverse community of artists.

Design Exercise (Final Round only)

The design exercise is intended to evoke each applicant's individual expression through creative problem solving. There is no 'correct' way to complete this prompt. Each applicant will be asked to discuss the product they created and the process used to create it. The piece itself will be considered a 'designed object;' the applicant will be scored on how successful their piece is visually, and how well their expressed ideas about the product and process coordinate with the work presented.

Tips

These tips are suggestions. They are NOT eligibility requirements for admittance to GSA.

- Your work **does not** need to be architecturally oriented.
- We consider **aptitude for design** – this can be presented by work in any medium.
- Consider how you discuss your work. Try to **express ideas and interest we cannot see,** rather than describing the piece.
- **Pay close attention to the adjudication criteria.** While GSA students are accepted based on their holistic identity as a young artist, the criteria are the foundation of how your portfolio is being scored.
- **Remember the adjudicators are very excited to see your work and they want you to do well!** We know it takes hard work to submit this application, and that it can be scary to "put yourself out there." We have faith in you, so put your best foot forward and don't be afraid to show us the wonderful artist you are. You prove a level of dedication just by submitting your application, and you should be proud of yourself.

Application Timeline/Deadlines

January 10, 2021 - GSA Application Due

February 19, 2021 – GSA Finalists Announced

By March 5, 2021 – Finalists receive time/date for their Final Round Audition/Review

March 14, 2021 – By end of day, initial materials due in Acceptd (see details above)

March 19 & 20, 2021 – Virtual Final Round Auditions/Reviews

Friday, April 16, 2021 – Announcement of GSA 2021 Accepted Students and Alternates

June 27 – July 17, 2021 – GSA 2021 Summer Program

For technical support with the application, contact Acceptd
Email: support@getacceptd.com
Phone: 1.888.725.2122, press 2

For questions about Summer Program, the content and/or requirements of the application,
contact GSA
Email (preferred): gsainfo@kentuckyperformingarts.org
Phone: 502.566.5192