



ACT

## Graduate Application and Portfolio Guidelines

### Graduate School of Acting

**Applicants to the Graduate Program must submit the following:**

1. **APPLICATION:** Complete the online [application](#) clearly indicating chosen discipline.
2. **STATEMENT OF INTENT:** Outline your goals and intentions for graduate school (700 word limit)
3. **OFFICIAL COLLEGE TRANSCRIPT(S):** Transcripts must be official or unofficial, issued by the attended institution and show completion of an undergraduate degree. Academy of Art University accepts electronic submission of official and unofficial transcripts. Students sending an official or unofficial electronic transcript should have it directed to the following email address: [transcripts@academyart.edu](mailto:transcripts@academyart.edu).
4. **RESUME:** Should describe your acting experience, academic background, training, work experience and skill set.
5. **PORTFOLIO:** A professionally presented indication of the applicant's skills is required for optimal program placement. Specific portfolio guidelines are below.
6. **HEADSHOT:** A professional headshot or an 8x10 photograph
7. **DESCRIPTION:** All pieces must be identified by title, author, size and running time.
8. **LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION:** Three letters of recommendation are required. Please have your recommenders email their letters directly to your admissions representative.

**Note:** New students accepted into the Graduate School of Acting must complete a required reading list and review recommended resources prior to starting the program:

<http://www.academyart.edu/content/dam/assets/pdf/prepguides/ACT-Prep-Guide.pdf>

#### SUBMISSION FORMAT:

*(Please note that your submission is incomplete until an application to the graduate school is on file.)*

- Go to [www.academyart.edu/GradSubmission](http://www.academyart.edu/GradSubmission).
- Upload your attachments in common file types (Example: .docx, .jpeg, .pdf, .wav, etc...).
- When prompted to provide descriptions, please give the title and author for each of the selections contained in the portfolio with the total running time for each piece. Please limit your portfolio to less than 50MB.
- Website URLs will also be accepted.



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#### STATEMENT OF INTENT:

The statement of intent should clearly define your goals, purpose and intentions for achieving a graduate degree in Acting. If applying to the program from an unrelated field, please provide an explanation of how your background and experience can be of benefit to you as an acting student. If you would like assistance, please contact Admissions.

1. Please construct a well-thought out, organized and articulate statement while remaining concise and to the point.
2. Do your research: Does your statement demonstrate that you know about the specific industry you are pursuing and how Academy of Art University will be a good partner for your purposes?
3. Show your focus and passion: Refrain from writing a personal biography. Why does the study of acting inspire and motivate you? What specific tools do you envision as necessary for being a successful actor?
4. Tell us your goals: Be specific. Why do you wish to pursue a career in the field of acting? Where would you like to be after you complete your degree?

#### PORTFOLIO GUIDELINES:

##### Acting portfolios should include the following:

- A scene in English from either a film or play, not to exceed a maximum of 5 minutes in length. The scene must involve at least one other partner.
- 2 contrasting (i.e. dramatic and comedic) contemporary monologues in English from a play not to exceed a total of 5 minutes in length
- Because English proficiency is a key factor in being successful in the School of Acting, we request a recording of the applicant reading the following passage to assess language placement:

##### Shakespeare's 27<sup>th</sup> Sonnet

Weary with toil, I haste me to my bed,  
The dear repose for limbs with travel tired;  
But then begins a journey in my head,  
To work my mind, when body's work's expired:  
For then my thoughts, from far where I abide,  
Intend a zealous pilgrimage to thee,  
And keep my drooping eyelids open wide,  
Looking on darkness which the blind do see  
Save that my soul's imaginary sight  
Presents thy shadow to my sightless view,  
Which, like a jewel hung in ghastly night,  
Makes black night beauteous and her old face new.  
Lo! thus, by day my limbs, by night my mind,  
For thee and for myself no quiet find.



# ACADEMY *of* ART UNIVERSITY®

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**NOTE:** The Committee or Director of Acting may request a live audition after review of your reel.

- Please include samples that best showcase your individual strengths as an applicant.
- If you are applying from an unrelated discipline, your portfolio should be representative of your existing skills.
- The overall presentation of your portfolio will be a consideration as well.

**PLEASE NOTE:** For International Applicants, all performance samples must be done in English and all writing samples must be accompanied by an English translation.