

Portfolio Requirements

Undergraduate portfolio guidelines for fall 2021 enrollment

Portfolio Overview

Students applying to BFA programs in the College of Art and Design's School of Art, School of Design, and School of Film and Animation are required to submit a portfolio in addition to their application to RIT. Portfolios are not required for freshman students applying to the School of Photographic Arts and Sciences.

Acceptance of your portfolio does not guarantee acceptance to the University.

Portfolios may be submitted for review to RIT in the following formats:

- Online through SlideRoom at rit.slideroom.com
- Link to media from YouTube, Vimeo or SoundCloud
- Sent via mail on a flash drive to:
Rochester Institute of Technology
Undergraduate Admissions Office
60 Lomb Memorial Drive
Rochester, NY 14623-5604

Images (up to 5 MB each), video (up to 60 MB each), audio (up to 30 MB each) and PDFs (up to 10 MB each). Please ensure images are in JPEG (.jpeg) format in RGB color mode. Flash drives will not be returned. The clarity of the slide or digital images is of utmost importance.

Portfolio Evaluation Opportunities

National Portfolio Days

National Portfolio Day (NPD) events connect young artists interested in pursuing an education in the visual and related arts with experienced college representatives from the top art and design schools across the country. Students receive feedback on their portfolios and learn about college programs. No admissions decisions or scholarship awards are offered at National Portfolio Days, but RIT's College of Art and Design can accept your portfolio as the visual portion of your application.

Due to ongoing health and safety concerns about COVID-19, the National Portfolio Day Association (NPDA) has decided to host all of its NPD events virtually this fall. Faculty members from RIT's College of Art and Design look forward to connecting with students and reviewing portfolios in a reimagined way. As we learn more from NPDA about these virtual events, we will share details at rit.edu/artdesign/npd.

Requirements by Program

Schools of Art and Design

Submit 10-20 pieces of your best work. Portfolios will be reviewed on the basis of pictorial composition, creativity/originality of ideas, drawing and design ability, a sense for the use of materials, attention to detail, and craftsmanship.

There should be a minimum of three samples of drawings made from direct observation (not copied from photographs, comics, or "fantasy"). Other work could include painting, photography, page layout designs, computer images, two-dimensional design, sculpture, models, mechanical drawings and marker renderings.

All images and documents submitted should be clearly labeled. Information such as title, size, media, date, assignment or theme (if any) and any exhibition/award notations should be included.

Medical Illustration

Applicants should include at least six samples of natural forms such as shells, elements of the human figure, bones, or plants drawn from direct observation.

School of Film and Animation

Production Option

Submit examples of expressive, original work that showcase individual style as a storyteller, filmmaker, or artist. This may include, but is not limited to, works in drawing, digital art, painting, performance, photography, creative writing, film or animation. Longer videos and musical pieces should be edited down to four minutes for review purposes.

Animation Option

Examples of figure drawings and/or gestures, drawings from direct observation, original character designs and examples that demonstrate a sense of form, color, linear perspective, composition, visual storytelling (storyboards or graphic novel pages) and video files of sketchbooks (page-turning) are encouraged. Please do not include any form of fan art. Examples of animation are not required but if included should be accompanied by text clearly explaining your role or objectives (story, movement, performance, etc.).

More Information

For any questions regarding the portfolio guidelines or submission process, please contact RIT's College of Art and Design at portfolios@rit.edu. Learn more at rit.edu/artdesign/portfolio-requirements.