Materials for the 2026-2027 Presidential Scholarship for Distinguished Achievement Application

Dance and *Theatre* applicants must complete the following essay prompt. Responses should be no longer than 1 page in length, and answer the following prompt.

Describe a dance/theatre experience during high school that has shaped your personal growth as an artist and/or a person, and explain how that connects to your desire to come to Wake Forest, where you'll explore dance/theatre within a liberal arts curriculum.

All applicants must submit a document describing the materials being submitted to demonstrate their talent (described below for each talent area).

Dance

Applicants must submit a 10-12 minute video in one of three styles (ballet, jazz, modern/contemporary), and include standard movements and techniques. An overview of requirements for each style can be found on the following pages.

Debate

Applicants must submit a portfolio of their debate records. An overview of requirements can be found on the following pages.

Music

Performance applicants must submit a 10-15 minute video containing at least 2-3 pieces with contrasting styles (Baroque, Classical, Romantic, Modern, etc.). An overview of requirements for some instruments/voice and for composers can be found on the following pages.

Theatre

Performance applicants must submit a 4 minute video containing 2 contrasting monologues. Design, stage management, technical production, directing, playwriting, and dramaturgy applicants should submit a portfolio of their work. An overview of requirements can be found on the following pages.

Visual Arts

Applicants must submit a portfolio consisting of 10-15 pieces, with information about each piece (title, dimensions, medium of the work, etc.) in a separate document. An overview of requirements can be found on the following pages.

Note: This document provides an overview of requirements for the Presidential Scholarship for Distinguished Achievement. It is not all inclusive and is for informational purposes only. To access and complete the Scholarship application, please log into your WFU Student portal.

Dance

Applicants should select one of three forms (ballet, jazz, or modern) to submit their 10-12 minute video demonstrating their talents.

Scholarship recipients will be required to minor in Dance and audition for the Dance Company every year.

Ballet: Barre work should include plie, tendu, ronde de jambe, developpe (front, side, and back) and grand battement (front, side, and back). The center work should show pirouettes, small jumps, and a grand allegro. Female applicants must include one classical variation on pointe or a pointe combination consisting of pirouettes and releve in arabesque. Male applicants must include a classical men's variation or a combination including tour en l'air and jumps and beats. Please wear leotards and tights; no legwarmers, skirts, or loose clothing.

Jazz: Dancers should include excerpts from warm-up standing and/or floor, progressions across the floor including isolations (head, shoulder, ribs, hips, or combinations of these), leg work, turns, and jumps. Dancers can include two short combinations in the center. A short clip of a live solo performance can also be included, but is not necessary. Please make sure the video clip is of good quality and that you are easily identifiable if in a group.

Contemporary (Modern) Center work should include standing and floor warm-up. Progressions across the floor may include leg swings, developpes, battements, turns, jumps, and leaps. Please also include two distinct phrases that may demonstrate the following: an ease of getting in and out of the floor and inversion work, as well as a strong sense of musicality.

Debate

Applicants should submit a portfolio which includes a short statement addressing their potential contribution and goals for participation in the Wake Forest University Debate Program. The portfolio should also include a listing (by year) of tournaments, prelim and elim records, and a list of summer workshops attended.

Scholarship recipients are required to participate on the Debate team every semester that they are not studying abroad.

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Music

Please note that secondary auditions/interviews for Music Presidential Finalists will take place on **Monday, February 8th 2027**. We will be inviting finalists on-campus for an overnight experience **Sunday, February 7th** to learn more about the program. Candidates should plan on arriving by **4pm on Sunday and depart early to mid-afternoon on Monday**. If you are unable to come to campus, you can audition via Zoom. Please save these dates in your planning process.

Scholarship recipients are required to participate in up to two ensembles of the Music Department's choice and take private lessons (MUS 181 or MUS 182) for every semester during which they are not studying abroad. The cost of private lessons is $325 for MUS 181 and $650 for MUS 182 (subject to change in future years); students may apply for additional scholarship money to cover these costs through the Music Department directly (some preference will be given to scholarship recipients for these grants).

Applicants should prepare recordings of two or three **unedited** performances demonstrating at least two contrasting styles (Baroque, Classical, Romantic, and/or Modern eras). All works written with accompaniment should feature accompaniment; for concertos, piano accompaniment is preferred. The total presentation should be 10 to 15 minutes in length. Recordings **should** be high quality but do not need to be professionally recorded.

A performance with an ensemble should be included ONLY if it is very clear which performer you are. (For example, small ensemble pieces with one of each instrumentalist or individual solos as part of larger ensemble.) For those who also perform in a non-classical style (e.g., jazz, musical theater, etc.), an additional track in this style may be submitted with an ensemble as appropriate, provided it is also very clear which player is the applicant performing.

Classical Vocalists: Please demonstrate different languages.

Guitarists: Please submit solo music for acoustic guitar. Guitarists may submit one track in jazz style in addition to two or three acoustic tracks. Acoustic tracks should come first on the video. Please note: rock guitarists are currently not supported by this scholarship.

Composers: Please submit scores in addition to recording.

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Theatre

Applicants are encouraged to submit material in one or more areas, showcasing their strongest work in performance, design, stage management, directing, playwriting, dramaturgy, technical production, etc. Portfolios and other materials may be submitted as a PowerPoint, PDF or relevant images, audio or video files, together with a narrative explaining their context and reason for inclusion.

Scholarship recipients are encouraged to major in Theatre, and must earn at least a Theatre minor. Recipients must also participate in one production during each semester that they are not studying abroad.

Performance: Applicants should submit online videos showing two memorized, contrasting monologues. Applicants should introduce themselves and their selections at the beginning of the video. A fixed camera showing the applicant's full body should be used. Monologues should contrast in tone (serious/comic; contemporary/classical; verse/prose) and character type. Applicants are advised to avoid accents. The two audition pieces, excluding introduction, should not exceed 3-4 minutes total. Please do not submit duet or group scenes, performance excerpts (i.e., from commercials), high school plays, etc.

Design, Technical Production: Applicants should submit a representative digital portfolio of their work. This should include process shots as well as completed work. Submissions may include photographs, sketches, paintings, floor plans, light plots, sound plots, cue sheets, video files, audio files, or photos arranged in a folder designating such. (Please do not send originals as materials may not be returned.) Work should be identified as class assignment, realized production (with title and date), personal work, etc. and should be annotated to explain to the committee the reason each example was chosen for inclusion. Applicants should also include a statement describing and explaining their responsibility and contribution to the work submitted.

Stage Management: Applicants should submit a digital portfolio containing samples representative of their work. Samples may include samples of blocking script, calling script, preset and shift plots, emails, rehearsal and/or performance reports, or other materials as appropriate. Teacher and adjudicator evaluations of the applicant's work may be included. Applicants should include a statement describing the samples and explaining their significance.

Directing, Playwriting, Dramaturgy: Applicants should submit a digital portfolio containing samples representative of their work. Samples may include scripts, script analysis, research, character notes, rehearsal schedules, and other materials, as appropriate. Teacher and adjudicator evaluations of the applicant's work may be included. Applicants should include a statement describing the samples and explaining their significance.

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Visual Arts

Applicants should submit their art portfolio, consisting of between 10 to 15 works. The portfolio should demonstrate breadth of talent as well as the medium of greatest proficiency (e.g., watercolor, sculpture, oil).

Scholarship recipients must earn at least a minor in Studio Art.