SARAH LAWRENCE COLLEGE

Creative & Performing Arts

Visual & Studio Arts
Film
Music
Dance
Theatre
Sarah Lawrence was one of the first colleges in the country to offer academic credit and serious undergraduate training in the arts as part of a liberal arts and sciences curriculum.

Today our arts programs offer conservatory-style studies for students who aspire to professional careers but want the foundation of a well-rounded liberal arts education. The College also offers superb instruction for students who don’t want to concentrate in the arts but want to incorporate creativity and expression into their studies.

Any Sarah Lawrence student can pursue the arts, and every arts student, whether beginner or advanced, works directly with faculty.

The College’s faculty includes some of the most highly respected artists working in New York City. No other college in the country affords students the same amount of close personal contact, individual instruction, and evaluation from faculty. Collaboration and interconnected work across the creative and academic disciplines are encouraged.
VISUAL & STUDIO ARTS

Students of the visual arts work under the guidance of active professional artists. Courses are available in drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture, digital imagery, and game design. Every course involves direct work with faculty. Each student has an individual work area in the Heimbold Visual Arts Center, and the building’s open classrooms and movable walls encourage students to see and experience the work of their peers, promoting even more interaction and understanding across disciplinary boundaries. The College’s proximity to New York City also brings recognized artists to campus and gives students the opportunity to visit hundreds of galleries as well as some of the world’s major museums.

The Heimbold Visual Arts Center

The Heimbold Visual Arts Center is a high-performance “green” building featuring safe alternatives to toxic materials, special venting systems, and an abundance of natural light. In addition to well-equipped, open-space studios, individual ateliers, and digital technology in every studio and classroom, the building also includes space for welding, woodworking, clay and mold making; a common darkroom, a digital imaging lab, and critique rooms; a sound studio and a screening room; and a large exhibition area. The center’s doors open onto a mini-quad, allowing students throughout the College both access to and inspiration from their peers’ works in progress. The building also hosts courses in visual culture, increasing the integration of the creative arts and the humanities.
FILMMAKING & MOVING IMAGE ARTS

Sarah Lawrence’s program in filmmaking, screenwriting, and media arts is a unique, rigorous, and comprehensive undergraduate program offering a flexible and dynamic conservatory-style approach—all in the context of Sarah Lawrence’s distinctive liberal arts pedagogy.

AREAS OF CONCENTRATION

- Narrative Fiction Filmmaking
- Screenwriting, Writing for Games, Writing for the Web
- Experimental Filmmaking
- Animation
- Documentary/Nonfiction Filmmaking
- Film Editing
- Producing for Film, TV, and the Web
- Cinematography
- Storyboarding, Character Design, and Animatics
- Directing for Camera
- Directing for Performance
- Web Series Creation
- Media Installation/Performance Arts
- Emerging Media Arts

A Comprehensive Hands-On Approach

Students find their passion through writing, drawing, working with actors, animation, documentary storytelling, experimental film and installation pieces, cinematography, editing, narrative fiction, web series creation, and game writing development, as well as emerging areas of media. The program also offers exceptional access to equipment, facilities, and resources.

An Inherently Collaborative Process

Filmmaking at Sarah Lawrence combines—and showcases—all of the performing and creative arts. Students are encouraged to form production teams and work closely with their peers in the theatre, music, dance, and visual arts programs. With so much talent right on campus, it’s easy for film students to cast, score, and design sets and costumes for their productions.

Annual Film Events

These include the Sarah Lawrence Film Festival, the New Trends in Filmmaking Conference, and the Film Students Networking Conference. Screenings and discussions with visiting filmmakers are scheduled throughout the year. Students also benefit from proximity to New York City’s rich film environment and extensive professional community.

ALUMNI IN THE FIELD

- J.J. Abrams
  Creator, director, writer, producer: Star Trek, Lost, Star Wars: The Force Awakens
- Peter Gould
  Producer, writer: Breaking Bad, Better Call Saul
- Sanaa Hamri
  Music video director: Prince, Nicki Minaj, Lenny Kravitz, Jay-Z, Sting; television director and producer: Empire
- Jenni Konner
  Writer, showrunner, producer: HBO’s Girls (Emmy Award)
- Jordan Peele
  Director, writer, producer: Get Out; writer, actor: Key & Peele
- Debra Zane
  Casting director: Hunger Games, The Twilight Saga, Traffic
ALUMNI IN THE FIELD

Win Butler
Frontman: Arcade Fire

Lesley Gore
Singer/songwriter: “You Don’t Own Me,” “It’s My Party”

Ira Kaplan
Co-founder: Yo La Tengo

Zoë Keating
Avant-garde cellist, composer

Josh Mancell
Musician; film, TV, videogame composer (Emmy nomination)

Meredith Monk
Composer, vocalist, dancer, choreographer, filmmaker (MacArthur “Genius” Award)

Dave Porter
Composer: Breaking Bad, Better Call Saul, The Blacklist

MUSIC

Sarah Lawrence’s music program integrates theory and practice by combining individual instruction, course studies in music theory and history, performance ensembles, and concert attendance.

A student’s individual instruction—instrumental, composition, or voice—is conducted not only by the Sarah Lawrence music faculty, but also by affiliate artists drawn from the New York Philharmonic, the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, and New York City’s professional community of performers, composers, and conductors.

Off-campus opportunities in music include Sarah Lawrence’s programs in Catania, Florence, Havana, and Paris, and students may also enroll in programs at CalArts and Falmouth University in England.

Facilities and Studio Spaces

The center of the music program, Marshall Field House, gives students access to instruments, private studios, audio and recording equipment, a media lab, and performance spaces and is home to the William Schuman Music Library, which houses a comprehensive collection of sound recordings, sheet music, and books, as well as 12 listening and study stations. Our electronic music studio features a full array of equipment, from classic instruments such as Moog, Buchla, ARP synthesizers, and multitrack tape recorders to equipment of the highest current standard for digital synthesis, hard disc recording, signal processing, computer sequencing, and editing.
DANCE

The Sarah Lawrence dance program is centered on an inclusive curriculum that blends physical, creative, and analytical practices. Students are encouraged to engage in explorations of form and function and integrate movement techniques throughout a wide variety of courses from modern and postmodern contemporary styles to classical ballet, t’ai chi chuan, yoga, jazz, and West African dance. Work in improvisation, composition, Labanotation, dance history, music studies, teaching, lighting design, and stagecraft rounds out the program, which aims to develop the sensibility necessary for students to realize as fully as possible their own ideas for creative work. Guest artists from the New York City professional dance community are frequently invited to Sarah Lawrence to share their expertise in classes, lectures, and workshops.

Dance Classes and Performances

Courses are conducted in four large studios with both marley and hardwood floors. Performances frequently take place in the Bessie Schönberg Dance Studio, which is equipped with computerized lighting systems and movable risers. The studio honors former Sarah Lawrence dance faculty member Bessie Schönberg, for whom the Bessie Awards are named. Concerts are produced regularly, and all dance students work on crews for these performances. The program deliberately cultivates interchange with students and faculty across the creative disciplines.

Off-Campus Programs

Off-campus opportunities include dance outreach programs and the College’s Summer Arts intensive in Berlin.

ALUMNI IN THE FIELD

Carolyn Adams
Co-founder: Harlem Dance Foundation; former principal dancer: Paul Taylor Dance Company

Lucinda Childs
Dancer, choreographer (France’s Order of Arts and Letters; NEA/NEFA American Masterpiece Award)

John Jasperse
Artistic director and choreographer: John Jasperse Dance Company (Bessie Awards); director of the Sarah Lawrence dance program

Rashaun Mitchell
Dancer, choreographer (Guggenheim Fellowship, Bessie Award)

Jimmy Tate
Musician, Broadway dancer: Bring in ‘Da Noise, Bring in ‘Da Funk; Jelly’s Last Jam
THEATRE

Sarah Lawrence’s theatre program emphasizes collaboration and practical application through intensive class workshops, private tutorials, and small seminars. Students are encouraged to take a broad range of acting, directing, playwriting, design, lighting, theatre history, and theory-based classes. Performing arts faculty members are active professionals who combine teaching with careers in New York City. Students may apply for internships with producers, playwrights, directors, designers, and theatres as part of their work.

Each year, more than 40 productions take place in our four state-of-the-art performance spaces, including classic and modern plays, student-written plays, productions by guest directors, and new ensemble works.

Sarah Lawrence’s Theatre Program in London

The British American Drama Academy (BADA) allows students to study classical theatre in London for a semester or a year. This intensive conservatory training includes classes, tutorials, and performances.

The Theatre Outreach Program

This training opportunity addresses social and community issues through theatre, music, writing, and the visual arts. Performance and teaching groups work with small theatres, schools, senior-citizen groups, museums, centers, and shelters. Productions and class plans are made in consultation with the organizations and with our touring groups.
Sarah Lawrence’s proximity to New York City benefits study of the arts in ways both tangible and profound. Students have access to the world’s best concerts, dance performances, gallery and museum exhibitions, readings, and theatrical productions. New York City’s opportunities for internships and fieldwork are exceptional.

**INTERNSHIPS**

**RECENT INTERNSHIPS IN THE ARTS**

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