1. Preparation is key.
   • **Music:** Engage in summer programs, community productions and master classes to boost your skills and confidence.
   • **Theatre:** Choose monologues that reflect your passion and showcase your range.
   • **Dance:** Prepare a solo highlighting your unique qualities and seek input from teachers.
   • **Film:** Watch diverse content from around the world for ideas and inspiration.
   • **Portfolios:** Build portfolios gradually, curating only the best work.

2. Understand all parts of the application.
   • Learn specific requirements for each school and note audition/portfolio deadlines to avoid costly mistakes.
   • Communicate with admission counselors to clarify any uncertainties, including separate applications or dual admission processes.

3. Ask a lot of questions.
   • Ask about how much time will be devoted to your craft versus general curriculum.
   • Inquire about performance opportunities, internships, entrepreneurship training and faculty accessibility.
   • Visit colleges, talk to current students and absorb the overall vibe to assess how connected you feel to the school.

4. Take advantage of resources.
   • Arrange class visits, attend rehearsals and use free portfolio reviews offered by colleges.
   • Participate in events, performances and guest speaker sessions to immerse yourself in the college’s artistic environment.

5. It takes more than talent.
   • Acknowledge the competitive nature of admissions and maintain high grades.
   • Highlight what differentiates you from other applicants in your application. Emphasize your uniqueness to stand out from a pool of other talented applicants.

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