

Bachelor of Arts in Architectural Design Application Portfolio Tips

The portfolio of work submitted with your application is the best way for us to evaluate your abilities in our program. The admissions committee looks very carefully at the portfolio because it contains a tremendous amount of information. Yours will be one of many portfolios the admission committee examines, so it must be both concise and informative. Keep the portfolio simple and treat the design of the portfolio as a design project in its own right.

Suggested types of creative work:

- Drawing and sketching (pencil, pen, charcoal)
- Graphics/illustration
- Painting/watercolor
- Sculpture
- Fine woodworking
- Model building
- Building construction
- Photography (no travel snap shots, photos must show evidence of composition and lighting)
- Set design
- Textile/apparel design and construction

LAYOUT

Your portfolio is a design project. All of its parts should work together to make a complete and satisfying whole. It is a good idea to plan the layout of each page so that it contributes to a graphic sensibility that is consistent from beginning to end. It should be easily readable with clear content images.

Your portfolio must be a single volume 8.5 in x 11 in vertical format, printed on heavy paper with a cover and wire spiral binding.

- Do not include loose, rolled, or folded material.
- Do not include computer discs or slides.
- Covers should not be made of metal, glass, or other sharp or heavy material.

Portfolio order:

1. Cover with name clearly legible. Keep images and design simple.
2. Table of contents, (if desired).
3. Two-page application form, typed neatly.
4. Transcripts, UW first, other colleges or universities second.
5. Essay question.
6. Personal resume, one page.
7. Creative work pages (24 pages, 12 sheets double sided).

IMAGES

Choose your images wisely. Do not include original work; instead, use sharp, well-lit, well-composed reproductions. Your images should show breadth of skill and ability. The best work in a given medium or subject area is preferable to a whole range or sequence of works. If you include more than one image of a single project or artwork make sure it contributes something to the presentation that cannot be perceived in other images. Usually a one or two-page spread is enough to describe a project fully, if the images are chosen carefully.

TEXT

Limit the amount of text in the portfolio. The images should do most of the work, but some explanatory text can be helpful. This might include: a title, date, brief project description, an indication of your intentions, and an explanation of your involvement in the project (where this is not otherwise clear). Remember that text can be a powerful graphic device in its own right, so make sure it also contributes to the graphic sensibility of the portfolio.