

Boarding School

“There are just over 300 students, so your friends and even acquaintances really become like family. ... Being an art school, it really focuses on the arts but that doesn’t stop the academics from being important.”

Student of Idyllwild Arts Academy

Idyllwild Arts Academy California

Idyllwild Arts Academy is a private coeducational boarding high school in the San Jacinto Mountains of Southern California. It combines rigorous academics with majors in visual and performing arts, where students practice daily in studios and performances. The 200-acre campus offers modern arts facilities, dorms, and outdoor spaces for a diverse international community.



BOARDING



DIPLOMA
YEAR



CO-ED



ARTS



MOUNTAINS



SUNNY

Quick Facts

Founded: 1986

Niche.com Score: A+

Students: Co-educational

School Population: 264

Boarding Students: 230

Climate: Warm, dry summers and Cool winters

Accepting students: Grade 9-12, Postgraduates

Diploma Year offered: Yes

Interview Required? Yes

English as Second Language (ESL) support: Yes

University Acceptance Rate: 100%

Academic Excellence

Idyllwild Arts Academy combines studio-intensive arts majors with a college-prep academic program. Faculty include practicing artists and industry professionals who lead majors and masterclasses. The curriculum offers sequential world-language study, honors level courses, and dedicated support for English language learners through the English for Academic Communication program. College counseling and a counseling center support academic planning and college matriculation. Small class sizes and individualized instruction drive a low student-teacher ratio, and the school reports a high graduation rate and consistent placement of graduates in arts conservatories and universities.

Student Accomplishments

Students at Idyllwild Arts Academy consistently achieve recognition in national and international arts competitions. Graduates have earned top awards in visual arts, film, music, and writing, with many accepted to leading conservatories and universities worldwide. Students frequently receive National YoungArts Foundation honors, Scholastic Art & Writing Awards, and selections for major film and music festivals, reflecting the academy's strong focus on artistic excellence and professional preparation.

Recent University Acceptances

- Bates College
- Berklee College of Music
- Boston College
- Boston University
- Brown University
- Carnegie Mellon University
- Columbia College
- Drexel University
- Hampshire College
- Johns Hopkins University
- Northeastern University
- Oberlin College
- Ohio State University
- Otis College of Art and Design
- Smith College
- University of California - Berkeley
- University of Maine



Stats

#1

Ranked High School for the Arts in US

60%

Scholarships or Aid Receiving Rate

30

Countries Represented

5:1

Student Teacher Ratio

08

Art Majors

100%

University Acceptance Rate

1280

Average SAT Score

Campus Facilities

The 205-acre campus is set within a national forest and combines dedicated art studios, film and post-production labs, rehearsal spaces, practice rooms, gallery and exhibition spaces, and production labs. Athletic and wellness amenities include an outdoor pool, exercise facilities, basketball courts, and extensive hiking trails. Dining is operated by an external partner and accommodates dietary needs. The campus layout supports interdisciplinary collaboration and frequent public performances and exhibitions.

Residential Life

Most students live on campus in double-occupancy rooms with ensuite private baths. Dormitories provide laundry, storage, and common rooms with study and leisure spaces. Dorm parents and student prefects supervise residential programs and coordinate activities. Residential services emphasize health, safety, and student well-being. Residential schedules include quiet hours, sponsored weekend excursions to nearby cities, and organized social events.

Athletics and Arts

The school emphasizes fitness and wellness rather than competitive varsity sports. Facilities support regular physical activity through a pool, courts, exercise areas, and outdoor trails; recreational and intramural programming and off-campus excursions are routine.

The Academy's curriculum is studio-based and pre-professional. Departments are led by working artists and industry professionals who run variable masterclasses, festivals, and opportunities for public presentation. Film and Digital Media students produce festival-grade work while music, theater, and visual arts groups regularly present public performances and exhibitions.



Lists

Sports: Aerobic, Basketball, Hiking trail, Swimming

Arts: Acting, Animation, Architecture, Art, Art History, Ballet - Pointe Dance, Ceramics, Cinematography, Computer Art, Dance, Dance for Theater, Digital Photography and Design, Directing, Drama Production, Drawing, Fashion Design, Fiction Writing, Film Editing, Film Post Production, Film Production, Jazz Dance, Metal Works, Musical Theater, Painting, Photography, Printmaking, Screen Printing, Screenwriting, Sculpture, Theater - Design and Production, Theater Directing

Clubs And Extracurriculars

Ensembles, Film production and festival teams, National Honor Society, Student Government, Theater productions, Visual arts exhibitions, Writing workshops



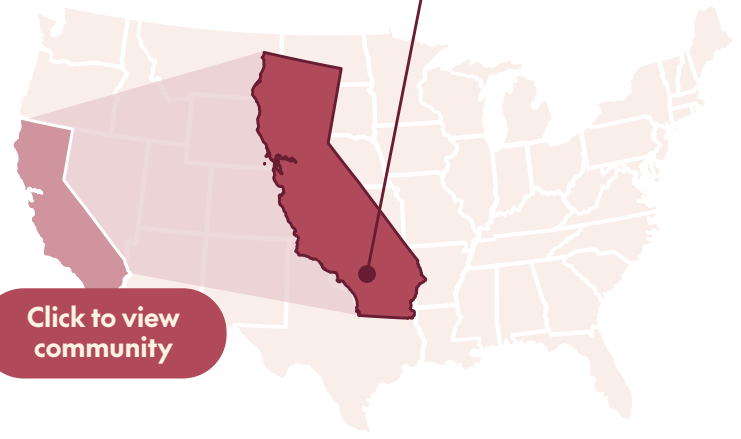
Community

Idyllwild Arts sits in Idyllwild, California, within the San Jacinto Mountains and adjacent national forest. The town is a small mountain community serving a residential campus; students travel to nearby cities for industry connections and excursions. Nearest major city regions include Riverside and the Greater Los Angeles area; driving distance to Riverside is roughly 60 miles, and to Los Angeles about 110–125 miles. Regional airports include Palm Springs (closest) and Ontario International (about 70–75 miles)

Climate in Idyllwild, California

Mountain mediterranean climate with warm, dry summers and cool winters.

IDYLLWILD ARTS ACADEMY



[Click to view community](#)



Video

Idyllwild Arts Academy Overview

