

FTC College Auditions

Understanding The Process

Please read this carefully and thoroughly. If you have questions, by all means, contact us at any time!

We are so glad that you or your students are auditioning at FTC. This is an extraordinary opportunity to audition and interview for more than 40 colleges at one time, and it can truly be a life changing opportunity. Please forward or give this document to every student who is auditioning at FTC.

Now, let's cover the basic before you get to the conference!

DEADLINE

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Schools/Sponsors

Most of you told us that you wanted the audition schedule much earlier. We agree ... but we need your help in order to make this happen.

One thing that delays the scheduling process is having many schools who don't really know when they will arrive. This pushes back when schools can perform their one act and/or attend auditions and makes scheduling exponentially more difficult, thus slowing down the process.

We completely understand that some schools simply don't know until the last minute. We are asking that you please try and figure these things out as early as possible. This year, please keep in mind that **if you tell us you're arriving on a certain day, we will expect that you'll be able to audition at any time that day.**

Please familiarize yourself with the detailed audition requirements and call times found below in the Students/Auditees section.

Here are some other reminders:

- We plan to hold auditions on Thursday, Friday **and** Saturday this year.
- We will have shorter audition days to help allow for more call back time each day.
- We will try our best to accommodate your needs, but there are no guarantees
- In your planning process, please have ALL auditionees in the green room **one hour prior to** their audition time
- Help your students pick their material
- If time allows, watch and critique their audition piece prior to arriving at the conference. Your advice and guidance could make a huge difference

Students/Auditionees

We are excited to have you auditioning at FTC and really look forward to seeing some great things from you. If you have any questions, please ask your sponsor or contact FTC!

Let's Get Started

It is important that you have a basic understanding of how the process works at FTC. It might be a little different at your district festival or at other places you audition, so it's vital that you understand how FTC handles the audition process.

First let's define a few things before we get started.

1. **Block** – formerly called a “flight.” A block is a group of 25 auditionees that will go into the audition room together. It's really just a fancy name for how we group the auditionees.
2. **Green Room** – a room where auditionees will meet one hour before your audition to set up, unwind and breathe before you audition. You will be placed in order of audition number and be given a briefing prior to going into the audition room.
3. **Callbacks** – a meeting or “interview” with a college representative. This will not be a second audition, it is simply a chance for you to speak with the college reps so you can see what they offer and if you'll be a good fit or not. Be prepared to ask them questions as well.
4. **Technical Callbacks** – Tech students will not have an actual callback as their audition generally includes the same type of “interview” that the performers receive at their callback. If a college is interested in you after the audition, they will contact you via email or phone after the conference.
5. **Accompanist Chair** – the chair right next to the accompanist
6. **On Deck Chair** – the chair near the accompanist, but not next to them
7. **Chair Three** – third chair in the line of chairs against the wall furthest from the accompanist

How to sign up for an audition

1. You or your sponsor/director will need to register for the conference by going to either the high school or 2-year college section of the website and clicking Registration.
2. Within 24-48 hours of your conference registration being complete, a link to the **audition registration form (ARF)** will be sent to the email that was provided for you on the conference form.
3. The **audition registration form (ARF)** MUST be completed by **October 7th, 2024**. Audition time slots and special accommodations will be on a first come first served basis. **Remember, this ARF is a separate form that contains specific information about your audition and academics, different from the original registration form on the website.**

Who can audition

The biggest change in our audition process this year is who will be allowed to audition!

The answer is....

- 2-year college transfer students
- High school seniors
- High school juniors in the **TECHNICAL THEATRE** division

All of the above will all be seen by college reps just as it's been done for many years.

So, what changed for Junior actors and/or singers?

Bottomline...the number of auditionees has been steadily growing for the past few years now. That's a great problem to have, but it's still a problem that needed a solution. Here's what is changing and what is staying the same for the high school juniors in the musical theatre and/or acting division.

What stays the same?

- Fill out the conference AND audition registration forms (ARF) just like everyone else
- Your song and/or monologue will still be performed
- Audition requirements are the same
- You will still be given audition numbers
- You will still have an assigned time and day to perform
- Everything about the actual audition will remain the same
- Same block style only with few performers in the room at one time

What's different?

- You will still be performing for a group of college reps; however, the reps might be professors at the school or they may be grad students.
- Once your audition is over, you will remain on stage for an additional 3-5 minutes (depending on how many juniors sign up).
- The college reps will then spend 3-5 minutes giving you feedback about your audition

This is an opportunity to get valuable feedback from colleges and people who are where you want to be. Take full advantage of that!

Audition Requirements

The competition for placement in colleges and universities can be rigorous, and applicants should be well-prepared. University representatives are not looking for 'perfect' auditions, but for students who are positive, engaging, and hard-working. Poor preparation is obvious to university representatives.

Sponsors should review all interview guidelines and recommendations carefully and encourage candidates to prepare fully. Sponsors should be familiar with the candidate's audition material prior to attending the conference and should assist candidates with the selection and preparation of their audition material.

Musical Theatre

- Ninety seconds total audition time
- Must have a song AND a monologue.
- Divide your 90 seconds how you'd like, but keep it to 90 seconds TOTAL
- Song first or monologue first, it's your choice
- Must have sheet music. No tracks allowed
- Choreography is allowed, but keep in mind your stage may be as small as 8x8.

Acting

- Sixty seconds total audition time
- One monologue. Cutting for time is ok. Splicing something together is not ok

Technical Theatre

- Bring examples of your previous work, including models, props, lighting plots, photographs, prompt books, projects or other examples that illustrate your work
- You'll be given a table to display your work, and are allocated a maximum display area of approximately 24" by 36". This may be a round table or a long rectangular table, either way there will be others at the same table

Please note:

- All songs and monologues must be theatrical in nature. No TV or movies pieces allowed.
- AUDITIONS ARE CLOSED to sponsors and parents, though sponsors and parents may attend the callbacks with university representatives
- All completed audition registration forms (ARFs) MUST be received by the FTC office on or before **October 7th, 2024** and will be scheduled on a first come first serve basis. Incomplete ARFs or anything submitted after **October 7th, 2024** will not be accepted.

How The Audition Process Works

1. Each auditionee will be given an audition number, a block number and a block time
 - For example; Block 1 might include audition numbers 1-25 and be from 9:00-9:45, Block 2 might include numbers 26-50 and be from 9:45-10:30, etc.
 - Arrive to the **Green Room 1 hour BEFORE** your block time
 - **When the block before you is finished, the next block will be brought into the audition room, even if it's earlier than expected.** So, being in the **Green Room 1 hour BEFORE** your audition is vital
2. Once in the Green Room you can rehearse, relax, and focus a bit before your audition
3. You will be placed in numerical order
4. After the block before you are finished, you will go into the audition room in the order you were placed
 - The first person in line will go directly to the accompanist chair, the second person will go to the on-deck chair, and the third person will sit in chair three against the wall
5. When the first person moves to the stage the person (in the on-deck chair) will move to the accompanist chair and the person in chair three will move to the on-deck chair. This will continue with the next person as each auditionee moves to the stage
6. While the first person is on stage and performing their monologue, the second person is speaking to the accompanist and telling them what is needed for their audition song
 - Each successive person will do the same
 - If you are not singing, you will still move as stated above, but you won't need to speak to the accompanist
7. When it is your turn to audition, you will enter the stage on stage left and exit stage right
 - After exiting the stage, walk around the room and behind the college reps and walk back to the same seat you were in when you came into the room
 - The first person will sit in seat one and the second person in seat two, and so on
8. Once onstage you will only slate your name and number before you start AND slate again when you're finished
9. After everyone has auditioned and the block is over, all music materials will be available to pick up from the accompanist
10. Exit the room quickly and quietly

Callbacks

- You must join our Remind group in order to receive the callback notices
 - We will send the Remind codes as we get closer to the conference (these will be sent as the date gets closer)
 - We will attempt to send out the callback notices after each block, but they may be sent during lunch and/or after the day is complete
 - If a college rep is interested in you, your number will be placed next to that college's name When you see your number, make plans to speak to the college rep at their table in the college fair
 - Some college reps will want to speak to you virtually at a later time; if so, they will note that.

Make This Your Best Audition Ever!

Musical Theatre

- On your sheet music, clearly mark the start and stop of your music
- If you perform your monologue first, note the last few lines of your monologue on the top of your sheet music
- Does the music start first with an introduction or bell tone? Do you speak before the music starts? Note EVERYTHING that the accompanist will need to know to begin playing!
- Your music should be in the correct key for your voice. The accompanist WILL NOT transpose your music on the spot. Don't ask
- Make sure your music is attached to a hard backing of some kind: a small 3-ring binder, a manila folder or something similar. **Loose paper is not the best choice at an audition**
- Never, EVER give the accompanist the "stink eye" while you are singing. Even if it truly is their fault, YOU will look like a difficult diva and the college reps WILL notice

Songs and monologues

As with any audition, it's up to YOU to stand out and above the crowd. You can sing and you can act; great. So can everyone else in the room. What makes you special or different? What makes a college rep or casting director say "yes" to you?

You can pick any song or monologue you'd like, but we've spoken to the college reps and here's what they have to say. These are NOT mandatory, but suggestions for you to consider.

Choosing your song and/or monologue

- Remember that college reps are seeing about 250+ auditions while they are here. When 90% of you are performing an emotionally dark monologue, it gets old after a while. You might perform that piece really well, but it's still essentially that same dark piece performed by everyone else. Find something that is fun. Not necessarily funny, but fun. Most say that comedy is harder than drama anyway.
- Time your piece. Thirty to 45 seconds for a monologue is plenty of time if you're also singing
- One basic rule is to stay away from anything that is currently on Broadway or is just recently off Broadway. Yes, they are great pieces and they're relevant, but college reps LOVE it when they see that you did your homework and picked a more obscure piece
- Ask yourself these questions, then put the answers to use in ACTION during your performance
 - What do I want? (Goal or intention for the monologue-reason to speak)
 - From whom do I want it? (It should be the person the character is talking to in the scene)
 - How do I plan to get it? (Action words – verbs work best at describing this)
 - Who or what is standing in my way? (This helps to identify the conflict)

These are merely suggestions and are by no means mandatory. These are also not to say that your dramatic piece isn't good or that your 20 second monologue won't work. We are just giving a bit of advice based on what we've seen and what the college reps have told us over the years! In the end, if you're happy with it, you'll perform it well and you'll be happy with the results!!

What is your range?

- Be careful that your song and monologue aren't the same person or the same type of character. Vary it up a bit and pick a song and/or monologue that shows off your full range. You only have 90 seconds to impress ... make it count
- Also, what's your vocal range. Too many singers try to sing a song that is out of their range. You may think no one will notice, but trust us ... they notice. Honestly, if you're a strong singer, sing. If you're not a strong singer, don't sing. Seems simple enough, but many actors have a great monologue and then sing a song poorly (or vice versa). All this does is take away from the wonderful monologue/song you just performed.

Watch your language

- Can your monologue include curse words? Yes. These are adults and curse words don't bother them when spoken in the proper context. The problem occurs when the words or content are used for shock value. Shock value is NOT impressive to anyone at an audition. Yes, you want to stand out, but in a good way. We promise, dropping an F-bomb every third word is not likely to have the desired effect
- Content and context matter. A superbly performed monologue from *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* will win over a very well-done monologue about sex

Dress Appropriately

- Wear what you'd like, but we suggest an upscale casual-style outfit
- Nothing too tight, too loose or too revealing
- The stage is about 2-3 feet off the ground so if you are planning to sit during your song/monologue, be mindful of that when deciding to wear a short skirt or dress.

Callbacks (again, we know)

Think of this process as a conversation where two people are getting to know one another. The college rep you are meeting with just wants to know if you are a good fit for their school. Do your research. Look at the websites of schools that will be at FTC. Write down questions you have for the schools you really like. Don't know what to ask? Try these questions first:

- How many students like me (with my essence) do you currently have?
- Do you have scholarships available?
- What is your teaching philosophy?
- Can you tell me your favorite thing about your school?
- What methods of acting/singing/performance do you teach?
- Is your school diverse?
- How many of "me" do you have and how long will I have to wait to showcase my work?
- What is the difference between the set-up of your BA and your BFA program?
- Do you offer an MFA program and if so, will I be competing against them?
- Are there any scholarship opportunities?
- Does your school have a professional theatre associated with it?

Technical Theatre Students

- Each category (stage management, sound, costumes, etc.) has different requirements for you to have with you at the conference. Please carefully read those requirements
- Place those items on the table assigned to you
 - We may have an assigned table for you or we may ask you to choose your table
- Make a 30 second elevator speech and be ready! Don't know what an elevator speech is? Figure it out; they are important in a setting like this
- You will have approximately a three-foot by two-foot-wide area on the table to use
- If you are using electronics, please make sure they are charged ahead of time because we can't guarantee we will have power at your table. We'll try, but just can't guarantee it
- The more put together and professional your presentation looks, the better your results will be
- We suggest that you have a resume printed to hand each college rep. They have all of your contact info, but it could help to have a resume
- College reps will come around to each person and "interview" you
 - If a college rep bypasses you, don't worry. They may only need particular designers, technicians, or stage managers at that time
- There will not be a callback for technical theatre students as the interview is the audition and callback in one

General Notes

- The audition room is loud and has a slight echo. Slow down so we can understand everything you are saying
- You are auditioning from the moment you walk into the room. Commit that to memory and don't forget it!
- Remember the college reps are people too. All of them are or were performers. This means that at some point they have all messed up or had a bad audition. The point is ... they understand. So just breathe and know that you're ready. You'll be fine!!! You got this!!

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Performance Room Set Up



4x8 Stage set up. One chair is allowed.

The bottom right corner, where the speaker is, will be where the accompanist sets up



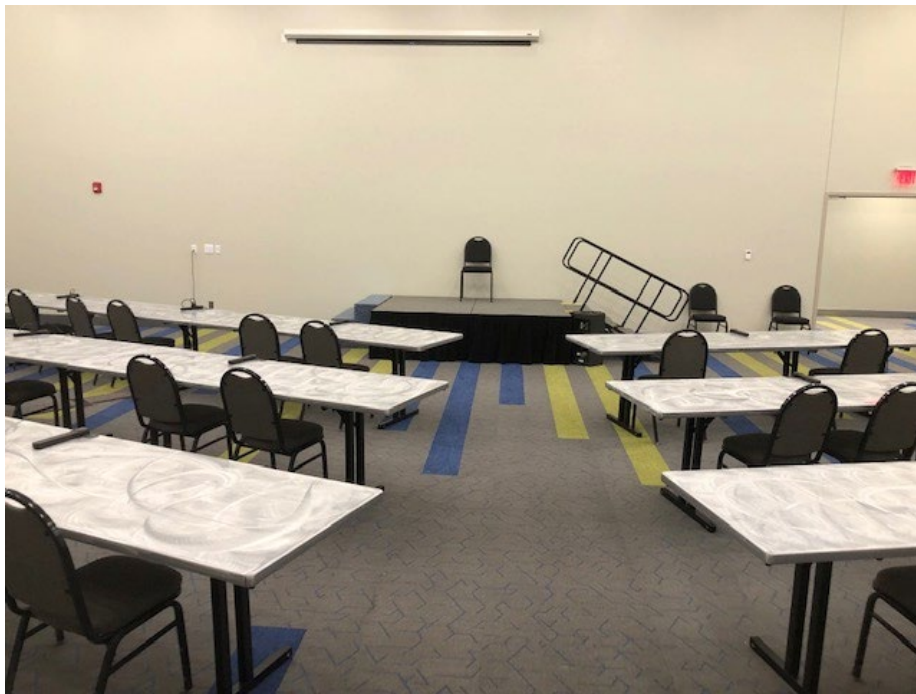
View if standing at center stage looking straight out.



View if standing center stage and looking stage right



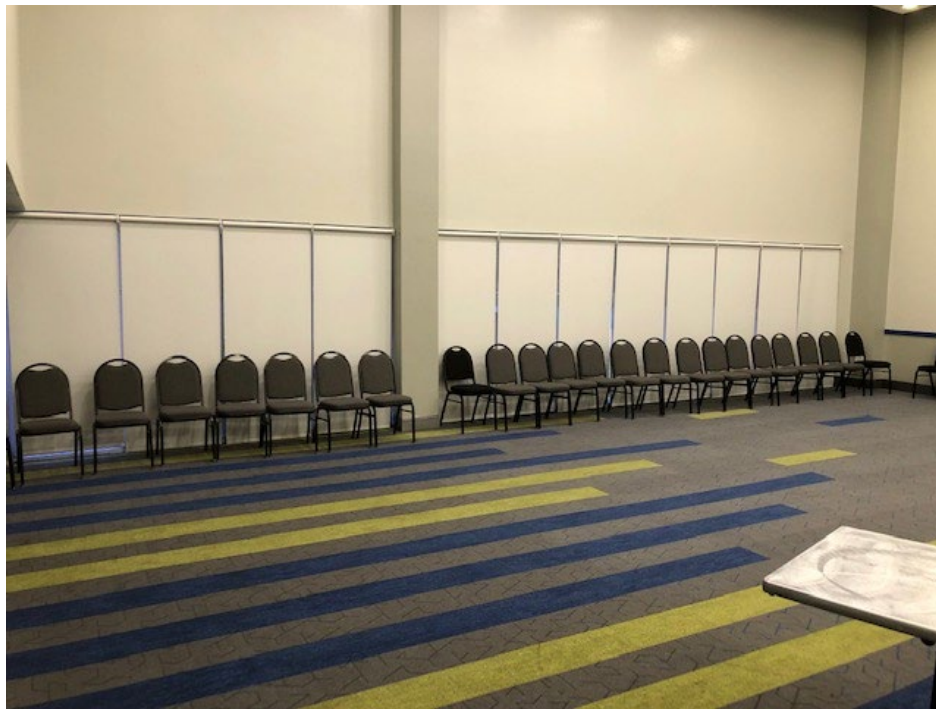
View if standing center stage and looking stage left. The accompanist will be where the railing is (bottom left of the picture). The rest of your block will be seated in the chairs on the top left.



View from the back center of the room.



View from house right where the auditionee chairs will be set up



Set up of the auditionee chairs on house right.



Tech audition set up!