



## Young Artists Initiative

Curtis has a long tradition of encouraging artists of every age to pursue their musical talents. In an effort to support our precollege-age students as effectively as possible, we developed the Young Artists Initiative. Since Curtis has no “preparatory program,” students, regardless of their age, begin their intensive studies fully and immediately with our celebrated faculty. We feel that this approach enriches student learning in the best possible way. In support of that learning, the Young Artist Initiative was designed to provide a coordinated and holistic approach to support our precollege-age students across every facet of their educational experience.

The Young Artists Initiative provides support to the young artist:

- Assignment of a faculty or staff mentor
- Musical Studies instruction tailored to younger students, including structured courses in music theory and solfège and specialized tutorials
- Age-appropriate social activities designed by our Student Services Office
- Peer advice through the Buddies Program
- Social interaction with local families through the Host Program
- Courses in English as a Second Language
- Guidance on enrollment in high school or middle school
- Access to age-appropriate counseling services with our mental health team, for individuals or in groups

The Young Artists Initiative monitors the young artist’s progress:

- All audition finalists and their parents are interviewed by the Student Services staff to help the family understand the unique demands of studying at Curtis. (The interview has no bearing on the admissions decision.)
- Student Services staff members are available as a resource to help identify special needs regarding language, educational progress, adjustment issues, etc.
- Regular reviews of student progress are conducted by the Committee on Academic Standing and the Student Services Office.
- Regular meetings with faculty and staff may take place throughout the year, as warranted.
- The Associate Dean of Student Services stays in close touch with the student’s middle school or high school to ensure satisfactory completion of coursework. (Completing work toward the high school diploma is considered essential to a young student’s success at Curtis.)

For more information, contact Chris Hodges, Director of Admissions ([chris.hodges@curtis.edu](mailto:chris.hodges@curtis.edu)) or Associate Dean Rich Woodland ([richard.woodland@curtis.edu](mailto:richard.woodland@curtis.edu)).