Craft and fine artists use a variety of materials and techniques to create art for sale and exhibition. Craft artists create handmade objects, such as pottery, glassware, textiles, and other objects that are designed to be functional. Fine artists, including painters, sculptors, and illustrators, create original works of art for their aesthetic value, rather than for a functional one.

Dancers
Schedules for dancers and choreographers vary, depending on location. During tours, work days are long, rehearsals lasting most of the day with performances at night. Some work part time at casinos, on cruise ships, and at theme parks. Dance takes a toll, so on-the-job injuries are common. Many dancers stop performing by their late thirties due to work’s physical demands.

Craft and Fine Arts
Most craft and fine artists work full time, though part-time and variable work schedules are also common. Many hold an additional job. During busy periods, artists may work extra hours for deadlines. Self-employed artists can set their own hours.

Actors
About 1 out of 5 actors were self-employed in 2014. Work assignments are usually short, ranging from a day to a few months. Actors often hold another job in order to make a living. They are frequently under stress finding their next job. Some actors in touring companies may have employment for several years. Actors may perform in unpleasant conditions, such as outdoors in bad weather or in uncomfortable costumes or makeup.

Musicians
One out of 5 musicians were self employed in 2014. Rehearsals and recording sessions are commonly held during business hours, but live performances most often at night and on weekends. Many find only part-time or intermittent work, and may have long periods of unemployment between jobs. The stress of constantly looking for work leads many to accept permanent full-time jobs in other occupations while working part time as a musician or singer.

![Projected Percent Growth in Employment, 2014-24](chart)

Performing arts industry

- **Actors**: 7%
- **Total, all occupations**: 2%
- **Choreographers**: 6%
- **Dancers**: 3%
- **Musicians and singers**: 5%
- **Craft and fine artists**: 2%

*Note: All Occupations includes all occupations in the U.S. Economy.*
Skilled & Experience Needed

Resume
Your resume should demonstrate your past artistic experiences with clear, concise, grammatically perfect language. You most likely will need to audition, which will require preparation and practice.

Skills Required
- Natural talent and ability in specific discipline
- Creativity
- Interpersonal Skills
- Discipline
- Teamwork (in some areas)
- Physical Stamina (in some areas)

Experience
Being a performance artist takes years of dedication and practice. You will most likely need to showcase your work in an audition or submission process. If you are a visual artist, you can explore galleries that may be accepting new work. If you are a dancer or actor, look locally for work that you can begin participating in today. There may be opportunities for an apprenticeship program. All performance artist need to practice and fine tune their craft.

Sample Job Titles
- Actor/Actress
- Musician
- Conductor
- Music Teacher
- Playwright
- Artist
- Sculptor

Other Resources
- Sigma Alpha Iota International Music Fraternity
- Performing Groups
- Dance USA
- Music Professionals
- Association of Performing Arts
- Screen Actors Guild

UMD Campus Resources
- Undergraduate Theatre Artists Society (UTAS)
- Erasable Inc

Where Are UMD Alums?