

Dear Independent Photo Staff Applicants -

Welcome to what I hope will be the most enjoyable experience of your high school tenure! Most of the students who find their way into the Independent Photography class find it to be rewarding in a variety of ways. It is occasionally arduous, but almost all have found that the rewards justify the dedication, time, expense, and effort expended.

Applying for this group is a unique experience in and of itself. The process involves four parts: the paperwork, the teacher recommendations and comments, what I may already know about you from class, and the interview.

Part 1. The paperwork consists of the following:

a) You will be given a rating sheet for each of your teachers to complete. Previous trimester's instructors as well as current ones should be polled. Fill in all the blanks which you can and then ask the teacher to give me their honest opinion of you. They will return the sheets to me or to my mailbox.

b) You will be given an application that will provide me with basic information about you.

c) You will be given an assignment that requires you to think. Exceptional photographers need more than just skilled eyes, they need sharp minds as well. The assignment will require planning, research, and attention to detail. The assignment may come today, tomorrow, or the day before your interview.

Part 2. The information supplied to me by your instructors will be tabulated and it carries a great deal of influence. While what you have done in Photography 1A and 1B is most important, your efforts and actions in other classes is also very important and insightful.

Part 3. Most of you have taken my photo class. In it I've had a chance to observe you in a number of different situations. I've seen you handle or miss deadlines, I've seen how well you interact with others; and your habits regarding keeping the darkroom clean or contributing to its disarray were also noted. Your leadership ability and your skills as a team player were observed for 20+ weeks. Each of these factors and others are weighed into this segment.

Part 4. Your interview will consist of a 10-15 minute question and answer session in which current staffers and I will see how much you know about basic shooting and photography. They will also ask unexpected questions that will require you to think quickly, a skill that is invaluable to members of this group. (Try to relax and enjoy this part of the process; too many find it to be stressful and may thus hurt their chances. It is simply part of the adventure that is Independent Photography)

I wish you success,