

ACTING & ORIGINAL WORKS

First Year Supplies and Materials 2025-2026

This supply list is for all incoming Acting & Original Works students at Cornish. It includes required and recommended materials for a successful year in the Theater Department. Please read this document thoroughly to ensure you're ready to go before classes begin!

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1. Required Supplies and Materials 2025-2026

As you enter Cornish, you are expected to acquire supplies just as you would buy textbooks. Below is a list designed to encompass the basic needs of many first-year required studio courses. All supplies will continue to be useful throughout your years of study at Cornish. Additional supplies may need to be purchased throughout the year for specific classes, projects, or personal work outside of class.

We would like you to have these supplies for the first day of each class except where otherwise noted. There is no need to have everything be brand new or brand name in clothing or books! You are welcome to search online for used, refurbished, or rental copies of textbooks. You can also check with the Cornish library to see if texts are available in electronic form and they have a textbook rental program for students who qualify. You can reach the library at libraryref@cornish.edu. You can also get in touch with the Theater Department Coordinator at theatercoordinator@cornish.edu if you have questions.

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General Supplies:

- ☐ **Water Bottle**
- ☐ **Journal(s)**
- ☐ **Folders** (for your handouts from class)
- ☐ **Pencils**
- ☐ **Erasers**
- ☐ **Pens**
- ☐ **Highlighters**
- ☐ **Black or Navy Form-Fitting Dance/Movement Clothing:** Used for many of your acting, devising, and physical theater classes. These clothes should allow you to move freely, safely, and without embarrassment. The reason this clothing is essential is because it does not distract from your work, allowing the focus to be on your movements, expressions, and interactions with other actors rather than on your clothing.

Note: *Have more than one set in order to avoid needing to wash your clothes after every class. Avoid clothing with large logos, text, and busy patterns. No jeans, pants with tight waists, or pants that need a belt to stay on.*

Clothing Suggestions:

- Leggings
- Sportswear Tops and Bottoms (not too baggy)
- Unitards
- Sweatpants (not too baggy)
- Tights
- Jazz Pants
- Yoga Pants



TH 111 - Acting: Improv & Devising:

What to Expect:

This is a very physical class. The improv is based on given circumstances and is focused on physicalizing emotional life. We will also examine ways to build emotional resilience, a necessary skill for actors. As we do the work, we will use readings from Declan Donnellan's [*The Actor and the Target*](#). You will also be devising solo work and collaborating with your peers in a number of ways.

Clothing:

- ☐ **Tops:** Solid black or navy t-shirts or tank tops. No logos nor should the clothing be excessively baggy. Please also have a long-sleeved solid black or navy shirt without logos to wear when cooling down from physical work.
- ☐ **Bottoms:** Solid black or navy leggings, sweats, or athletic pants that allow freedom of movement.
- ☐ **Footwear:** We work largely in bare feet in this class but there are some exercises that may require running shoes for those who have sensitive feet/ankles/knees. Please be prepared for your needs. We work in bare feet to best ground the body in space and connect to the floor, helping to increase balance and motor skills.
- ☐ **Hair:** Hair, including long bangs, must be tied or pinned back and out of your eyes and face.

Texts and Other Needs:

- ☐ [*The Actor and The Target* by Declan Donnellan](#) (ISBN: 1559362855 - please ensure you have this edition)
- ☐ A water bottle
- ☐ Writing implements (pencils/pens) - You will be given a journal for this class.

Note: *Cell phone use is not permitted in this classroom or any classroom at Cornish except in the case of accommodations which must come through Student Life.*

TH 171 - Text Analysis:

What to Expect:

Students should be prepared to keep and maintain organized notes. Notes may be taken electronically using their own device (laptop, tablet) or handwritten. Students should always have ready access to a pencil/pen and notebook as well.

Lectures:

The first 2-3 weeks of the course will primarily be lecture-focused. There will be a PDF of all lecture slides presented in class for student access. For ease, most students typically follow the lectures using their laptops or tablets and make their own supplemental notes as necessary.

Required Texts and Materials:

Students should acquire the following texts no later than the second week of the course:

- ☐ [*The Trestle at Pope Lick Creek* by Naomi Wallace](#) (Must have a hard copy of this text.)
- ☐ [*Actions: The Actors' Thesaurus* by Marina Caldarone & Maggie Lloyd-Williams](#) (ISBN-13: 9780896762527)

Attire:

Students may dress according to their own level of comfort. For scene work, students should wear clothing that allows for high-impact physical movement. Clothing worn in your physical technique, acting, and devising courses should suffice.

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TH 121 - The Actor's Instrument:

What to Expect:

This class is about connecting with your "instrument"—body, breath, mind, and voice. We will be exploring a variety of exercises in a variety of formats, so be prepared to move, use your voice, embrace mindfulness, and discover how many tools you have constant access to simply by being present with yourself. There is no required text for this class.

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Clothing:

- ☐ **Tops:** Solid black or navy t-shirts or tank tops. No logos nor should the clothing be excessively baggy. Please also have a long-sleeved solid black or navy shirt without logos to wear when cooling down from physical work.
- ☐ **Bottoms:** Solid black or navy leggings, sweats, or athletic pants that allow freedom of movement.
- ☐ **Footwear:** We work largely in bare feet in this class though non-slip socks are also acceptable. Please be prepared for your needs. We work in bare feet to best ground the body in space as well as connecting with the vibrations in the space.

Other:

- ☐ A water bottle
- ☐ Writing implements (pencils/pens) and a journal

Note: *Cell phone use is not permitted in this classroom or any classroom at Cornish except in the case of accommodations which must come through Student Life.*

2. Recommended Supplies and Materials 2025-2026

All recommended supplies are optional but are things that you may want to have on hand while studying at Cornish and after you graduate.

- ☐ **Personal Humidifier:** Recommended for vocal health.
- ☐ **Yoga Mat:** Not required but useful for floor work in voice and movement classes.
- ☐ **Dance Attire:** Useful if you decide to use your open or college electives to take a dance class. If you get black dance clothes, you can also use them as your black form-fitting clothing.

3. Incoming Student Laptop Requirements and Recommendations

Having a laptop is one of the most important tools for your academic and professional development as an Acting & Original Works student. While you do not need the most high-end computer that supports intensive visual arts tasks, a reliable laptop will be essential for your coursework, research, and creative projects.

If you plan to take any visual arts classes as part of your college or open electives, you may want to consider investing in a more powerful laptop. Otherwise, a standard MacBook Air or a standard PC will suffice.

Please contact the Admissions Team at: admission@cornish.edu should you have any questions or need advice on the purchase of a laptop.

If you need financial assistance in purchasing a laptop, please contact your financial aid counselor at finaid@cornish.edu for guidance in identifying any available options. Some students can borrow more in private loans or Parent Plus loans for the first year that they can use when purchasing a laptop.

Apple Laptop Options:

Apple Standard Specifications:

- MacBook Air
- Apple M1 or M2 chip (or newer)
- 8GB Unified Memory
- 256GB SSD Storage
- 13-inch display
- Magic Keyboard
- Force Touch trackpad
- \$999.00 and up (with Apple for Education pricing)

Apple Enhanced Specifications (if you plan on taking visual arts or design electives):

- MacBook Pro
- Apple M2 or M3 chip
- 16GB Unified Memory
- 512GB SSD Storage
- 13-inch or larger display
- Magic Keyboard with Touch ID
- Force Touch trackpad
- \$1,299.00 and up (with Apple for Education pricing)

Windows Laptop Option Examples:

Windows Standard Specifications:

- Dell XPS 13 or similar
- Intel Core i5 processor
- 8GB RAM
- 256GB SSD Drive
- 13-inch display
- \$800.00 and up

Windows Enhanced Specifications (if you plan on taking visual arts or design electives):

- Dell XPS 15 or similar
- Intel Core i7 processor
- 16GB RAM
- 512GB SSD Drive
- 15-inch display
- \$1,200.00 and up



External Storage (if you plan on taking visual arts or design electives):

- It is highly recommended to have an external hard drive for backup and additional storage. Options include:
 - LaCie Rugged 2TB External Hard Drive
 - Samsung T7 Portable SSD

Important Note:

Only follow laptop and software recommendations provided by Cornish Admissions or your program's Chair. Do not listen to anyone who suggests downloading bootleg software for free or using alternative open-source software that hasn't been vetted by Cornish. This information is incorrect, and students who have ignored these requirements have experienced major difficulties in their classes. If you have any doubts or need clarification, please connect with your admissions counselor or department coordinator.