



DeKalb School of the Arts

A DeKalb County School District Magnet Program
for Artistically and Academically Talented Students

*2009 Blue Ribbon School
Georgia School of Excellence*

Vision: Empowering artist-scholars to lead change and transform lives through the arts and innovation.

Mission: To inspire a community of competitive-artist scholars, creative leaders, and professionals through arts, academics, and service.

Core Values: Passion, Professionalism, Academic Excellence, Compassion and Community, Partnership Development, Resilience

2024-2025 Student Application

Curriculum: The curriculum includes general, accelerated, Advanced Placement and gifted academic classes along with drama, dance, vocal and instrumental music, media/film, visual arts, creative writing, theater design and production. Applicants must reside in DeKalb County. Grades 9-12 are served.

History: The DeKalb Center for the Performing Arts (DCPA) began at Avondale High School in 1986. The DeKalb School of the Arts Magnet Program (DSA) opened as a “stand-alone” high school in 1999.

APPLICANTS MUST:

1. Have a minimum grade point average of 3.0. This average must be maintained each semester once enrolled at DSA. Students with grades BELOW 71 (D or F) in the most recent semester (Fall 2023) are not eligible.
2. A completed application which includes:
 - A Completed DCSD School Choice Online Application by February 9, 2024
 - Complete DSA application, submitted and ALL required documents submitted to the school by February 9, 2024.
 - Required documents submitted in one packet:
 - o Report Card for Fall Semester 2023 reflecting final grades.
 - o One Confidential “Academic Recommendation Form” from a teacher in the last 3 semesters. **
 - o One confidential “Counselor Recommendation Form” from the student’s current school counselor. **
 - o Two confidential “Arts Recommendation Forms” from the student’s arts teachers. One recommendation is needed for each area in which the student is applying. **
 - o Portfolios as required for specific arts areas.
3. Audition in two of the listed Arts disciplines (page 11).
4. Interview with the audition panels

Note: Students coming from home school or private school programs may require additional testing or courses to fulfill DCSD and Georgia diploma requirements

*Final registration into DSA is contingent upon receipt of final transcript, attendance, and discipline report with acceptable second semester grades (Spring 2024) and verification of DCSD Proof of Residency (less than 30 days old)

Recommendation forms must be placed in envelopes and signed across the sealed flap by the person completing the recommendation. Faxed/emailed recommendations **WILL NOT be accepted.

***If a student is not promoted to the grade level in which he/she was selected for enrollment, the student placement will be withdrawn (GA Milestones and/or Carnegie Credit earnings).

The decisions of the DSA selection committee are **final**.

Important Dates/Information

**February 9, 2024: Application Deadline - School Choice On-Line Application
AND
DSA Application**

Applicant Informational Sessions

December 14, 2023, AND January 4, 2024 (Face-to-Face/On Campus)

Step ONE:

Complete DCSD School Choice Application: www.dekalbschoolsga.org/school-choice

Step TWO:

Complete DSA Application: www.dsa.dekalb.k12.ga.us/Admissions.aspx

Mail or deliver all paper application materials directly to:

DeKalb School of the Arts

1192 Clarendon Road

Avondale Estates, GA 30002

Attn: Application Committee

Step THREE:

Ensure **BOTH** applications have been completed and submitted by the required deadline: February 9, 2024

Additional Information:

Auditions: Submission instructions will be sent to accepted applicants

Deadline to Accept Placement - April 3, 2024, via your online School Choice Application Dashboard



DeKalb School of the Arts 2024-2025 Application

Dear Parents and Students,

Thank you for your interest in applying to The DeKalb School of the Arts (DSA). Our school is truly dedicated to its mission: *Empowering artist-scholars to lead change and transform lives through the arts and innovation.* The academic and arts curricula combine to create a **rigorous and demanding program** which prepares students for a successful future after high school and beyond. DSA is part of the DeKalb County School District's Magnet Program.

With increased demands on students' time by the arts programs, students must enter DSA with a strong balance between work ethic and academic proficiency. DSA follows an alternating block schedule (8 classes total: 4 on A-day, 4 on B-day), therefore, students will need to keep track of assignments and material needs. The DSA faculty and staff is committed to academic success for all students, but students must do their part in remaining consistent in completing assignments and seeking assistance and instructional follow-up post absences.

As your family considers applying for DeKalb School of the Arts, please remember this is a rigorous program – please carefully examine your child's current academic success, work ethic, levels of support needed, potential to be an independent learner, and family commitment needed to maintain success in a fast paced and energetic high school environment. as your family considers applying for DeKalb School of the Arts.

DeKalb County School District (DCSD) magnet students must maintain an 80 numerical average each semester, earn 71 or higher in all classes and meet promotion requirements. If students earn lower than 71 in a class or the numerical average falls below 80, one probationary semester is allowed to strengthen academic achievement. In addition, DSA students must earn two production credits a year to remain in the program.

The size of DSA's program (302) affords students a "small school" atmosphere, but access to a wide variety of academic and artistic curriculum. Class sizes range from 15-35 depending on the level and course. Students in the Gifted Program are enrolled in at least one gifted class to meet state guidelines. Accelerated math and Advanced Placement (AP) level classes are offered. Due to teacher allotment for DSA's programming, sections of each course are limited which places restrictions on scheduling options. Each student's schedule is carefully managed to meet his/her diploma choice and artistic needs while maintaining state and district guidelines for graduation.

Students at DSA are expected to practice self-discipline as well as academic and artistic discipline. The DeKalb School of the Arts is a public school within the DeKalb County School District. Students are held to the same code of conduct, regulations, and range of consequences as any other DCSD student. Students are expected to follow all DCSD policies as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct.

The artistic programs at DSA offer students a wide range of experiences from dance to technical theater. Students must earn a minimum of two production credits a year (on-stage and behind-the-scenes).

Acceptance into DSA does not guarantee students a place “on-stage” or in a top performing ensemble at first try. Most students audition several times before being placed in a performance ensemble. Feedback from auditions allows the experience to be one of growth and development. Students continue to study, practice, and polish those skills needed to be placed in productions. The DSA staff is committed to the continued growth and development of students both artistically and academically. Many classes, such as chorus, band, orchestra, media, and art, offer student’s performance opportunities within the class structure. Students are expected to enroll in the courses which support their audition areas throughout their DSA career.

Each spring, students meet with the “Arts Review Board.” This review board evaluates each student’s progress in the selected programs. Grades, production credits, level of commitment to the program, declaration of major/minor and plans beyond DSA are reviewed. The counselor also meets with each family annually to track graduation requirements, course sequencing, and post-secondary planning.

A variety of extracurricular opportunities are available for students: newspaper, yearbook, Beta Club, Student Government Association, Thespian Society, etc. *Students for the Performing Arts* (SPA) is a unique student organization at DSA. SPA acts as the student “booster club” for the arts. The SPA Banquet at the end of the school year is a special night to recognize outstanding student performances within the arts program. School dances, prom and other social events are an integral part of the DSA culture. Class dues and yearbook fees can be expected. **DSA does not offer sports, marching band, drill team, cheerleading or Drivers’ Education.** Students may participate in their home school’s sports program. The 2023-2024 budget will determine if any transportation is available for school choice programs.

Parents, Community Stakeholders, and the PTSA are vital components of the overall success of DSA programs. Parents are expected to volunteer 20 hours per semester and are encouraged to participate in PTSA fundraisers. Through the PTSA, supplemental materials and programs are provided across the curriculum. Parents may earn volunteer hours by assisting with productions (box office, supervision, construction), sharing talents (sewing, master classes, guest lectures), assisting in the office, and chaperoning on field trips.

DSA graduates matriculate to some of the most prestigious post-secondary schools in the United States, including but not limited to (UCLA, Harvard, Bard, University of Pennsylvania, MIT, Fordham, SMU, FSU, Boston University, USC, North Carolina School of the Arts, Howard University, Hampton University, Tuskegee, and University of Alabama). In addition, students are accepted to in-state colleges and universities including but not limited to Morehouse, Spelman, Emory, Georgia Institute of Technology, University of Georgia, Agnes Scott, and Savannah College of Art and Design. DSA graduates become professional dancers, actors, singers, doctors, lawyers, educators, and overall contributing members of society.

The DeKalb School of the Arts experience is unique, rigorous, and rewarding. It requires a commitment from both students and parents to maintain high standards and expectations. Please contact the school at 678-676-2502 for more information regarding our programs.

DeKalb School of the Arts
2024-2025 Audition Requirements

1. Auditions will only be scheduled for those students submitting a complete application by February 9, 2024, and who've met eligibility requirements. Submit all items directly to The DeKalb School of the Arts. Items must be compiled by the applicant and sent together.
2. All students will audition in TWO areas. Students will choose a MAJOR and MINOR area for their auditions from the following programs, (Creative Writing, Dance, Drama, Band, Orchestra, Media and Film Production, Technical Theatre, Visual Art, Vocal Music)
3. All students will be interviewed in each of the areas for which they audition. Students should be prepared to discuss knowledge of the disciplines, knowledge of the piece(s) performed (composer, author, choreographer, etc.) and their plans in the arts at DSA and beyond.
4. Students are encouraged to dress appropriately and professionally for auditions.
5. Auditions will be conducted face-to-face for the 2024-2025 school year.
6. Portfolios for creative writing, design and production, and media/film will not be returned to the student. *Only copies of work should be submitted with the application. DSA is not responsible for returning these portfolios.*
7. Visual art portfolios must be clearly marked with the student's name.
8. All students considered for acceptance into DSA will be evaluated through a comprehensive review of the application, teacher/counselor recommendations, auditions, interviews, and academic achievement.
9. If a student is not promoted to the grade level in which he/she was selected for enrollment, the student placement will be withdrawn.
10. The decisions of the DSA selection committee are final.

Creative Writing

Note: Creative Writing Portfolios must be submitted with the application.

Audition Requirements:

- Submit recent writing samples **no longer than eight typed pages in length**. The writing samples must include a variety of original genres (ex. Poetry, short story, one act play) or samples may be of one genre. No essays, please.
- Students must produce a writing sample during a 25-minute impromptu audition session. A writing prompt will be given at that time.

Judging Criteria:

- Portfolio: Diction, Unique expression of thought, variety of syntax, individual style
- Impromptu Writing: Ability to complete the assignment, follows directions, creates a work that includes all elements of that genre

Dance

Note: Dress for dance audition:

Ladies: dance leotard, pink/tan tights, dance shoes (ballet and jazz), dance skirt - optional

Gentlemen: tights, plain t-shirt, dance shoes (ballet and jazz)

Audition Requirements:

- Attend a required live dance class in which ballet, modern, and jazz combinations as well as dance improvisation exercises will be directed by DSA faculty. Solo auditions will be submitted via virtual platform.
- Perform a 90 second (1.5 minute) solo dance utilizing one of these four genres: **ballet, modern, jazz or tap**. Students will provide their own music for solo dance (CD, MP3, SmartPhone, or iPod playback are available).

Judging Criteria

1. Technique – strength, flexibility, rhythm, accuracy, clarity of movement
2. Focus
3. Performance quality
4. Musicality
5. Potential

Drama/Theatre/Acting

Note: The best monologues are usually found in contemporary American realistic plays and are focused on another character that is present on stage during the scene. The piece should represent a role which is reflective of the student's current voice, age, range, physicality, or personality. **Poetry (original or published), improvisation, film monologues, phone scenes or student written monologues are NOT appropriate.** Play scripts may be found at the library, the drama section of bookstores or on-line at sites like dramatists.com. Do not download monologues directly from the Internet.

Requirements: Present ONE 2 to 4-minute memorized monologue selected from modern American realistic drama **OR** Present TWO contrasting 1–2-minute memorized monologues (one from the above-mentioned genre, one from a contrasting genre such as Shakespeare, children's theater, comedic, dramatic, etc.) not to total more than 4 minutes.

Audition Requirements:

- No costumes
- Limit use of props to small hand-held items.
- Introduce monologue(s) by stating name, name of character(s) being portrayed and title of play(s) from which character(s) were taken
- Use a strong focal point (avoid adjudication panel or chair)

Judging Criteria

1. Clear diction and projection
2. Strong Movement Choices: avoid constant, unplanned or purposeless movement
3. Characterization
4. Familiarity with entire piece from which monologue is taken. The student should be able to discuss the scene, character, play and playwright if asked

Brass, Percussion, and Woodwind Instrumental Music

(Baritone, bassoon, clarinet, flute, French horn, oboe, percussion, saxophone, trombone, trumpet, tuba)

Note: Provide a copy of the prepared piece for the audition panel.

Audition Requirements:

Students Must

- Tune instrument
- Play 5 major scales and arpeggios **and** 5 minor scales and arpeggios
- Play one prepared excerpt from an etude or solo literature (approximately one-half page)
- Sight-read
- Echo sing and play short melodies
- Clap rhythmic exercises

Judging Criteria

1. Posture/breath control
2. Intonation
3. Tone Quality
4. Rhythmic accuracy
5. Articulation
6. Musicality

Stringed Instrumental Music

(Violin, viola, cello, bass, harp)

Audition Requirements:

Students Must:

- Tune instrument
- Play 4 two octave scales
 - o 2 majors with arpeggios
 - o 2 minors with arpeggios (use any bowing or tempo)
- Play one prepared excerpt from an etude or solo literature (approx. 24 measures)
- Sight-read
- Echo sing and play short melodies
- Clap rhythmic exercises

Judging Criteria

1. Posture/position
2. Intonation
3. Tone quality
4. Rhythmic accuracy
5. Articulation
6. Musicality

Media and Film Production

Note: To apply for a major or minor in Media and Film Production, a portfolio must be submitted with the application. Submit a copy of the portfolio (not the original) on a DVD, USB drive, or via URL (with login information, if necessary). The material will not be returned. The evaluation considers a student's experience, competence, and creativity used to produce the sample work. All work submitted must be produced by the student, with limited reliance on copywritten material. DSA is looking for students who are self-directed learners with enthusiasm for storytelling and technology.

Portfolio Requirements:

Sample Projects: Submit video or audio samples of your work. Only the first 5 minutes of a piece will be screened. Work may be produced via any digital production software, such as Final Cut Pro, Adobe Premiere, iMovie, etc.

Written Criteria: Each sample should include a synopsis that incorporates the following

- A brief description of the project
- The equipment and software used to produce the sample
- The intended audience for the production
- The process for accepting and addressing feedback

Essay: Submit an essay (300-word minimum) that describes how you became interested in production and the impact that you would like to make with your work. Identify any individuals, concepts, or other work that inspires you.

Interview: Applicants should be prepared to elaborate on storytelling interests, technical skills, and goals in the DSA program

Judging Criteria:

1. Completeness and accuracy of portfolio submission
2. Student's interest, creativity, and passion for digital storytelling
3. Student's ability to discuss the artistic process
4. Student's openness to feedback and desire to improve

Design and Production for Theater

Note: Technical Theater portfolios will not be returned to students. Submit only copies of materials. Portfolio must be submitted with application

Items to submit:

1. Portfolio with photographs of work and show programs of productions worked on, listing name and position
2. Resume of work experience

Judging Criteria:

1. Experience
2. Vocabulary
3. Competency
4. Long-term goals

Visual Art

Audition Requirements:

Submit work in an “artist portfolio” that is closed on 3 sides, with opening on top with a handle (preferably red fiberboard – available at local art supply stores)

Name and audition grade level (next year’s) should be clearly visible on the **outside** of the portfolio

Submit five pieces of artwork done **within the last year** which include the following:

1. detailed drawing of a complicated shoe executed in pencil or pen labeled – “**SHOE**”
2. portrait executed in any medium – labeled “**PORTRAIT**”
3. drawing or painting of multiple **COMPLEX** cooking kitchen utensils which are set up and drawn from a still life (old hand mixer with handle, wine opener, whisk, cheese grater, melon scooper). Feel free to add a fruit or vegetable cut in half into your still life and label it, “**HOME**”
4. student choice of media (no copying of other artwork, anime’ or cartoons)
5. sketchbook 20-30+ pages, these should be copies from sketchbook, put together in an interesting/creative way. (Please do not include original sketchbook.)

The shoe, portrait and still life should be **larger** than 16”x 20”.

Participate in a live drawing session of subject matter chosen by the adjudicator during the audition.

Visual Art Judging Criteria:

1. Line quality: good, clean contour lines and/or evidence of shading techniques
2. Composition: subject matter makes use of space
3. Use of color: evidence of some knowledge of color theory
4. Use of space: foreground, middle ground, background
5. Following directions, both with portfolio and on-site audition drawing

Vocal Music

Perform the selection from the required list below for the appropriate grade level. Copies of music and accompaniment tracks are available on the DSA website under the Admissions Tab. Accompaniment tracks are provided at the audition.

Rising 9th and 10th grade students: Sebben, crudele - Caldara

Rising 11th and 12th grade students: Danza, danza, fanciulla gentile - Durante

Sight-sing a short vocal example using an appropriate sight singing method:

- Solfeggio or numbers
- Grade-level examples are also found in the Audition Materials section on the DSA website under the Admissions tab

Judging Criteria:

1. Rhythm
2. Pitch discrimination
3. Range/Technique
4. Musicality
5. Intonation

DeKalb School of the Arts Application 2024-2025

Student: Type or print (blue or black ink – one color only)

PLEASE PRINT NEATLY

Last Name: _____

First Name: _____

Middle Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Age at time of Application: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

School Presently Attending: _____ Current Grade Level: _____

Name of Parent/Guardian: _____ Telephone Number: _____

Work Phone Number: _____ email address: _____

Select the **TWO art areas** in which you will audition. Mark **A** for Major area and **B** for Minor area.

	Drama		Creative Writing
	Dance		Theater Design/Production
	Vocal Music		Visual Arts
	Instrumental Music List the instrument you will play during the audition _____		Media/Film Production

Audition Application Deadline: February 9, 2024

**Application must be complete to be processed for an audition.
Submit creative writing, media/film, technical theater, and visual arts portfolios with the application.
Submit all application materials together directly to DeKalb School of the Arts.**

_____/_____
Student Signature Date

_____/_____
Parent Signature Date

Type or print (blue or black ink - one color only).

1. Explain why you should be considered for admission to DeKalb School of the Arts.

2. State the reason(s) why you are interested in attending DeKalb School of the Arts.

3. Describe your most rewarding experience in the arts.

4. What are your plans after high school graduation?

Please list the required details for each art class you have completed Type or print neatly (blue or black ink – one color only)

List art classes, instructor(s), and year(s) of study

Discipline	Instructor(s)	Calendar Year(s) Studied (ex: 2022-2023)

List performance experience, director/organization, and date(s) of event(s)

Performance Experience	Organization	Month and Year

List awards received, organization or person presiding, and date of the award or recognition

Arts Awards (Within the last 3 years)	Organization	Month and Year

Application Deadline: February 9, 2024 @ 3:10 p.m.

DeKalb School of the Arts (DSA)

Confidential Academic Recommendation Form

(Recommendation must be submitted using this form)

Instructor: Place this form in an envelope and sign your name across the sealed area before returning to the student. The envelope should only be opened by the DSA application committee. All application materials, including recommendation forms, should be submitted together. Your timely response is extremely important. Print in blue or black ink

This section is to be completed by the student.

Student's Name: _____ Grade: _____

Student Signature: _____ Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

This section is to be completed by an academic teacher who has taught the student within the last two years.

Teacher's Name: _____ Subject: _____

School/Organization: _____

School Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail address: _____

Teacher Signature: _____ Date: _____

Your honest evaluation of the student's potential academic success at DSA is very much a part of the selection process. Rate each statement

5 – Strongly Agree

4 – Agree

3 – Neutral

2 – Disagree

1 – Strongly Disagree

_____ The student is academically strong

_____ The student is creative

_____ The student completes assignments as directed in a timely manner

_____ The student learns quickly and has good retention of knowledge

_____ The student follows directions and is focused during instruction

_____ The student exhibits initiative and self-motivation

_____ The student exhibits a well-developed sense of integrity/ethics

_____ The student can receive and process constructive criticism

_____ Overall, this student is an excellent candidate for admission into DeKalb School of the Arts

_____ Overall, this student IS NOT a strong candidate for admission into DeKalb School of the Arts

Teacher's Initials: _____

Confidential Academic Recommendation Form Page

2

I have known this student for _____years and _____months.

My relationship to the student is: _____

Briefly explain how this student has performed overall in the academic area you teach:

Briefly explain why you believe this student has the desire, ambition, and talent to enter a school which requires extensive after-school production commitments and high academic standards:

Please provide any additional information which would assist the DSA faculty in evaluating this student:

Place this completed form in an envelope and sign your name across the sealed area before returning it to the student. The envelope should only be opened by the DeKalb School of the Arts application committee. All application materials, including recommendation forms, should be submitted together. Faxed/emailed recommendation forms will NOT be accepted.

DeKalb School of the Arts (DSA)

Confidential Counselor Recommendation Form

(Recommendation must be submitted using this form)

Counselor: Place this form in an envelope and sign your name across the sealed area before returning to the student. The envelope should only be opened by the DSA application committee. All application materials, including recommendation forms, should be submitted together. Your timely response is extremely important. Print in blue or black ink

This section is to be completed by the student.

Student's Name: _____ Current Grade: _____

Student Signature: _____ Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

This section is to be completed by a school counselor who has taught the worked with the student within the last two years.

Counselor's Name: _____ Subject: _____

School/Organization: _____

School Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail address: _____

Counselor Signature: _____ Date: _____

Counselor Evaluations often provide invaluable context to a student's application.

How long have you known this student? _____ (years) _____ (months)

What are the first words that come to mind to describe this student?

Application Deadline: February 9, 2024 @ 3:10 p.m.

Confidential Counselor Recommendation Form Page

2

Please provide comments that will help us differentiate this student from others. We especially welcome a broad-based assessment and encourage you to consider describing or addressing: 1) the applicant's academic, extracurricular, and personal characteristics and 2) potential for success in a fast-paced, high-energy high school setting.

Is there anything else you can share about this student which will help us support their transition to DeKalb School of the Arts?

Place this completed form in an envelope and sign your name across the sealed area before returning it to the student. The envelope should only be opened by the DeKalb School of the Arts application committee. All application materials, including recommendation forms, should be submitted together. Faxed/emailed recommendation forms will NOT be accepted.

Application Deadline: February 9, 2024 @ 3:10 p.m.

DeKalb School of the Arts (DSA)

Confidential Arts Recommendation Form

(Applicants must submit two different Confidential Arts Recommendation Forms.)

Instructor: Place this form in an envelope and sign your name across the sealed area before returning to the student. The envelope should only be opened by the DSA application committee. All application materials, including recommendation forms, should be submitted together. Your timely response is extremely important. Print in blue or black ink

This section is to be completed by the student.

Student's Name: _____ Current Grade: _____

Student Signature: _____ Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

This section is to be completed by an arts teacher who has taught the worked with the student within the last two years.

Teacher's Name: _____ Subject: _____

School/Organization: _____

School Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail address: _____

Teacher's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Your honest evaluation of the student's potential academic success at DSA is very much a part of the selection process. Rate each statement

5 – Strongly Agree 4 – Agree 3 – Neutral 2 – Disagree 1 – Strongly Disagree

_____ The student is artistically strong

_____ The student is creative

_____ The student meets rehearsal and production commitments.

_____ The student exhibits potential leadership ability

_____ The student follows directions and is focused during rehearsals/lessons

_____ The student exhibits initiative and self-motivation

_____ The student exhibits a well-developed sense of integrity/ethics

_____ The student can receive and process constructive criticism

_____ Overall, this student is an excellent candidate for admission into DeKalb School of the Arts

_____ Overall, this student IS NOT a strong candidate for admission into DeKalb School of the Arts

Teacher's Initials: _____

Page 2

I have known this student for _____years/months.

My relationship to the student is (i.e., classroom teacher, director, private teacher): _____

Briefly explain how this student has performed overall in the arts area you teach.

Briefly explain why you believe this student has the desire, ambition, and talent to enter a school which requires extensive after school production commitments as well as high academic standards.

Please provide any additional information which would assist the DeKalb School of the Arts faculty in evaluating this student.

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Mail or deliver all paper application materials directly to:

DeKalb School of the Arts

1192 Clarendon Road

Avondale Estates, GA 30002

Attn: Application Committee

Step THREE:

Ensure **BOTH** applications have been completed and submitted by the required deadline

FEBRUARY 9, 2024

Visual arts, creative writing, media/film, and theater design/production portfolios must be submitted with application.

Only complete DSA applications will be processed for auditions.