

Graduate Application Guide

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Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the challenges posed by holding live auditions on the UW-Madison campus, auditions for entry in Fall 2022 will primarily be completed remotely, with a few key exceptions (⚠️). Thank you for your flexibility!

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1. What do I need to know?

Before you apply...

All candidates must have completed a Bachelor's degree in Music at an accredited institution with a minimum GPA of 3.0 before the start of the Fall 2022 semester.

Additionally, Doctoral candidates must have completed a Master's degree before the start of the Fall 2022 semester, unless you have obtained the consent of our faculty to begin a Doctoral degree with only a Bachelor's.



What degree am I applying for?

Be careful when selecting your degree in the Graduate School application! If you choose the wrong program, you will have to submit a new application and pay a new fee. Please review the list of degree offerings (see right) and make sure you are picking the correct program.



Do I have to send test scores?

TOEFL

A score of 85+ is required for all international non-native English speakers. The School of Music does not grant waivers for U.S. degree holders.

GRE

Only required for candidates in Music Theory.

All test scores are due on December 1 along with the rest of your application materials. Please plan accordingly!



Do I have to audition?

An audition is required for all Music Performance degrees (except Composition). Auditions for entry in Fall 2022 will be completed primarily remotely.

Candidates for the degrees in Composition, Historical Musicology, Music Theory, and Music Education are not required to complete an audition or interview.

Our Degree Offerings

www.music.wisc.edu/areas

MUSIC

Master of Arts (MA)
Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)

Historical Musicology
Music Theory*

*The PhD program in Music Theory is not currently being offered.

MUSIC EDUCATION

Master of Music (MM)*

*The MS and PhD are offered in the Dept. of Curriculum & Instruction
<https://ci.education.wisc.edu/>

MUSIC PERFORMANCE

Master of Music (MM)
Doctor of Musical Arts (DMA)

Brass
Composition
Conducting: Choral
Conducting: Orchestral
Conducting: Wind
Guitar
Organ
Percussion
Piano: Collaborative
Piano: Pedagogy
Piano: Performance
Strings
Voice
Woodwinds
Multiple Woodwinds (MM only)

2. What do I need to prepare?

The entire application process is online. Your virtual application file will include the following materials. All documents must be in PDF format.



A. The following materials are required for everyone:



Statement of Purpose

Describe your educational and professional background and what you plan to do with your degree. Be sure to include any relevant teaching experience and other skills that would qualify you to serve as a Teaching Assistant in the School of Music.



Curriculum Vitae / Full repertoire list

In your CV, please include a comprehensive list of repertoire that you have mastered, performed, conducted, and composed.



Letters of recommendation

Select no more than 3 people to serve as your recommenders. When you enter their names on the application, they will receive an automated link to upload their letters online.



Unofficial transcripts

You will upload an unofficial transcript or grade report from each school where you have received a degree. This can be a scan or screenshot of your grade report, or a full transcript.

B. The following materials are only required for certain programs:



Prescreening portfolio

Required for all performance degrees except Woodwinds

See “[Graduate Prescreening Portfolio Guidelines](#)” on our website for specific instructions from your area of study. You must provide one URL link to your full portfolio (YouTube channel, Google Drive, etc.).



Writing sample(s)

Required for MA, PhD, and DMA (not MM*)

1-2 samples of your academic writing. Musicology and Theory candidates should submit substantial research paper(s). *MM candidates: Please do not send a writing sample.



Composition scores

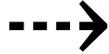
Required for Composition only

Choose a maximum of **5 scores** to match the recordings in your prescreening portfolio. Each score should consist of one PDF file with a title matching the recording.

3. How do I apply?



School of Music
application



Graduate School
application



Email additional
documents

Do the following 3 things before Wednesday, December 1:

1. Submit your application to the School of Music.

Start the School of Music application here: <https://forms.gle/epj724uwEJnMuJ2b7>

Please complete this application first. Here is where you will answer music-specific questions. If applicable, you will upload your prescreening portfolio URL, request a studio assignment, and choose an audition date.

2. Submit your general application to the Graduate School.

Start the Graduate School application here: <https://apply.grad.wisc.edu/>

Here is where you will upload your transcripts, CV, and Statement of Purpose as well as enter the information for your letters of recommendation. In order to submit your application, you will need to pay \$75 (U.S. citizen) or \$81 (international).

After submitting the application, you can monitor the status of your letters by checking this account.

3. Email your additional documents to James Doing, Jr.

Send your documents to: gradadmissions@music.wisc.edu All documents must be in PDF format!



All MA, PhD, and DMA candidates: Send 1-2 academic writing samples.



Composition candidates: Send up to 5 scores to match your recordings.

4. What happens after I apply?

Step 1: Prescreening

Performance faculty will review prescreening portfolios and determine eligibility for the full audition and/or interview. You will be informed of your prescreening decision no later than Monday, December 20. Schedules will be finalized shortly before the New Year.



Step 2: Auditions/Interviews

Auditions/interviews will be completed remotely in January and February. See the document “**Graduate Audition Guidelines**” on our website for detailed information about the audition protocol for your area of study, including scheduling and repertoire guidelines.



Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all auditions will be completed remotely with two exceptions (⚠️):

1. Conducting degrees
2. Horn & Trumpet candidates under consideration for one of the faculty ensemble assistantships.

Composition, Historical Musicology, Music Education, & Music Theory

No audition or interview is required for your program, although the faculty may contact you for further information or to schedule an optional meeting on Zoom. In any case, your file will be reviewed between December and February. Thank you for your patience!



Step 3: Admission decisions

Admission decisions are usually finalized in mid-February. You will be admitted, denied, or placed on a waitlist for your area of study. Please note that admission to the School of Music does not guarantee admission to the Graduate School. The Graduate School must approve your admission separately on the basis of your official transcripts, which you will be asked to send to them at that time.



Step 4: Funding decisions

For the 2022-23 academic year, we anticipate having about 30 fully-funded positions available. Initial offers for these positions will be made in March. The first winners of these positions will have until Friday, April 15, to accept. As soon as a spot opens up, it is offered to the next student in line, and so on. These offers continue throughout the month of April until all positions have been filled. Positions often open up at the last minute! See the document “**Graduate Funding in the School of Music**” on our website for detailed information about the available opportunities.