

Graduate Application Guide

For entry in Fall 2024

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Questions?

My name is James and I will be handling your application. Please do not hesitate to reach out by email if you have any questions. Looking forward to working with you!

James Doing
Graduate Admissions & Funding Coordinator
gradadmissions@music.wisc.edu

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 2024 semester.

Doctoral candidates must have completed a Master's degree before the start of the Fall 2024 semester, unless you have obtained the consent of our faculty.

Additionally, the Music Education and Wind Conducting programs require school teaching experience.

Areas of Study

www.music.wisc.edu/areas

MUSIC

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

Musicology

MUSIC EDUCATION

Master of Music (MM)*
Music Education

*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

Percussion

Piano: Collaborative

Piano: Pedagogy

Piano: Performance

Strings

Voice

Woodwinds



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 Areas of Study (see right) and make sure you are picking the correct degree 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. TOEFL scores are due on December 1 along with the rest of your application materials. Please plan accordingly!

GRE

The GRE is not required for our graduate programs.



Do I have to audition?

An audition is required for all Music Performance degrees (except Composition). Please review the specific instructions for your Area of Study.

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

2. What do I need to prepare?



In addition to these general requirements, please consult the documents on our website for specific instructions from your *Area of Study*.

A. The following materials are required for all candidates:



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.



Musical CV / Full repertoire list

As part of 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 some candidates:



Recording portfolio

Required for all Music Performance degrees (see list of *Areas of Study* above)

See the specific instructions for 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 Musicology and all DMA candidates (not required for MM)

No more than 2 samples of your academic writing. To help with processing, please put your LAST NAME at the beginning of each PDF file name.



Composition scores

Required for *Composition* only

Choose a maximum of 5 scores to match the recordings in your portfolio. To help with processing, please put your LAST NAME at the beginning of each PDF file name.

3. How do I apply?



School of Music
application



Graduate School
application



Email additional
documents

Do the following 3 things before Friday, 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 provide your portfolio URL, request a studio assignment, and choose an audition date and modality (in person vs. remote) depending on your Area of Study.

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 complete 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.

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



Musicology and all DMA candidates: Send 1 or 2 academic writing samples.



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

4. What happens after I apply?

Brass, Conducting, Percussion, Piano, Strings, Voice, and Woodwinds



Prescreening for auditions

Performance faculty will review portfolios and determine eligibility for the full audition. Decisions will be sent no later than Wednesday, December 20.



Auditions

Auditions will be held in January and February. Please consult the documents on our website for specific instructions from your Area of Study regarding audition modalities and repertoire requirements.



Travel options

You may visit UW-Madison and complete your audition in person, or you may stay at home and update your portfolio according to the audition requirements, followed by a Zoom interview on the audition day.

- Brass applicants who choose to stay at home will audition live on Zoom.
- Conducting auditions must be completed in person.

Composition, Musicology, and Music Education

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



Admission

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 submit at that time.



Funding

Initial funding offers will be made in mid-March. Detailed information regarding the funding selection process will be provided upon admission to the School of Music.

In the meantime, see the document called "Graduate Funding in the School of Music" on our website for basic information. We offer funding primarily in the form of Fellowships and Teaching Assistantships.