



Mead Witter School of Music

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

JAZZ

(Bass, Drums, Guitar, Piano, Saxophone, Trombone, or Trumpet)

This document contains the recording and audition requirements for the Jazz area. Please refer to the “Graduate Application Guide” for detailed instructions about the application process and general requirements for admission to the School of Music.

When filling out the Graduate School application, please select
“Music: Performance MM”

PORTFOLIO (due on December 1)

As part of your application, you will submit a portfolio of recordings. Your portfolio must be submitted as a single URL link to a file sharing site (for example, Google Drive) where you can upload audio/video media as well as sheet music. Please be sure that your video(s) are set to “public” or “unlisted” so that they are accessible to our faculty.

Your portfolio will be used for audition prescreening within the Jazz area as well as potential funding consideration within the entire School of Music.

Portfolio requirements:

- Three pieces in contrasting jazz styles / tempos.
 - One of the pieces must be a jazz standard in a medium-swing style.
 - One of the pieces must be an original composition (include sheet music).
 - At least two of the pieces should be ensemble performances that feature the applicant in a primary role. The third piece may be an unaccompanied solo piece or can be another ensemble piece.
- Recordings submitted can be audio or video recordings.
- Optionally, applicants may choose to include a fourth piece of up to 10 minutes that demonstrates a high level of musicianship in a non-jazz style or on a secondary instrument / doubling instrument

Note: In consultation with the Jazz faculty, you may supplement your portfolio with additional recordings/materials later in the process to be used for school-wide fellowship competitions.

AUDITIONS

Candidates who pass the prescreening round will be invited for a full audition. Auditions will be held on Saturday, January 17, and Saturday, February 14.

All candidates will complete a 20-minute live audition. You may choose one of the following options:

1. Travel to the UW-Madison campus and perform in-person, accompanied by UW jazz faculty or students.
2. Stay at home and perform unaccompanied via Zoom.

PREPARING FOR YOUR AUDITION

Along with your invitation for the full audition, you will receive guidance and requests from the jazz faculty regarding your live audition repertoire:

- Usually, faculty will request that you perform one or more pieces from your portfolio live.
- Faculty may also request to hear you perform additional repertoire that contrasts and complements your portfolio submission (for example, a ballad, a blues, an uptempo swing piece, a bebop melody, a piece in an Afro-Cuban style, etc).
- In addition, you may be asked to sight-read a short piece of music, and rhythm section players may be asked to demonstrate their facility in different rhythmic styles.

Accessibility

In an effort to foster accessibility, we encourage you to comment on your access needs and/or share any accommodations that may help ensure a meaningful audition experience. We cannot guarantee accommodations, and some accommodations may necessitate documentation from applicants. Please send any access/accommodation requests to James Doing at gpm@music.wisc.edu

Audition Repertoire

We welcome applicants to present a repertoire that highlights their musical strengths and identities. To this end, we encourage applicants to select from wide-ranging musical approaches. Show us who you are as a musician. If you wish to discuss your selected repertoire with us, please email your prospective major professor.

Last revised: September 3, 2025