



Mead Witter School of Music

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

WOODWINDS

This document contains the recording and audition requirements for the Woodwinds 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” or “Music: Performance DMA”

PORTFOLIO

Your portfolio must be submitted as a single URL link to a YouTube channel or another file sharing site (Google Drive, etc.). You may submit a single video or a folder containing multiple videos. 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 Woodwinds area as well as potential funding consideration within the entire School of Music. Portfolios may be updated at any time under the guidance of the faculty.

Clarinet, Flute, and Saxophone

Your initial portfolio is due by **December 1** for audition prescreening purposes.

Bassoon and Oboe

No audition prescreening is required. Please plan to submit a portfolio no later than **February 1** for fellowship consideration.

Portfolio requirements

- At least 20 minutes of repertoire plus three orchestral excerpts.
- Represent a variety of historical periods, or email the Major Professor to secure a waiver of this requirement if your work has specific directions/research/performance areas.
- Include at least one work composed within the last 30 years.
- Repertoire should be accompanied by piano, where appropriate.
- Recordings must be unedited, but device can be stopped between pieces & movements.
- If submitting a single video, please include clickable time stamps embedded into the video where tracks begin.

(Orchestral excerpts are not required for saxophone applicants. Please consult Prof. Walt Puyear to discuss repertoire: wpuyear@wisc.edu)

AUDITIONS

Candidates who pass the prescreening round will be invited for a full audition. Auditions will be held on Saturday, January 16, and Saturday, February 13. Candidates may choose one of the following options:

Option 1

**Travel to the UW-Madison campus for a
1-on-1 audition session with the Major Professor.**

There will be a brief meeting with all Woodwinds faculty, followed by individual auditions. The audition slot will be 20 minutes and will be a 1-on-1 session with the Major Professor in one of our performance halls or in the professor's studio.

Option 2

**Stay at home and submit a final portfolio of recordings.
Meet the Major Professor in a short Zoom interview on the audition day.**

The final portfolio is due no later than one week before your selected audition date. A submission template will be sent along with your audition invitation.

On the audition day, you will have a 10-minute Zoom interview with the Major Professor. You may also Zoom into the meeting with all Woodwinds faculty.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR FLUTE ONLY

Prof. Nelson will be on research leave in Spring 2027 and will not be available for in-person flute auditions. All flute candidates should select **Option 2 (remote)** and plan to have a Zoom interview with Prof. Nelson on one of the graduate audition days. If approved for a full audition, you will have an opportunity to update your portfolio with additional recordings before your interview.

PREPARING FOR YOUR AUDITION

Audition requirements

- See above (same as portfolio requirements).
- If choosing the stay-at-home option, updated videos reflecting your most current playing are welcome. You may also reuse your original portfolio recordings.

(Orchestral excerpts are not required for saxophone applicants. Please consult Prof. Walt Puyear to discuss repertoire: wpuyear@wisc.edu)

Piano accompaniment

For live Woodwinds auditions, use of a collaborative pianist is optional. You may bring your own accompanist or hire one of ours. A contact list will be sent along with your audition invitation. In any case, we strongly recommend that you have high-quality, piano-accompanied recordings in your portfolio for funding consideration within the School of Music.

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 10, 2026