

Mead Witter School of Music

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

GRADUATE APPLICATION GUIDE

FALL 2027

AND

SUMMER 2027 MUSIC EDUCATION MASTER'S PROGRAM



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Questions?

James Doing

Graduate Program Manager

gpm@music.wisc.edu

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1. WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW?

BEFORE YOU APPLY...

- All candidates must have completed a Bachelors degree in Music at an accredited institution with a minimum GPA of 3.0 before the start of the Summer/Fall 2027 semester.
- Doctoral candidates must have completed a Masters degree before the start of the Summer/Fall 2027 semester, unless you have obtained the consent of our faculty.
- Additionally, the Music Education and Wind Conducting programs require school teaching experience.



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. Please review the Areas of Study (right) and make sure you are picking the correct degree program for your pathway.



Do I have to send test scores?

The GRE is not required for our graduate programs.

English Proficiency

International Students must prove English proficiency by one of the methods approved by the Graduate School. If you have to submit a TOEFL, IELTS, or DuoLingo score, it must be provided no later than December 1 along with the rest of your application materials. Please plan ahead!



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 but may be invited for an optional interview or campus visit.

AREAS OF STUDY

www.music.wisc.edu/areas

MUSIC

MASTER OF ARTS (MA)*

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PHD)*

Pathway offered:

Musicology

*The Theory pathway is not currently being offered.

MUSIC EDUCATION

MASTER OF MUSIC (MM)*

4-semester program or

3-summer program

*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)

Pathways offered:

Brass

Collaborative Piano

Composition

Conducting

Jazz (MM only)

Percussion

Piano Performance

Piano Performance & Pedagogy

Strings, Guitar, & Harp

Voice

Woodwinds

2. WHAT DO I NEED TO PREPARE?

Materials required for all candidates.

These will be uploaded as part of your Graduate School application:



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.



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.



Letters of recommendation

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

Additional materials required for some candidates:



Writing sample(s)

Required for MA/PhD Musicology and all DMA candidates (not required for MM)

- DMA candidates must submit 1 sample of their academic writing.
- MA/PhD candidates must submit 2 samples of their academic writing.

These will be uploaded in the Grad School application along with the documents listed above.



Portfolio

Required for all **MUSIC PERFORMANCE** degrees (MM/DMA)

When filling out the School of Music application, you must provide a single, accessible URL containing all of your media. Each Area of Study has specific portfolio instructions:

<https://music.wisc.edu/graduate-admissions/#requirements-by-area-of-study>



Composition scores

Required for MM/DMA Composition only

Choose a maximum of 5 scores to match the recordings in your portfolio. Please include the scores in PDF format in your portfolio (see above).

3. HOW DO I APPLY?

Complete the steps below no later than **11:59 PM (CST) on Tuesday, December 1.**

STEP 1: Fill out the School of Music application.



<https://forms.gle/drUAd1C8Frw4a5gm9>

Complete this application first. This is where you will provide information specifically for the School of Music. If applicable, you will provide your portfolio URL, request a studio assignment, and choose an audition date and modality (in person vs. remote).

Please ensure that your submitted portfolio URL (Google, YouTube, etc.) is unlocked and accessible to anyone who may need to open it.

STEP 2: Fill out the Graduate School application.



<https://apply.grad.wisc.edu/>

This is your general application to UW-Madison. This is where you will upload your transcripts, CV, and Statement, as well as enter the information for your letters of recommendation. In the “Music” section, you will upload your writing samples (if applicable).

In order to complete your Graduate School application, you will need to pay \$75 (U.S. citizen) or \$81 (international). The School of Music is not able to provide fee waivers.

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

STEP 3: Provide proof of English proficiency (International Students only)



Please review the Graduate School website:

<https://info.grad.wisc.edu/requirements-for-admission>

- If you are required to submit a test score, please send your official test score to UW-Madison and send a PDF or screenshot of your score to James Doing no later than December 1 for interim processing.
- If you are not required to submit a test score, be sure to indicate your exemption in the School of Music application (Step 1).

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4. WHAT HAPPENS AFTER I APPLY?

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



Prescreening for auditions

Performance faculty will review portfolios and determine eligibility for the full audition in consultation with the School of Music graduate office, which will review transcripts for basic admissibility. Decisions will be sent no later than Monday, December 21.



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

Students are encouraged to travel to UW-Madison, if possible. As an alternative, all instrument areas (except Conducting) offer a remote audition option where you may stay at home and either perform live on Zoom (Brass & Jazz only) –or– update your portfolio according to the audition requirements (all others).

Composition, Musicology, and Music Education

No audition is required. Faculty may contact you for further information or to schedule an optional campus visit or Zoom interview. In any case, your file will be reviewed between December and February, and you will be considered for available funding alongside those who are auditioning.



ADMISSION

School of Music admission decisions will be finalized no later than March 1. Admission offers are typically not associated with funding.

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*

Applications for available TA positions will be collected during the audition process. Initial funding offers will be made as soon as possible, no later than March 25.

See the document called “Graduate Funding in the School of Music” on our website for basic information.

*Applicants for the **Summer Master’s Program in Music Education** are not currently eligible for graduate funding in the School of Music.