



Master of Music

Admissions Policies for Music Performance, Music Composition, and Music Pedagogy

2020-2021

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

THE DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

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COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS AND COMMUNICATION

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ADMISSION

Admission to the Master of Music program is granted by the Graduate School and requires a Bachelor of Music degree with a major in the area of proposed graduate study or its equivalent in addition to a successful audition for the Department of Music. A grade point average of 3.00 (B) overall or for the last 60 undergraduate semester hours is required for full admission. Conditional admission may be granted for a minimum grade point average of 2.50. Foreign students must obtain a TOEFL score of 550 or higher. TOEFL standards for students matriculating from UMBC's Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Contemporary American Music program are stated later in this document.

AUDITION/INTERVIEW

A personal audition/interview is required where the professional competence in performance or composition is demonstrated. Once your application has been received, the graduate director will contact you to schedule an audition/interview. Audition requirements for each instrument as well as composition are cited later in this document. Applicants residing over 500 miles from Towson University may request permission to submit a video recording in place of a live audition.

TA/GA POSITIONS IN MUSIC

Students who wish to be considered for TA positions in music theory or history & culture must complete the following by the Department of Music March audition date:

- 1) Audition or interview
- 2) Complete all application materials to Towson University and the Department of Music
- 3) Complete the music theory examination—music theory TA position only

GA positions are available in music technology and marching band. Requirements for these positions vary by the needs of the Department of Music.

APPLICATION PROCESS

PI

All applicants (domestic and international) will be contacted by a letter from the Graduate School regarding the ultimate disposition of their application.

2. Art song in Italian.
3. Art song in French.
4. Art song in German.
5. Operatic aria in original language and key.
6. Oratorio aria in original language and key.

All candidates must perform the equivalent of an undergraduate senior vocal recital. Each candidate's potential for completing the Master of Music Degree in Voice Performance will be judged according to the following criteria:

1. Musical skills: accuracy, phrasing, general musicality.
2. Basic knowledge of English, Italian, French and German diction.
3. Vocal skills appropriate for study of advanced vocal literature.
4. Performance potential: stage presence, poise, interpretation, expression, and communication.

WOODWINDS:

FLUTE

Applicants must perform a 30-minute audition which include at least three representative works from the Baroque, Classical, Romantic or Contemporary periods. At least one work must be a complete sonata or concerto. Memorization and piano accompaniment are optional. Applicants will also be asked to sight read.

CLARINET

Applicants must perform a minimum of two major solo works, one from the 20th century and one from the 18th or 19th century. Orchestral excerpts from the Bonade or McGinnis Book I or II should also be included.

BASSOON AND OBOE

Applicants must perform a 30-minute audition including at least three representative works from the Baroque, Classical, Romantic or Contemporary periods. Memorization and piano accompaniment are optional. All applicants will be asked to sight read.

SAXOPHONE

MUSIC THEORY PLACEMENT EXAM (OPTIONAL)

Those students with graduate level competencies in music theory may test out of MUSC 629, Concepts of Music Theory. Successful students will take MUSC 631, Advanced Theory. The theory exam is designed to be diagnostic, and questions may be asked in a wide variety of formats. Complete information including a practice test and online resources are available at

<https://www.towson.edu/cofac/departments/music/programs/musictheory.html>

Students should review and possess fluency in the following areas:

1. Have complete mastery and fluency with all music rudiments.
2. Know the conventions of common practice voice leading and part writing rules.
3. Know how to recognize all cadence types.
4. Know the functional use of all diatonic and chromatic harmonies in the common practice.
5. Know how to recognize non-harmonic tones.
6. Be able to analyze a tonal work.
7. Know how to recognize phrase structures.
8. Be able to analyze simple and large-scale forms.
9. Have the ability to do melodic and harmonic dictation.
10. Have the ability to sing a modulating tonal melody at sight.

The following textbooks are recommended for study:

1. Roig-Francoli, _____, McGraw Hill
2. Aldwell & Schachter, _____, Wadsworth Publishing
3. Laitz, _____, Oxford University Press

Placement for music theory courses will be determined on the following criteria based on the optional theory exam.

- 1) Students scoring 80% or above may enroll in any graduate-level music theory course.
- 2) Students scoring below 80% must enroll in Concepts of Music Theory (MUSC 629) as part of their degree program. Once Concepts of Music Theory (MUSC 629) has been completed with a grade of C or higher, students are eligible to take any other graduate-level music theory course.

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