

Mead Witter School of Music
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Graduate Application Guide

What do I need to know?

What do I need to prepare?

How do I apply?

What happens after I apply?

My name is James and I will be processing your application! If you would like to visit the School of Music, contact me to schedule a 1-on-1 admissions appointment. If you have any questions or problems, send me an email and I will respond within one business day. Please make sure you have read all of the instructions before contacting me.



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

What do I need to know?



Visit our website for detailed information about the School of Music, including degree worksheets and faculty contact information for each program:
www.music.wisc.edu/areas/

Selecting your degree

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 list of degree offerings (see right) and make sure you are picking the correct 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.

GRE

Only required for candidates in Music Theory and Historical Musicology. There is **no** minimum score requirement.

All test scores are due on December 1 along with the rest of your application materials.

Do I have to audition?

A live audition recital on the UW-Madison campus is required for all Music Performance degrees except Composition. Candidates for the degrees in Composition, Historical Musicology, Music Theory, and Music Education are **not** required to complete an audition or interview. Decisions are made solely on the basis of the application.

MUSIC

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

- ♪ Historical Musicology
- ♪ Music Theory*

* The PhD program in Music Theory is on hold in 2020.

MUSIC EDUCATION

Master of Music (MM)

- ♪ Music Education
(MS and PhD in Department of C&I)

MUSIC PERFORMANCE

Master of Music (MM)
Doctor of Musical Arts (DMA)

- ♪ Brass
- ♪ Composition
- ♪ Conducting: Choral
- ♪ Conducting: Orchestral
- ♪ Conducting: Wind
- ♪ Guitar
- ♪ Organ
- ♪ Percussion
- ♪ Piano: Collaborative
- ♪ Piano: Pedagogy
- ♪ Piano: Performance
- ♪ Strings
- ♪ Voice
- ♪ Woodwinds
- ♪ Multiple Woodwinds (MM only)



COVID-19

Given the uncertainty surrounding the pandemic, we ask for your flexibility and understanding with any changes to our admissions process that may occur.

What do I need to prepare?

Minimum requirements for admission:

- ❑ Completion of a **Bachelor's degree in Music** at a recognized institution with a minimum GPA of 3.0.
 *The School of Music graduate program is not a "Doctoral track" program. Please do not apply for the Doctoral level unless you will already have completed a Master's degree (or equivalent) before Fall 2021.*
- ❑ Standard coursework in **Music History** and **Music Theory**, generally four semesters of each.
- ❑ The following degrees require **public school teaching experience** or professional equivalent: Music Education (2 years) and Wind Conducting (3 years).
- ❑ All international students must submit a TOEFL score of **85 or higher**. If admitted, international students must also show possession of sufficient funds (approx. **\$47,000**) in order to cover expenses for 1 year.

Graduate School application



Supplementary materials



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.



See sample statement on our website for tips.



Curriculum Vitae

MM & DMA candidates: In your CV, please include a representative list of repertoire that you have mastered, performed, or composed.



Letters of recommendation

Select **three** people to serve as your recommenders. When you enter their names on the application, they will receive an automated link to upload their PDF 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.



Writing sample(s)

Required for MA, PhD, and DMA (not MM)

1-2 samples of your academic writing. Musicology and Theory candidates should submit substantial research paper(s). **Must be PDF format!**



Test scores

GRE: Theory and Musicology only
TOEFL: All international students

UW-Madison's institution code is **1846**.



Audio/video recordings

Required for all performance degrees

See the "**Recording Requirements**" document on our website for specific instructions from your area of study. Recordings may be placed on YouTube or any other file sharing site. You must provide URL links.



Composition scores (up to 5)

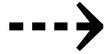
Required for Composition only

Choose a maximum of **5 PDFs** to match your recordings.

How do I apply?



**Graduate School
application**



**School of Music
application**



**Email supplementary
documents**

Do the following 3 things before Tuesday, December 1:

1. 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 and enter the information for your letters of recommendation. In order to submit your application, you will need to pay **\$75** (U.S. citizen) or **\$81** (international).

After applying, you can monitor the status of your letters by checking this account.

2. Submit your application to the School of Music.

Start the School of Music application here: <https://forms.gle/zFkEbHnhTKYaVw7aA>

Here is where you will answer music-specific questions, upload your audio/video recording links, and request a studio assignment and audition date (if applicable).

3. Email your supplementary documents to James Doing, Jr.

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



All MA, PhD, and DMA candidates: Send 1-2 academic writing samples.



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

What happens after I apply?

Composition, Historical Musicology, Music Education, Music Theory

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



Phase 1: Prescreening

Performance faculty will review application recordings and determine eligibility for a live audition. You will be informed of your audition prescreening decision no later than **Tuesday, December 15**. Audition schedules will be finalized shortly before Christmas.



Phase 2: Auditions

Auditions will be held in January and February, depending on your area of study. See the “**Audition Requirements**” document on our website for detailed information about the auditions for your area, including audition dates, repertoire, and accompanying requirements.

What can I do in the meantime?

Contact the faculty in your area of study to arrange a sample lesson.

Most importantly, make sure your application file is complete and that all of your recommenders have submitted their letters.



COVID-19

Auditions may need to be held remotely, depending on UW guidance.



Phase 3: Admission decisions

Admission decisions are usually made in mid-February. You will either be admitted, denied, or placed on a waitlist for your studio. 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 transcripts.



Phase 4: Funding decisions

For the 2021-22 academic year, we anticipate having about **30 fully-funded positions** available. Initial offers for these positions will be made in March. The first winners of these positions will have until **Thursday, April 15**, to accept. As soon as a spot opens up, it is offered to the next student in line, and so on. These offers continue throughout the month of April until all positions have been filled. Positions often open up at the last minute! See our website for detailed information on what is available and who is eligible: <https://www.music.wisc.edu/graduate-admissions/>