

Mead Witter School of Music

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Graduate Application Guide


What do I need to know?

What do I need to prepare?

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What happens after I apply?

My name is James and I will be processing your application! If you have any questions or problems, send me an email and I will respond within one business day.



This Application Guide was updated on October 1, 2020, to reflect recent adaptations made in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. We apologize for any inconvenience!

James Doing, Jr.
Graduate Admissions & Funding Coordinator
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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. Waived for Musicology as of 10/1/2020. 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?

An audition 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.

All auditions for the Fall 2021 application will be held remotely, either as a live Zoom session or in the form of a pre-recorded video audition, usually in combination with a live Zoom interview. Audition prescreening (due December 1) is required for most areas.

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 Dept. of Curriculum & Instruction


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)

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 or have obtained the consent of the faculty in your area of study.*
- ❑ 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.

All of the materials below are due on Tuesday, December 1.

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.



See sample statement on our website for tips.



Curriculum Vitae

MM & DMA candidates: In your CV, please include a comprehensive list of repertoire that you have mastered, performed, conducted, and 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. **Do not send official transcripts via email!**

Supplementary materials



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 only (waived for Musicology)
TOEFL: All international students

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



Prescreening recordings

Required for most performance degrees

See the "**Prescreening 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)

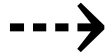
Required for Composition only

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

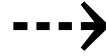
How do I apply?



**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 submitting the application, 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. If applicable, you will upload your audition prescreening URLs, request a studio assignment, and choose an audition date.

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 Zoom interview. In any case, your file will be reviewed between December and February. Thank you for your patience!



Phase 1: Prescreening

Performance faculty will review prescreening recordings and determine eligibility for a full 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 remotely, either in the form of a live Zoom audition or a pre-recorded video audition with a live Zoom interview component. See the “**Audition Requirements**” document on our website for detailed information about the adapted audition protocol for your area of study, including the available audition dates.



There will be no
in-person
activities on the
UW-Madison
campus this
year.



Phase 3: Admission decisions

Admission decisions are usually finalized 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/>