

Audition Requirements

The University of Texas at Tyler
School of Performing Arts

In order to be accepted as a music major or minor at UT Tyler, the student must audition before a faculty committee. The audition is also used for scholarship consideration and ensemble placement. Specific audition requirements are elaborated below and are available on the Music Department website at www.uttyler.edu/music, or by contacting an applied faculty member in the student's primary performing area.

Requirements by Area of Study

- Woodwind, Brass, Strings
- Percussion
- Classical Guitar
- Piano
- Voice
- Composition



Woodwind, Brass, Strings

The requirements for instrumental music majors' entrance and scholarship auditions follow, including the following instruments: flute, oboe, bassoon, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, horn, trombone, euphonium, tuba, and strings.

Entering Freshman Instrumental Majors should know as many major scales as possible by memory. Typically, a scholarship student will know 9-12 scales by memory, in as many octaves as the instrument allows. Articulation is at the student's discretion. Prepared music is also required, consisting of either the All-Region etudes, or a solo of the student's choice equivalent to those found on the "Class 1" Texas State Solo and Ensemble list in the Texas Prescribed Music List (PML). A pianist is not required for admission or scholarship auditions. Sightreading is usually asked of advanced students. After the playing audition, a short interview will take place. With the student's permission, parents may be present at the audition.

Transfer Instrumental Music Majors. Transfer students should provide copies of all transcripts at the audition, plus a list of repertoire and technique studied at the college level.

Admission to the Music Department does not necessarily mean that a student will be admitted to upper-division applied music lessons (3000-level). For transfer admission to upper-division study, the following are required:

1. All major and melodic minor scales performed by memory; minimum pace will be sixteenth notes at quarter note = 60. Articulation is at the student's discretion. Tone quality should be even in all registers and show appropriate vibrato, evenness of intonation across the scale, and control of the extreme registers. Strings must play all scales two octaves minimum. Three are preferable.
2. A major solo (5-7 minutes), major concerto (total length not more than 15 minutes), or single movement from a major concerto (from which the total length of all movements is ≥ 15 minutes). Tone quality should be even in all registers and show appropriate vibrato, evenness of intonation across the scale, and control of the extreme registers. Technique should be performed at or very close to the written tempo and should be controlled and smooth. There should be no (or very few) missed notes. Rhythms should be accurate, and a controlled tempo apparent. The basic interpretive aspects of rubato (if appropriate), dynamic control, and phrasing are expected.
3. A short interview with the faculty audition committee.

Transfer students not meeting the above requirements at the audition will be placed into 2000-level private lessons and may take the Upper-Division Jury at the end of the next semester, with instructor permission.

Transfer non-music majors who are seeking a scholarship must meet requirements similar to those listed above for "entering freshmen majors." However, if the student has fundamental flaws in tone production, knowledge of tuning tendencies, rhythmic accuracy, etc. then it is unlikely a scholarship will be given.

Graduate students must meet all requirements for transfer students, plus the addition of an advanced etude.

Percussion

Entering Freshman Percussion Majors. All percussionists auditioning should be prepared to demonstrate their skills on snare drum and mallet percussion (marimba or xylophone). Timpani is encouraged but not required. There will be a segment of tuning timpani to assess ear training but this will not affect the outcome of the audition. Applicants must prepare one (1) snare drum solo (either concert or rudimental) and one (1) two-mallet keyboard solo. In addition, the applicant may also perform a four-mallet solo as well, if he or she has studied four-mallet playing. The applicant may also include drum set as part of the audition and should display various styles (rock, jazz, Latin, etc.) In addition to the pieces, be prepared to play select rudiments and major scales, as well as sight reading on snare drum and a keyboard instrument.

All percussion instruments will be provided, however, you may choose to bring your own snare drum.

Examples of literature

Snare Drum

- Etudes from Vic Firth's *The Solo Snare Drummer*
- Etudes from Anthony Cirone's *Portraits in Rhythm*
- John Pratt *14 Contest Solos* (any)
- Rowloff Productions *Rudimental Cookbook* (medium-advanced to advanced)

Mallet Percussion

Two-Mallet Solo

- Etudes from Morris Goldenberg's *Modern School for Xylophone, Marimba, Vibraphone*
- *Masterpieces for Marimba*

Transfer Percussion Majors. Transfer students should provide copies of all transcripts at the audition, plus a list of repertoire and technique studied at the college level.

Admission to the Music Department does not necessarily mean that a student will be admitted to upper-division applied music lessons (3000-level). For transfer admission to upper-division study, the following are required.

Transfer students should be prepared to demonstrate their skills on snare drum, mallet percussion (marimba, xylophone, or vibraphone), and timpani. There will be an assessment of tuning timpani where the applicant will be asked to match a pitch and tune intervals. Applicants must prepare four pieces: one snare drum solo (either rudimental or concert), two mallet solos (two-mallet and four-mallet), and a timpani solo. The applicant may also include drum set as part of the audition and should display various styles (rock, jazz, Latin, etc.) In addition to the pieces, be prepared to play select rudiments and major scales and all forms of minor scales, as well as sight reading on snare drum and a keyboard instrument.

All percussion instruments will be provided, however, you may choose to bring your own snare drum.

Below are examples of literature a transfer student should be performing upon entrance to their junior year. The prospective student may select other solos that are the equivalent of the following:

Snare Drum

- Etudes from Vic Firth's *The Solo Snare Drummer*
- Etudes from Anthony Cirone's *Portraits in Rhythm*
- John Pratt, *14 Contest Solos* (any)
- Warren Benson, *Three Dances*

Mallets

Two-Mallet Solo

- J. S Bach, *Violin Concerto in A Minor* (Morris Goldenberg)
- G.H. Green, *Ragtime* (any)
- Harry Breuer, *Ragtime Selections*

Four-Mallet Solo

- Keiko Abe, *Frogs*
- Alice Gomez, *Rain Dance, Gitano*
- Mitchell Peters, *Yellow After the Rain*
- Bill Molenhof, *Vibe Songs*
- Ney Rosauero, *Three Preludes*

Timpani

- Vic Firth, *The Solo Timpanist*
- John Beck, *Concepts for Timpani* or (any solo)
- Saul Goodman, *Modern Method for Timpani* (any etude)

Classical Guitar

Entering Freshmen Classical Guitar Majors:

1. Prepare two pieces, preferably from contrasting historical periods.
2. Scales compiled by Andres Segovia – As many of the major and melodic minor patterns as possible, i-m free stroke and rest stroke.
3. A brief sight-reading exam will be administered.

A brief interview with the candidate will follow. Parents may be present at the audition and/or interview with the candidate's permission.

Transfer Classical Guitar Majors:

Transfer students should provide a list of repertoire studied at the college level. Admission to the Music Department does not necessarily mean that a student will be admitted to upper division applied music lessons (3000-level). For transfer admission to upper-division study, the following are required:

1. Prepare two contrasting pieces. One work must demonstrate the ability to play Baroque or Renaissance counterpoint. The second piece should be a work written after 1750.
2. Prepare all Segovia scale patterns, major and melodic minor. Minimum speed: sixteenth notes with the quarter note at 75 bpm.
3. A brief sight-reading exam will be administered.
4. An interview with Dr. Kyzer will be scheduled before the audition.

Please email Dr. Dan Kyzer with any questions at dkyzer@uttyler.edu.

Transfer students not meeting the above requirements before the first day of class of the first semester enrolled will be placed into 2000-level private lessons and may take the Upper-Division Jury at the end of the next semester, with instructor permission.

Piano

Entering Freshmen. For unqualified admission to the music program and scholarship consideration, entering freshmen should perform three memorized repertoire selections representing a minimum of Levels 7–8 from *The Pianist's Guide to Standard Teaching Literature* by Jane Magrath, including Two- or Three-Part Inventions, French Suites or Preludes/Fugues by J. S. Bach, Classical first or third Sonata movements, Romantic, and Contemporary selections. At least one selection must be from either the Baroque or Classical period. Students should also demonstrate proficiency in three- or four-octave major scales and arpeggios.

Students who cannot perform all selections from memory may still audition for admittance into the program and reduced scholarship consideration. Contact the piano faculty with any questions regarding audition selections.

Transfer Students. Transfer students should provide copies of all transcripts at the audition, plus a list of repertoire and technique studied at the college level.

Transfer students who have completed four semesters of lower-division piano must complete the Upper Division Jury requirements for admittance into 3000-level study. Previous college study must include a Bach Prelude and Fugue, a complete Classical Sonata, and a variety of Romantic and Contemporary selections.

The audition must include three repertoire selections, including a work by J. S. Bach, a first or third Classical Sonata movement and either a Romantic or Contemporary selection. Technique requirements at the audition may include four-octave major, harmonic minor, and melodic minor scales, four-octave major, minor and diminished-seventh arpeggios, and two-octave major, minor and diminished-seventh broken chords.

Transfer students who do not meet the upper division requirements may be accepted into the program at the 2000-level study and still be eligible for scholarship consideration. Contact the piano faculty with any questions regarding audition selections.

Voice

Freshman level. Students should prepare two contrasting songs from the classical repertoire, sung by memory, one in English and the other in Italian, German or French.

Sophomore level. Students should prepare three contrasting selections from the classical repertoire, sung by memory, one in English, one in Italian, and one in either German or French. An aria may be substituted for one selection.

Junior level. Students should prepare five contrasting selections from the classical repertoire, sung by memory and totaling approximately 12-15 minutes. Two selections should be sung in English, one in Italian, one in German and one in French. One of the selections must be an opera or oratorio aria.

Transfer students should provide copies of all transcripts at the audition, plus a list of repertoire and technique studied at the college level.

Voice Minors. Students at all levels should prepare two contrasting songs from the classical repertoire, sung by memory, either two in English **or** one in English and one in Italian, German or French.

Non-Music-Major (elective) Talent Scholarships. Students should prepare one song from the classical repertoire, sung by memory. A foreign language is welcome but not required. Broadway and pop is to be avoided.

Composition

Entering Freshmen. For lower-division composition majors, a portfolio of original compositions is recommended but not required. At the lower division, this optional portfolio should contain two to three original compositions or arrangements, including audio if possible (.mp3 preferred or web links) and score (.pdf preferred, or Finale / MuseScore files). If submitted, the portfolio must be emailed directly to the composition faculty, preferably two weeks prior to the in-person audition date (see below). Ideally, beginning composition majors will be able to demonstrate some composing / music writing experience (notated or otherwise), and/or moderate competence in music theory / notation. Those possessing neither tend not to do well as composition majors.

All composition majors must also audition on a primary instrument or voice, following the relevant requirements outlined elsewhere on this document.

All incoming composition majors must schedule an interview with the composition faculty prior to enrolling. Preferably, this will take place the same day as the in-person audition. This interview includes discussion of the submitted portfolio (if included), as well as an exploration of the applicant's previous music writing experience, music theory and notation competence, stylistic/aesthetic preferences and goals, and career aspirations. Please contact the composition faculty with any questions regarding the application process.

Transfer Students. Incoming transfer student composition majors must prepare a portfolio containing three to four original compositions or arrangements, including audio if possible (.mp3 preferred or web links) and score (.pdf preferred, or Finale / MuseScore files). The portfolio must be emailed directly to the composition faculty, preferably two weeks prior to the in-person audition date (see below). For direct placement into upper-division composition lessons, this portfolio must demonstrate creativity, technical writing skill (including proper notation), and motivation. Applicants lacking one or more stated requirements may be provisionally accepted into lower-division applied composition study.

All composition majors must also audition on a primary instrument or voice, following the relevant requirements outlined elsewhere on this document, including those of the Upper-Division Jury to gain entrance to applied study in the primary instrument or voice. Transfer students not meeting the applied performance requirements of the Upper-Division Jury may be provisionally accepted as a composition major while taking lower-division upper-division applied performance study in preparation for re-taking the Upper-Division Jury later.

Transfer students should provide copies of all prior transcripts at the audition.

All incoming composition majors must schedule an interview with the composition faculty prior to enrolling. Preferably, this will take place the same day as the in-person audition. This interview includes discussion of the submitted portfolio, as well as an exploration of the applicant's previous music writing experience, music theory and notation competence, stylistic/aesthetic preferences and goals, and career aspirations. Please contact the composition faculty with any questions regarding the application process.