

Audition Guidelines for Undergraduate Composition Majors at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

All potential undergraduate composition majors at the University of Massachusetts Amherst are required to audition for one of our applied performance degree tracks. These include the following areas: Wind, Brass, Percussion, Strings, Voice, and Keyboard. No candidate will be admitted to the undergraduate composition major at UMass Amherst without first having been admitted into one of our undergraduate applied studios.

No later than two weeks before the applicant's scheduled on-campus audition, all potential undergraduate composition majors must submit electronically, a portfolio of three original compositions in the Western Classical tradition to our Director of Admissions and Recruiting. This portfolio must include one work for piano solo, a large ensemble piece (10 or more players) and one work of the applicants choosing.

The composition faculty will review and evaluate all submitted scores and those candidates who demonstrate a basic understanding of conventional notation, orchestration, tonal harmony, and musical structure will be invited for an interview with the composition faculty. This interview will take place on the same day as the student's applied audition and will consist of an ear training exam, a sight-singing test, and score reading. Successful candidates will be notified within two weeks of their interview/audition.

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