

Music Department at Towson University

Audition Dates, Application Procedures and Deadlines, Audition Process and General Information

(Please read and retain for future reference.)

Audition Dates

Audition dates for 2012 are as follows:

Saturday, January 7 (Students who wish to enter the major in the spring 2012 term MUST audition on this date.)

Saturday, February 4

Saturday, March 31

Please indicate your preference in the space provided on the Music Department Application. We **MUST RECEIVE** your completed application by the deadlines listed under **Application Procedures and Deadlines**. If your Music Department Application is not received by the deadline, you will not be scheduled for an audition. Please allow ample time when you send your application in the mail. We recommend that you send it at least 10 days before the due date so that it reaches us in time. After we receive your Music Department Application, you will receive a confirmation letter. Contact Mary Ann Criss, assistant to the chairperson (410-704-2836 or mcriss@towson.edu), if you have questions, concerns or need additional information.

Applicants who are interested in undergraduate music major scholarships **MUST** audition by **February 4, 2012**. (See additional information under the heading titled **Scholarships**.) Anyone auditioning after this date will not be considered for music major scholarships.

Application Procedures and Deadlines

The music major is a screened major. Acceptance as a music major is granted only by the department, contingent upon a performance audition.

Admission to the university does not guarantee acceptance as a music major or minor.

Complete the Music Department Application, select the date you plan to audition (see dates listed above), and return the form directly to the Department of Music, attention Mary Ann Criss, assistant to the chairperson (use mailing address as it appears on the Music Department Application). Currently, we only accept Music Department Applications by U.S. Mail. You cannot apply online to the department. **In order to audition on your preferred date, the music department must receive your completed music application by the deadlines listed below:**

For the January 7 audition:

Monday, December 19

For the February 4 audition:

Monday, January 23

For the March 31 audition:

Monday, March 19

If we do not receive your application by the deadline, you will not be scheduled to audition on your selected date.

After we receive your Music Department Application, we will mail a confirmation letter to you (either by first-class mail or e-mail, depending on the date we receive your application). Unless you are notified otherwise, you will be registered to attend the audition on your selected date.

You may audition before being admitted to the university; however, passing an audition in the music department does not guarantee admission to the university. **If you are interested in departmental scholarships, we encourage you to file your university application at least six weeks prior to your preferred audition date.** Even though we base our scholarship decisions primarily on the audition, we can consider only those students who have been admitted to the university. We do review applicants' admission status and academic profiles (GPA and ACT or SAT scores) before we finalize our scholarship offers. (See additional information under the heading titled **Scholarships**.)

For more information regarding the university's application and admission process, call 410-704-2113 or visit www.towson.edu/discover. When you complete your university application, it is important that you indicate you are interested in music as your intended major. Doing so decreases the possibility of missing important departmental deadlines, and assists the department in tracking your admission status. **However, the admissions office does not notify the Department of Music of a student's interest in the music major or minor.** It is the student's responsibility to contact the Department of Music to obtain the Music Department Application packet and audition requirements and to schedule an audition.

Recommendations

Recommendations from two people who can attest to your musical abilities must be on file prior to your audition. Use the recommendation forms provided in this packet. Complete the top portion of the forms before giving them to your recommenders. It is your responsibility to see that the recommendations are forwarded promptly.

Audition Location and Times

Applicants report to the Center for the Arts lobby by 8:45 a.m. on their selected audition date. Please check in with Mary Ann Criss or one of her assistants when you arrive.

An orientation session will begin at 9 a.m. (location to be announced on audition day) followed by the Advanced Measure of Music Audiation

(AMMA) screening. Auditions generally begin at 10:30 a.m. Practice rooms will be available to all applicants for warm-up. **Unless prior arrangements have been made with Mary Ann Criss, specific audition times are assigned while applicants are taking the AMMA screening.** Parents or guardians are invited to attend a concurrent information session with the chair of the department, staff, faculty and current majors while screenings and auditions are conducted.

Audition Process

To be accepted as music majors, or to be accepted for lessons as music minors, applicants must demonstrate that they have reached a satisfactory performance level appropriate to their chosen degree/concentration either on an instrument or in voice. All auditions are conducted privately before a committee of music faculty. The length of each audition ranges from 10 to 25 minutes based on the applicant's principal performance area.

The music department will provide an accompanist for voice applicants ONLY. The cost for the accompanist is \$15, payable at the time of the audition. Voice applicants must bring music for the accompanist. Instrumentalists are not required to perform with accompaniment, but may arrange for their own accompanist.

Incoming freshmen will find the audition requirements on the Department of Music website (www.towson.edu/music/aud_req.htm). Transfer students should audition with their highest-level repertoire. If you have questions regarding the audition requirements, e-mail Mary Ann Criss, assistant to the chairperson, at mcriss@towson.edu.

You will be notified of your audition results by letter approximately three weeks after the audition. If you have been recommended to receive a music department scholarship, a separate form will be included with that letter.

Degree Programs

The music department offers two professional degree programs, the Bachelor of Music and the Bachelor of Science in music education; and one liberal arts degree program, the Bachelor of Science in music. The concentrations within the two professional degree programs are outlined in the current *Undergraduate Catalog* found at www.towson.edu/main/academics/ugrad/undergraduatecatalog.asp. Prospective music education majors please note: if your primary performance area is guitar or piano, you will only be considered for the vocal-general concentration. To be considered for the instrumental concentration, guitar and piano students must be proficient on a secondary instrument and must also audition on

that instrument. **You must submit this information to Mary Ann Criss when you apply to the department and you must request that you be scheduled accordingly on your selected audition day.**

Prospective Composition Majors

Students interested in the music composition concentration should call 410-704-2836 to obtain additional information, or visit <http://wkleinsasser.net/comp.studies.at.tu/Site>. In addition to an entrance audition, you will be required to submit a portfolio and other application materials. The deadline for receipt of materials required by the composition faculty is as follows: December 20 to be considered for work beginning in the fall term; October 1 to be considered for work beginning in the spring term.

Music Minor

The music minor, available for students who desire to pursue music studies as a secondary field, requires 24-25 units of course work. Students can select either the Music Performance track or the Music Literature track. Acceptance to the Performance track is by prior application and audition only. Students interested in the Music Literature track must complete the music department application. For more information regarding minor course requirements, contact the department at 410-704-2836.

Audition Day Screenings

The screenings listed below are for informational and/or placement purposes ONLY. Your performance on the screenings does not determine your acceptance into the department's programs.

Advanced Measure of Music Audition

The AMMA screening will be given prior to auditions. It will take approximately 30 minutes to administer, and will become part of the student's admissions profile. The AMMA is a measure of musical aptitude. No prior preparation is necessary.

Theory Screening

Generally, freshmen are placed in Theory I and Musicianship I. However, a diagnostic test will be given to freshmen on or before the first week of classes. Transfer students are placed in the appropriate level of theory and musicianship after an evaluation of music transfer credits and a discussion of the course work taken at other institutions. Based on the information received during that evaluation, selected transfer students will be required to take a theory and musicianship placement exam (students will be notified of the specific dates and times for the exam). If any student's initial theory or musicianship placement must be changed, Mary Ann Criss will assist that student with his or her schedule.

Keyboard Advisory Screening

All music majors must reach the level of keyboard proficiency established for their specific degree

and concentration.

To assist us with your placement, we administer a very brief (no longer than 10 minutes) keyboard screening during the audition days. You will be assigned to take the screening based on the information you supply on the Music Department Application. If you indicate that your primary instrument is piano, you do not take the screening. If you indicate that you have never taken piano lessons and don't play the piano, you will be advised to enroll in Piano Class I (no screening necessary). If you indicate that you have taken at least three years or more of piano lessons or have played for at least three years, we will request that you attend one of the screening sessions on your audition day. Transfer students please note that piano classes from other institutions may not automatically transfer for major credit. It is recommended that you attend one of the screening sessions to determine proper placement.

Scholarships

The Department of Music at Towson University offers scholarships to applicants who qualify **based upon the talent demonstrated during their audition coupled with an assessment of applicants' academic profiles**. Scholarships are available only to students who major in music and who enter in the fall term. Students wishing to be considered for departmental scholarships MUST audition by February 4, 2012. Applicants who are recommended for music department scholarships by the faculty auditioning panels will be considered ONLY if they have been admitted to the university and after their academic profiles have been reviewed by the Department of Music. **REMINDER: It usually takes the university's admissions office four to six weeks to process applications, depending upon the volume of applications and receipt of transcripts and applicable test scores. Please plan accordingly.)**

Students who are recommended for a music department scholarship will receive a Scholarship Award Form approximately three weeks after the audition. If students are interested in the scholarship offer, they must complete and return the form by the designated deadline. The scholarship offer may be rescinded if confirmation is not received by the designated date. The intent to accept the scholarship will not be binding until May 1.

University Financial Assistance

Many programs are available to help students obtain financial assistance. These programs include grants, loans and employment. Contact the Financial Aid Office (410-704-4236 or www.towson.edu/finaid) for more information.

Transfer Credit Policy

Transfer of major credits is based upon an audition, a review of transcripts and an interview with the department chair. Transfer students must meet with the department chair immediately after matriculating.

Ensemble Auditions

All music majors are required to participate in ensembles. Each degree program and/or concentration has its own set of expectations. The requirements can be found in the *Undergraduate Catalog*, on checklists available from the department or on the department's website.

Information concerning times and requirements for ensemble auditions are posted in the music wing hallways and on the department's website. Most auditions are scheduled during the first week of classes.

Visiting Towson University

Open House

Towson University schedules several Open House days during the academic year. The fall 2011 Open House schedule is as follows:

Friday, October 21, 2011
Saturday, October 22, 2011
Friday, October 28, 2011
Saturday, October 29, 2011
Friday, November 4, 2011
Saturday, November 5, 2011

Open Houses, primarily for high school juniors, are:

Friday, April 20, 2012
Friday, May 4, 2012

Reservations are required for Open Houses. Go to www.towson.edu/visitus.

Campus Tours

Walking tours of Towson's campus are available weekdays and Saturdays when classes are in session. To make the required reservation, go to www.towson.edu/visitus.

Students wishing to spend time in the music department are encouraged to schedule a visit. With advance notice, students will be able to attend actual classes, sit in on ensemble rehearsals, and meet with members of the faculty and student body. Contact Mary Ann Criss (410-704-2836 or mcriss@towson.edu) to schedule an appointment.

Towson University's policies, programs and activities comply with federal and state laws and University System of Maryland regulations prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, age, national origin, sex, disability and sexual orientation.

Towson University is a smoke-free campus.