



NORTHWESTERN  
UNIVERSITY

## Master of Music Music Studies Application Requirements Fall 2009

Henry and Leigh Bienen School of Music  
Music Administration Building  
711 Elgin Road – Room 1  
Evanston, IL 60208-1200  
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In addition to the online application to the Bienen School of Music, those applicants who wish to be considered for admission to the Master of Music in Music Education, Music Education and String Pedagogy, Music Education and Piano Pedagogy, Musicology, Music Theory or Music Technology should submit the following requirements. All requirements must be completed and received by the application deadline.

### **MUSIC EDUCATION**

Applicants must submit an admission essay and a videotape or DVD to demonstrate the quality of the applicant's teaching and musicianship as described below. Applications will be reviewed after all items have been received. Those applicants wishing to enroll in private applied instruction must complete a performance audition;

#### **Admission Essay**

Submit an essay as evidence of your scholarly writing ability. Choose one of the following topics and answer thoroughly in three to four double-spaced pages:

*From your perspective as a specialist in instrumental, choral, or general music, what are the goals of your curriculum?*

*How do you plan curriculum, instruction, and assessment to foster students' lifelong engagement and involvement in music?*

*What do you consider the most pressing problems facing music education today? How do you see yourself contributing to the solution of some of these problems?*

#### **Documentation of Teaching and Musicianship**

Submit a videotape or DVD that demonstrates your teaching ability and musicianship. Although videotapes of musical performances are helpful, of most interest is seeing how you work with students in daily classroom and rehearsal settings. For this reason you may want to send a sample of several representative clips of your teaching. The entire recording should be no longer than 30 minutes.

During at least one of these teaching episodes, demonstrate your musicianship by using your primary instrument or voice to model for students. This musical example should be lengthy and exemplify the quality of your musicianship.

Attach a brief description of the setting and your goals for each teaching episode.

Be sure to label all videotapes or DVDs with your name.

#### **Interview**

An interview is required either in person (most desirable) or by telephone. If you plan to visit Northwestern, contact the Office of Music Admission and Financial Aid to arrange a meeting with Professor Janet Barrett. If your plans do not include a campus visit, Music Admission can arrange for a phone interview.

#### **Resumé**

Submit a resumé reflecting your professional accomplishments to date (degrees, positions, additional teaching activities, counseling, or other leadership experience).

#### **Letters of recommendation**

Submit two letters of recommendation that speak directly to your teaching ability. These letters might come from a principal, superintendent, music supervisor, practice teaching coordinator/adviser, mentor, or other professional who has had an opportunity to directly observe your work with students. Letters addressing your ability to succeed in rigorous graduate level studies would also be helpful.

#### **Audition**

An audition is NOT required for admission to the master's program in music education. If you wish to include private instruction as part of your program of study, however, an audition is required.

This audition can be scheduled after your admission to the music education program. Admission to any area of applied study is at the discretion of the applied faculty member.

### **MUSICOLOGY**

Applicants must submit a lengthy sample of their writing on music, preferably a recent paper presenting results of musical analysis, bibliographic research, or other appropriate work.

#### **Musicology and Library Science**

Applicants to this program must also apply to Dominican University's master of library and information science program. If accepted to both programs, applicants will complete one year of study at Dominican University followed by one year of study at Northwestern University.

### **MUSIC TECHNOLOGY**

Applicants must submit a portfolio of samples of computer programs, compositions, or other applicable materials demonstrating their skills in applying technology to music.

### **MUSIC THEORY AND COGNITION**

Applicants must submit evidence of analytical and research ability in the form of a paper prepared for an undergraduate course or specifically for the admission committee. Recordings and/or scores of compositions may also be submitted if appropriate.

## PEDAGOGY PROGRAMS

### Requirements

#### **MUSIC EDUCATION AND STRING PEDAGOGY**

This degree is intended for applicants who have already earned public school teaching certification. It is possible to earn certification as part of the degree program, but in that case completing all requirements will likely involve more than two academic years.

You may also obtain certification through the two-year master's program in music education, which includes the opportunity for electives in string pedagogy.

Applicants must fulfill all admission and audition requirements for both music education and string performance and pedagogy.

*Applicants must fulfill ALL of the following:*

1. Complete a performance audition.
2. Submit a resume listing their pedagogical background (including certificates) as well as significant teachers, books studied, and other major influences.
3. Submit a statement of short- and long-term goals and how Northwestern University could assist you in achieving them.
4. Applicants may also include an in-depth description of prior teaching experience, listing age and ability levels of students, duration of appointment, and repertoire taught.
5. Prepare a video recording showing the applicant teaching a beginner and a more advanced student (introducing a new work and reviewing a familiar one) may be submitted.

**This video is REQUIRED for those seeking financial aid.**

#### **MUSIC EDUCATION AND PIANO PEDAGOGY**

Applicants must fulfill all admission and audition requirements for both music education and piano performance and pedagogy.

*Applicants must fulfill ALL of the following:*

1. Complete a performance audition.
2. Submit an outline of their pedagogical background and a list of materials/literature used in their teaching.
3. Candidates with teaching experience, either professional or in a pedagogy course, should submit a DVD of their skills in either of the following contexts:
  - A 20-minute private lesson with a pre-college student of the elementary or intermediate level.
  - A 20-minute segment from a piano class or group teaching situation.

Applicants whose teaching on the DVD is in a language other than English **MUST** add a segment to the recording on which they discuss their teaching and interest in a graduate degree. This should follow the teaching demonstration and the candidate must speak in English.

We ask that you submit all recordings and supplemental materials directly to our office

**Office of Music Admission and Financial Aid  
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Questions can be directed to :

**Phone: 847-491-3141**

**E-mail: [musiclife@northwestern.edu](mailto:musiclife@northwestern.edu)**