

Audition Requirements for Composition

The Department of Music at Towson University

We welcome students interested in majoring in music composition to apply for acceptance to the degree program. Note that for the BM undergraduate degree in composition, applicants must audition on voice or an instrument and be accepted as a music major before they can be accepted into the composition degree program. Click on the link below for information about applying to the Department of Music and auditioning.

- [Undergraduate Admission and Audition Information](#)

Additional Admission Requirements for the Composition Concentration

In order to assess your background and better understand your compositional goals we need for you to submit the following materials in addition to the Towson University application and Department of Music application.

Portfolio

A selection of your work (portfolio) that provides a profile of the quality and variety of your compositional experience. The portfolio can be mailed in or submitted electronically. It should include:

- An assortment of your compositions that you feel represent you well. If your music is notated, it should be presented with clear music manuscript or computer notation. If your portfolio is mailed to us, each score should be printed and bound individually. If your portfolio is submitted electronically, send pdf files for each composition.
- If available, submit recordings of performances and/or computer generated representations of your compositions in the portfolio. If your portfolio is mailed to us, all recordings should be on a single USB flash drive with your name and titles of the pieces clearly labeled or on an accompanying paper. If your portfolio is submitted electronically, send WAV or AIF files of your recordings.
- A written statement (2 page maximum) regarding your musical background and goals in composition. This should include a description of your prior compositional experience, a description of your compositional influences, and general goals for your study of composition. Include a paragraph about what it is about Towson's composition program that has attracted you. Indicate whether you are interested in our composition or jazz/commercial composition degree. Also indicate what instrument(s) or voice that you are currently studying.

Deadlines for receipt of all items:

December 21 to be considered for entry in the fall semester.

October 1 to be considered for mid-year entry in the spring semester.

Review Process

The composition faculty will review your portfolio and other application materials and then schedule a brief interview with you. During the interview we will ask you to discuss aspects of your experience and goals and we will offer answers to any questions that you might have about our program at Towson University. The interviews typically take place in November for portfolios received on October 1 and in January through April for portfolios received on December 21. Interviews can be scheduled during audition days.

Based on the application materials, the portfolio review, and the interview, the composition faculty will notify you regarding your acceptance status.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact Prof. Kleinsasser at wkleinsasser@towson.edu.

Students may be admitted into the curriculum on a probationary basis not to exceed two semesters if their entrance portfolio or musical background is insufficient for full acceptance.

For more information on the composition programs at Towson, visit the following link:
<https://www.towson.edu/cofac/departments/music/programs/musicbm/composition.html>

(Note: Students interested in the Bachelor of Music in Jazz/Commercial Performance or Jazz/Commercial Composition degrees should refer to the separate audition requirements for those degree programs.)