



# Master of Music

## Admissions Policies for Music Performance,

## Admissions Policies for Music Performance, Composition, and Conducting

2025-2026

### THE DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

Dr. Melissa McCabe	CA 3095	2839	<a href="mailto:mmcabe@towson.edu">mmcabe@towson.edu</a>
Dr. Phillip Collister-Murray, MM Director	CA 2108	2815	<a href="mailto:pcollister@towson.edu">pcollister@towson.edu</a>
Mary Ann Criss, Assistant to the Chair	CA 3095B	2836	<a href="mailto:mcriss@towson.edu">mcriss@towson.edu</a>
Karen Gempp, Administrative Assistant	CA 3095	2840	<a href="mailto:kgempp@towson.edu">kgempp@towson.edu</a>
Music Department Website			<a href="http://www.towson.edu/music">www.towson.edu/music</a>



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

ADMISSION..... 4

AUDITION/INTERVIEW ..... 4

TA/GA POSITIONS IN MUSIC..... 4

APPLICATION PROCESS..... 5

MATERIALS REQUIRED OF ALL APPLICANTS..... 5

Additional Materials Required FROM International Applicants (2019-2020) (2020-2021) (2021-2022) (2022-2023) (2023-2024) (2024-2025)

3 3 0 . . . . .

Admission to the Master of Music program is granted by the Graduate School and requires a Bachelor of Music degree with a major in the area of proposed graduate study or its equivalent in addition to a successful audition for the Department of Music. A grade point average of 3.00 (B) overall or for the last 60 undergraduate semester hours is required for full admission. Conditional admission may be granted for a minimum grade point average of 2.50. Foreign students must obtain a TOEFL score of 550 or higher. TOEFL standards for students matriculating from UMBC's Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Contemporary American Music program are stated later in this document.

A personal audition/interview is required where the professional competence in performance or composition is demonstrated. Once your application has been received, the graduate director will contact you to schedule an audition/interview. Audition requirements for each instrument as well as composition are cited later in this document.

Please contact Dr. Terry B. Ewell, MM Director, via e-mail at [tewell@towson.edu](mailto:tewell@towson.edu) or by telephone (410-704-2824) if you have any questions regarding the program or admission.

Students apply online at the following web site: <http://grad.towson.edu/>. Data from the online application is immediately uploaded into the admissions database. Printable applications are available upon request. Send emails to [grads@towson.edu](mailto:grads@towson.edu). Application involves submission of the materials shown below. All materials should be submitted directly to the College of Graduate Studies and Research at the following address:

Graduate Admissions  
7800 York Road, Suite 216  
Towson University  
Towson, MD 21252

1. General application form: <http://grad.towson.edu/>.
2. Supplemental application form specifically for the MM program available from Dr. Terry B. Ewell
3. Two reference forms with accompanying letters of recommendation. One reference should be from a current or former applied music teacher. The online reference form is available from the following link: <http://grad.towson.edu/admission/recoma.asp>.
4. Official transcript sent directly from the school where the undergraduate degree was/will be granted.
5. Auditions must be scheduled by emailing Dr. Terry B. Ewell at [tewell@towson.edu](mailto:tewell@towson.edu).

Information on admission to Towson University for international students is contained on this website:

<http://www.towson.edu/academics/graduate/admissions/apply/international.html>

The











Those students with graduate level competencies in music theory may test out of MUSC 629, Concepts of Music Theory. Successful students will take MUSC 631, Advanced Theory. The theory exam is designed to be diagnostic, and questions may be asked in a wide variety of formats. Complete information including a practice test and online resources are available at

<https://www.towson.edu/cofac/departments/music/programs/musictheory.html>

Students should review and possess fluency in the following areas:

1. Have complete mastery and fluency with all music rudiments.
2. Know the conventions of common practice voice leading and part writing rules.
3. Know how to recognize all cadence types.
4. Know the functional use of all diatonic and chromatic harmonies in the common practice.
5. Know how to recognize non-harmonic tones.
6. Be able to analyze a tonal work.
7. Know how to recognize phrase structures.
8. Be able to analyze simple and large-scale forms.
9. Have the ability to do melodic and harmonic dictation.
10. Have the ability to sing a modulating tonal melody at sight.

The following textbooks are recommended for study:

1. Roig-Francoli, *Harmony in Context*, McGraw Hill
2. Aldwell & Schachter, *Harmony and Voice Leading*, Wadsworth Publishing
3. Laitz, *The Complete Musician*, Oxford University Press

Placement for music theory courses will be determined on the following criteria based on the optional theory exam.

- 1) Students scoring 80% or above may enroll in any graduate-level music theory course.
- 2) Students scoring below 80% must enroll in Concepts of Music Theory (MUSC 629) as part of their degree program. Once Concepts of Music Theory (MUSC 629) has been completed with a grade of C or higher, students are eligible to take any other graduate-level music theory course.

For further information contact:

Dr. Christopher Dillon

Department of Music

Towson University

Towson, MD 21252

[cdillon@towson.edu](mailto:cdillon@towson.edu)