



NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

School of Music

College of Visual and Performing Arts

NIU Keyboard Audition Requirements

Please review and prepare all requirements thoroughly. Auditions are held in person at NIU in February, unless otherwise determined. Please register for an audition date on our website or at go.niu.edu/musicaudition.

If you are unable to attend NIU's official audition days, contact the Music Admissions Coordinator (avmenk@niu.edu) for permission to schedule an independent audition or obtain approval to submit an unedited video audition. Please bring copies of your music for the adjudication panel.

Classical Piano

- A minimum of 3 compositions of your choice from different style periods, such as Baroque, Classical, Romantic, Impressionistic, or Contemporary.

Suggested repertoire:

- A composition from the Baroque period, such as a Bach two- or three-part invention, prelude and fugue, partita, suite, or toccata
 - A sonata-allegro movement from a Classical period sonata
 - A composition from the literature of the 19th, 20th, or 21st century
- Undergraduates will complete an aural skills assessment at the time of audition. Sight reading exercises may be given at the time of audition.

Successful Graduate auditions will demonstrate more artistic playing and select more sophisticated and difficult repertoire. Sight reading exercises may be given at the time of audition.

Questions? Contact Dr. William Goldenberg (goldenberg@niu.edu).

Organ

Undergraduate students:

- A polyphonic composition in three voices (such as, Rheinberger trio, three-voice chorale setting by Dupré, etc.)
- A composition of the student's choice of comparable difficulty with Bach's Eight Little Preludes and Fugues
- Read at sight a four-part hymn setting (not required for Music Minor applicants):
 - Soprano, alto, and tenor on one manual, bass in the pedal
 - Soprano on one manual (right hand), alto and tenor on a second manual (left hand), bass in the pedal
 - A few short pedal exercises selected by the student, with particular attention to evenness rather than speed
 - Undergraduates will complete an aural skills assessment at the time of audition. Sight reading exercises may be given at the time of audition.

Graduate students:

- A large prelude and fugue by J. S. Bach
- One movement from a Bach trio sonata
- Two contrasting movements from the 19th or 20th century French repertoire
- Read at sight a trio of moderate difficulty

Harpsichord

(Graduate students only)

- A work by J. S. Bach
- French literature of the 17th or 18th centuries
- Italian literature of the 17th century

Please contact Professor Marianne Kim (mkim9@niu.edu) with questions about organ/harpsichord audition repertoire choices.