



NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

School of Music

College of Visual and Performing Arts

NIU Master of Music: Individualized Specialization

Please review and prepare all requirements thoroughly. Auditions and interviews 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 or interview days, contact the Music Admissions Coordinator (bcrawford@niu.edu) for permission to schedule an independent audition/interview or obtain approval to submit an unedited video audition or online interview.

Students looking to complete the following programs need to review area specific audition requirements PDFs on the Music Audition website: go.niu.edu/musicaudition.

- Master of Music – Performance
- Master of Music – Individualized Study: Jazz Studies
- Master of Music – Individualized Study: Composition & Theory
- Performer's Certificate

Please review the following requirements for your respective specialization. Certain requirements may be submitted as part of your Graduate School Application Requirements. In the event you are submitting additional written materials, a portfolio, videos, and/or playlist, these items must be submitted to bcrawford@niu.edu at minimum 4 business days prior to your interview. Word documents, PDFs, YouTube, and website links are accepted. Google Drive links are not accepted.

Conducting

- Choral:
 - Two conducting videos of contrasting style.
 - The first video should be a rehearsal video demonstrating your rehearsal techniques of at least 15 minutes in length.
 - The second video should be a concert video of an entire composition.
 - Each video should be one take, no edits within individual selections.
 - The videos should be taken with the front of the conductor in view (instead of one from the audience) and of adequate audio quality of both the choir and instructions of the conductor in the rehearsal recording.
 - Selections can be either accompanied or a cappella.
 - Statement about conducting interest and goals.
 - This may fulfill the Graduate School personal statement requirement. <https://www.niu.edu/grad/admissions/index.shtml>
 - Conducting and/or choral music education focused Curriculum Vitae
 - This may fulfill the Graduate School Resume/Curriculum Vitae requirement. <https://www.niu.edu/grad/admissions/index.shtml>
 - You may also submit a professional resume, in addition to the Conducting Curriculum Vitae
 - Onsite audition
 - Please contact the Music Admissions Coordinator at bcrawford@niu.edu to schedule your on-site conducting audition at NIU.
- Orchestral:
 - Two conducting videos of contrasting styles of at least 5 minutes each.
 - The recordings could be an excerpt of a longer piece, however, please do not edit within the submitted portion.
 - Two contrasting movements of the same work qualifies as two videos. The videos should be taken with the front of the conductor in view (instead of one from the audience) and of adequate audio quality.
 - Conducting a full orchestra or chamber orchestra is strongly preferred. When this is not possible, conducting a chamber ensemble of at least 6 instrumentalists is accepted.
 - Statement about conducting interest and goals.
 - This may fulfill the Graduate School personal statement requirement. <https://www.niu.edu/grad/admissions/index.shtml>
 - Conducting focused Curriculum Vitae
 - This may fulfill the Graduate School Resume/Curriculum Vitae requirement. <https://www.niu.edu/grad/admissions/index.shtml>

- You may also submit a professional resume, in addition to the Conducting Curriculum Vitae
- Onsite audition
 - Please contact the Music Admissions Coordinator at bcrawford@niu.edu to schedule your on-site conducting audition at NIU.
- Wind:
 - Two conducting videos of contrasting styles of at least 5 minutes each.
 - The recordings could be an excerpt of a longer piece, however, please do not edit within the submitted portion.
 - Two contrasting movements of the same work qualifies as two videos. The videos should be taken with the front of the conductor in view (instead of one from the audience) and of adequate audio quality.
 - Conducting a full orchestra or chamber orchestra is strongly preferred. When this is not possible, conducting a chamber ensemble of at least 6 instrumentalists is accepted.
 - Statement about conducting interest and goals.
 - This may fulfill the Graduate School personal statement requirement. <https://www.niu.edu/grad/admissions/index.shtml>
 - Curriculum Vitae that demonstrates teaching, professional, and conducting experiences. Experiences with athletic and marching bands should also be included.
 - This may fulfill the Graduate School Resume/Curriculum Vitae requirement. <https://www.niu.edu/grad/admissions/index.shtml>
 - You may also submit a professional resume, in addition to the Conducting Curriculum Vitae
 - Onsite audition
 - Please contact the Music Admissions Coordinator at avmenk@niu.edu to schedule your on-site conducting audition at NIU.
- **Recording:**
 - Portfolio of Work.
 - Your portfolio may include recordings, original compositions performed and recorded, released music content, a show reel of audio-visual content, or demos of songs currently being worked on.
 - Portfolios should contain 3-5 samples of your best work, accompanied by a synopsis of that work, and a description of your role in each instance.
 - A list of software and hardware previously used must also be included.
 - Statement about recording arts and audition production interest and goals.

- This may fulfill the Graduate School personal statement requirement. <https://www.niu.edu/grad/admissions/index.shtml>
- Musical Resume or Curriculum Vitae describing your previous and/or current internships, projects, positions, and specific responsibilities as it applies to any creative/music endeavors.
 - This may fulfill the Graduate School Resume/Curriculum Vitae requirement. <https://www.niu.edu/grad/admissions/index.shtml>
 - You may also submit a professional resume.
- Interview.
 - Please contact the Music Admissions Coordinator at avmenk@niu.edu to schedule your on-site conducting interview at NIU.
- **World Music**
All applicants must submit and complete the following:
 - Statement of purpose that discusses your background, career goals, and how our program can benefit you in this process. This statement should be 2 pages.
 - This may fulfill the Graduate School personal statement requirement. <https://www.niu.edu/grad/admissions/index.shtml>
 - Resume or Curriculum Vitae describing your previous and/or current internships, projects, positions, and specific responsibilities as it applies to any creative/music endeavors.
 - This may fulfill the Graduate School Resume/Curriculum Vitae requirement. <https://www.niu.edu/grad/admissions/index.shtml>
 - You may also submit a professional resume.
 - Interview.
 - Please contact the Music Admissions Coordinator at bcrawford@niu.edu to schedule your on-site conducting audition at NIU.

Within our World Music program for graduate study, students may pursue one of the following tracks: (1) performance, (2) pedagogy, (3) research. Please review the additional requirements dependent on your track.

Performance track:

- Submit a YouTube playlist of performance clips featuring yourself as a soloist or ensemble. This playlist should be 3 – 5 performance clips.

Pedagogy track:

- Submit a YouTube playlist of teaching episodes featuring yourself as an instructor. The combined duration of instruction should be a minimum of 30 minutes.

Research track

- Submit a 15 - 20-page writing sample on the topic of ethnomusicology/world, demonstrating proper writing style and references.