

Audition Requirements for String Instruments: Violin, Viola, Cello, Classical Bass

The Department of Music at Towson University

Degree Offerings:

Bachelor of Science in Music Education

Bachelor of Music in Performance

Bachelor of Science in Music

Bachelor of Music in Composition

Music Minor

(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.)

Requirements

The String Area at Towson University is flexible in hearing a variety of audition repertoire of similar level to those mentioned below. It is recommended that you choose repertoire that you play well even if this includes, for example, a section from an orchestral piece rather than a traditional concerto or solo.

Following your audition, all prospective students will have a brief interview about your interests and goals in music. If you have questions about the below information, please contact Dr. Jeffrey Howard at jhoward@towson.edu.

Standards: Incoming freshmen music majors and minors are expected to demonstrate technical proficiency and musical expression in their playing. Additionally, candidates must demonstrate the potential to succeed and excel in the field of music. For the ***BS in Music Education***, candidates must display significant interest in teaching. ***Performance Majors*** need to demonstrate technical and artistic proficiency on advanced repertoire.

Transfer Students: Students wishing to Transfer to Towson at a specific level are expected to demonstrate a performance level appropriate to their degree and program level. For example, if you wish to be at the Junior Level in Music Education, your performance level should be equal to students taking Double Juries at the end of Sophomore year.

What to Expect On Your Scheduled Audition Day:

- Arrive early!
- Dress professionally, yet comfortably.
- Bring all necessary music.
- You will not need an accompanist for these auditions.
- Unpack your instrument in the hallway, but bring all important valuables into the audition room.
- Check that you have extra backup strings, rosin, rock stops, mutes, etc.
- We recognize that incoming students have many different skills and backgrounds coming into the program. The below requirements are preferred, but there are many options for substituting other pieces, studies, etc. If you are not sure if what you plan to play meets the audition standards, please reach out to the faculty of your instrument.
- Enjoy the performance! We want to get to know you and learn why you want to be a Music Major or Minor.

Audition Repertoire Requirements by Instrument

The below information represents the audition requirements during regular audition years (without COVID-19 restrictions). *Students may choose repertoire of similar level as necessary.*

Violin

Bachelor of Science in Music Education & Bachelor of Science in Music

- All major and minor scales, three octaves (preferred), and accompanying arpeggio
- An etude of Kayser, Dont (op. 37), Mazas, Kreutzer, or equivalent
- Two contrasting compositions or movements (a fast and a slow movement or piece) i.e., Handel sonatas, Seitz, Kuechler, Vivaldi, Bohm, Mozart, Haydn, Bach, etc.
- Sight-reading

Bachelor of Music in Performance

- All major and minor scales and accompanying arpeggios three octaves
- A more advanced etude of Kreutzer, Dont Op. 37, Rode, Paganini, or equivalent
- Two contrasting compositions or movements (one slow and one fast movement or piece), i.e. concertos by Bach, Mozart, Lalo, Bruch, Saint-Saens, Mendelssohn
- Sight-reading

Bachelor of Music in Composition & Minor in Music

- All major and minor scales up to the third position in two octaves
- An etude by Wohlfahrt or Kayser, or equivalent
- A performance piece reflecting the technical-musical development of the student, similar to the BS degree audition requirements
- Sight-reading

Viola

Bachelor of Science in Music Education & Bachelor of Science in Music

- All major and minor scales and accompanying arpeggio, three octaves preferred
- An etude of Kayser, Mazas, or Kreutzer
- Two contrasting compositions or movements (fast and slow) equivalent to the Telemann Concerto in G Major or Handle-Casadesus Concerto
- Sight-reading

Bachelor of Music in Performance

- All major and minor scales and accompanying arpeggio, three octaves
- A more advanced etude of Kreutzer or a Campanoli etude
- Two contrasting compositions or movements (fast and slow) equivalent to the Handel-Casadesus Concerto or Stamitz Concerto
- Sight-reading

Bachelor of Music in Composition & Minor in Music

- All major and minor scales and accompanying arpeggio up to the third position
- An etude by Wohlfahrt or Kayser.
- A performance piece reflecting the technical-musical development of the student, similar to the BS degree audition requirements.
- Sight-reading

Cello

Bachelor of Science in Music Education & Bachelor of Science in Music

- 2 octave major and minor scales and accompanying arpeggios up to 3 sharps and flats selected by the candidate, performed with three different bowings (separate, 4-slurred, 8-slurred)
- Two contrasting compositions or movements (a fast and a slow movement or piece) i.e., sonatas by Vivaldi, Marcello, Romberg, Brevall, etc. or movement(s) of a Bach suite
Vivaldi Sonata, Marcello Sonata,
- One etude or study by Dotzauer, Lee, Schroeder, or equivalent
- Sight-reading

Bachelor of Music in Performance

- 3 octave major and minor scales and arpeggios selected by the candidate, performed with three different bowings (separated, 4-slurred, 8-slurred)
- First movement of a standard concerto or sonata
- One movement from Bach Suites for Solo Cello
- One etude or study demonstrating advanced technique e.g. thumb position, double stops, advanced bowings, etc. i.e. by Duport or Popper
- Sight-reading

Bachelor of Music in Composition & Minor in Music

- 2 octave major and minor scales selected by the candidate (separate bowings and two slurred on one bow)
- One solo piece reflecting the technical-musical development of the student, similar to the BS degree audition requirements

- One etude or study (Dotzauer, Lee, Schroeder, or equivalent)
- Sight-reading

Double Bass

Bachelor of Science in Music Education & Bachelor of Science in Music

- 2 octave Major and minor scales and arpeggios with different bowing variations of the applicant's choosing
- Two contrasting solo movements of the applicant's choosing (such as concerto movements, Baroque Sonata movements, etc.)
- 1 etude or study (such as Simandl 30 Etudes, etc.) OR 1 orchestral excerpt from the standard repertoire of the applicant's choosing (such as Mozart 35, Mozart 39, Mozart 40, Brahms 1, Brahms 2, Beethoven 5, Beethoven 9, Meistersinger, Strauss Tone Poems, etc.)
- Sight-reading

Bachelor of Music in Performance

- 2 octave Major and minor scales (up to 6 sharps and 6 flats) and arpeggios with different bowing variations of the applicant's choosing that display the applicant's technical capacities
- 1st movement of a standard bass concerto of the applicant's choosing (such as Dragonetti, Koussevitzky, Bottesini, Martín, etc.)
- 1 other contrasting solo movement or etude of the applicant's choosing (such as concerto movements, Baroque Sonata movements, Simandl 30 Etudes, etc.)
- 2 orchestral excerpts from the standard repertoire of the applicant's choosing that display the applicant's technical and musical capacities (such as Mozart 35, Mozart 39, Mozart 40, Brahms 1, Brahms 2, Beethoven 5, Beethoven 9, Meistersinger, Strauss Tone Poems, etc.)
- Sight-reading

Bachelor of Music in Composition & Minor in Music

- 2 octave Major and minor scales and arpeggios with different bowing variations of the applicant's choosing
- 1 solo movement of the applicant's choosing (such as concerto movements, Baroque Sonata movements, etc.)
- 1 etude or study (such as Simandl 30 Etudes, etc.) OR 1 orchestral excerpt from the standard repertoire of the applicant's choosing (such as Mozart 35, Mozart 39, Mozart 40, Brahms 1, Brahms 2, Beethoven 5, Beethoven 9, Meistersinger, Strauss Tone Poems, etc.)
- Sight-reading