



Developing Lifelong Excellence in Young People Through a Variety of Music Education Experiences.

HOW TO APPLY TO MAJOR IN MUSIC

1. DECIDE YOU WANT TO BE A MUSIC MAJOR. Congratulations! Music is one of the best fields you can possibly enter. Just imagine waking up every day getting to MAKE MUSIC and get PAID to do it. You are about to have the opportunity to join a unique and close-knit fraternity of brilliantly creative professionals. The following is a road map for you to begin using as soon as possible in your quest to become a music major.

☺ *ONLY THE BRAVE SHOULD CONTINUE READING* ☺

2. GET GOOD GRADES IN YOUR ACADEMIC CLASSES. The better your grades are the more options you will have. Remember, you have to be accepted into the university you want to go to. Your high school “chops” will not be anywhere close to good enough for a school to lower their academic standards for you.

3. REALIZE THAT THERE IS A HUGE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LIKING BAND AND BEING GOOD AT YOUR INSTRUMENT. To major in music you will have to be proficient at your instrument prior to auditioning for college programs. (Yes - you have to audition.) Being selected for County/District Honor Band, being a section leader or even sitting 1st chair in your high school wind ensemble doesn't necessarily mean you're a strong enough player to major in music. Practice... a lot... seriously.

3. TALK TO MR. HENDRICKS AND MR. THOMAS. We will be honest about where you are musically and your chances of being accepted into your desired school of music. We also have a lot of “ins” and will help you as much as we can. However, there are limits. Here's what we CAN'T help you with:

1. Your practice habits. Private lessons are great but good practice habits are MUCH more important.
2. Your academic grades. Do your work in your other classes. You will get the grades you deserve. People who make excuses are people who don't go very far in life. Your lack of study habits is NOT your academic teacher's fault.
3. Meeting application deadlines. Have you taken your SATs? If you're a senior and you're still waiting on your first SAT scores, you're already WAY behind.



Developing Lifelong Excellence in Young People Through a Variety of Music Education Experiences.

4. UNDERSTAND THAT YOU WILL PROBABLY HAVE TO UPGRADE YOUR INSTRUMENT. Your middle school instrument, or even your “step-up” instrument you semi-recently bought probably isn’t going to cut it in college. You should look at this cost just as any other college expense. **DO NOT** buy an instrument without talking to Mr. Hendricks and/or Mr. Thomas first.

5. DECLARE AS A MUSIC MAJOR RIGHT AWAY. Music classes have to be taken in a specific order. You can’t simply “knock out” your core classes in your first two years, and then declare as a music major later on. From the time you declare as a music major, it **WILL** take you at least 4 years to complete the degree. So... **DECLARE RIGHT AWAY.**

6. DO YOUR RESEARCH. Get on **GOOGLE**. Search for the university you’re thinking about attending. Make sure they have a music program and that they offer **UNDERGRADUATE**: Music Education, Performance, Composition, etc. Just because a school has a marching band doesn’t mean it offers a degree in music. For Example: Did you know that Georgia Tech **DOES NOT** offer any sort of music degree?

A piece of advice: If you are planning on majoring in performance or composition, you should **ALSO** major in music education. This way when you graduate you are able to find a stable job even if you don’t win your professional auditions or your original music doesn’t sell well enough to support you financially. This is called **DOUBLE MAJORING**. It is very common and requires very little work on the front end as a music major. If you wait and try to go back later to get your teaching certificate it will literally take years.

7. APPLY TO THE COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY that you want to go to. I would suggest that you apply to multiple schools (3 or more). The application fees **WILL** add up. It’s fine. This is your future you’re talking about. A few hundred dollars is nothing compared to the price of your college tuition, your instrument, housing, books, etc. – **DO THIS TODAY!**

8. APPLY TO THE SCHOOL OF MUSIC. This is completely different than applying to the college or university. You must be accepted to the university AND the school of music. Usually there will be an online or downloadable form on the School of Music’s website. Spend some time filling this out. If the application asks you **ANY** questions beyond the normal informational items, (For example: Write an essay on why you want to major in music) **DO NOT** submit it this without asking Mr. Hendricks or Mr. Thomas to help you. Remember that this is your first impression for people who will affect/decide your entire future. **DO THIS TODAY!**



Developing Lifelong Excellence in Young People Through a Variety of Music Education Experiences.

Yes. Mr. Hendricks and Mr. Thomas will write you a letter of recommendation (unless you've just been a complete jerk toward us).

9. RESEARCH THE AUDITION REQUIREMENTS. Get back on each school of music's website. Research what the audition requirements are. It will usually be under something like: **DEGREE PROGRAMS > UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS > AUDITION REQUIREMENTS**. If the specific requirements are not listed, look up the faculty member who teaches your instrument. Email them and ask. If they don't respond within 48 hours (not counting weekends), email them again. Make sure they know you are serious about wanting to study with them. – **DO THIS TODAY!**

A note regarding emails:

1. Have a professional email address. For example: john.doe@gmail.com is appropriate. Luvbug123@yahoo.com is not appropriate.
2. Do NOT write an email like you are texting. Emojis and/or text-style abbreviations are completely inappropriate.
3. Be professional, courteous and to the point. Your potential teacher does not care that you are section leader or that you are a state champion.
4. Mr. Hendricks and/or Mr. Thomas will be happy to proofread any correspondence you have with your college professor prior to you sending it.

10. BUY YOUR AUDITION MUSIC. GOOGLE "JW PEPPER". Find and order the audition material that meets your audition requirement. Make sure that it isn't backordered for a long period of time (this happens occasionally). **DO THIS AS SOON AS YOU KNOW THE AUDITION REQUIREMENTS!**

1. As soon as you receive this material you should begin practicing it.
2. We do not have your audition materials just sitting in our band library.

11. MAKE AN APPOINTMENT WITH YOUR INSTRUMENT'S TEACHER. Email the person who is in charge of teaching your instrument (same email rules apply). Try to set up a lesson or 2 with them. You'll probably have to pay for their time, but taking lessons with them will go a very long way. Make sure you prepare something for your lessons with them – something such as **THE AUDITION MATERIAL** 😊. These lessons are basically informal auditions anyways. **DO NOT** go into these lessons with



Developing Lifelong Excellence in Young People Through a Variety of Music Education Experiences.

nothing prepared. You should know your major scales and arpeggios, chromatic scale and have your etude 100% ready before you go to your lesson. Remember that this person is going to single-handedly decide your musical future. DO THIS SOON.

12. SCHEDULE YOUR AUDITION. This will probably already be done in the school of music application (Step 8). But, in the case that it isn't, make sure you schedule your audition as early in the school year as possible. A few days before your audition, make sure you email your new teacher and confirm with them that you will be attending. DO THIS SOON.

13. PRACTICE HARDER THAN YOU'VE EVER PRACTICED IN YOUR LIFE. Remember that you are making the decision to make music your CAREER. While you undoubtedly love band, it is no longer something you do just for fun. The world of music is MUCH bigger than what happens in our little band room. You MUST play well in your audition.

14. AUDITION. Dress professionally. Gentlemen should wear dress pants and a tie (minimum). Ladies should be in a professional looking dress or skirt and blouse. Do not wear a tux or a concert dress. Do not dress like you are going to the club. This is the most important job interview of your life. Show up early. Warm-up. Play well. Be humble.

15. CONFIRM YOUR INTENTION TO ATTEND THAT SCHOOL. By this time, you should have already been accepted into each university and each school of music that you have applied for (remember that these are completely separate things). Once you have been accepted into both the university and the school of music of your choice, it is polite to send an email to your new teacher thanking them for their time and confirming that you will be attending their university. Any schools you will NOT be attending (but that you've also auditioned for) should politely be notified that you will not be attending their school.

16. DON'T FLAKE OUT IN COLLEGE. Remember that for the rest of your life your name is attached to Mr. Hendricks and Mr. Thomas. – Study hard. Practice hard. Go to class. (Even the academic classes that you don't care about). The fastest way to fail out of college is to start missing classes. You're paying for it. Go! – Keep in touch. We're always here to help.

☺ **CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST OF LUCK!** ☺