



NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

School of Music

College of Visual and Performing Arts

NIU Composition Requirements

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 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.

Undergraduate Students

Students interested in pursuing an emphasis in composition must:

- Complete an instrumental or vocal audition required by the School of Music (please see studio audition requirements)
- Interview with the theory/composition coordinator
- Submit portfolio of at least three works exhibiting variety in terms of instrumentation/media and style.
 - Portfolios must be submitted electronically with scores in PDF format and links to sound files.

The portfolio may be submitted any time prior to the fifth semester of study at NIU. Students may begin secondary composition instruction with faculty to develop a portfolio, or students may already have a portfolio for submission prior to beginning at NIU. Portfolios should be submitted electronically to the theory/composition coordinator with scores in pdf format and links to sound files.

Graduate Students

The Master of Music degree program permits qualified graduate students to major in music composition under the individualized specialization option. An audition is not required, but an interview and portfolio of compositions must be submitted as part of the application. The portfolio should consist of at least three recent works exhibiting variety in terms of instrumentation/media and style. Portfolios should be submitted electronically to the theory/composition coordinator with scores in pdf format and links to sound files.

Non-Composition Majors

On a space-available basis, undergraduate and graduate students who are not currently composition majors may also study composition for one or more semesters. While there are no specific prerequisites to this individualized study, preference will be given to undergraduate students who have successfully completed most of the core music theory and aural skills curriculum, and to graduate students who have completed the graduate music theory review or demonstrated proficiency in music theory preparation.

Questions? Contact Dr. David Maki (dmaki@niu.edu).