



WESTERN  
ILLINOIS  
UNIVERSITY

# MASTER OF MUSIC

*Higher Values in Higher Education*

Academic Excellence • Educational Opportunity  
Personal Growth • Social Responsibility

Welcome to the School of Music at Western Illinois University! Our two-year Master of Music program offers ten different areas of specialization and a wide assortment of course offerings. Whether it's professional training in performance, conducting, education, composition, or musicology you're seeking, we can provide you with opportunities to work with musicians at the top of their fields. Our majors include Music Education, Performance, Piano Pedagogy, Choral and Instrumental Conducting, Music Composition, Jazz Studies, and Musicology. Students can experience a high level of applied performance and academic study on a flexible schedule that includes classroom and individual instruction. The graduate program offers a challenging and exciting environment to assist you in realizing your professional goals!



Macomb Campus

## Admission Requirements

Students with a Bachelor of Music (or equivalent) degree can apply and audition for entrance into the program in either the fall or spring (January) semesters. Their GPA must be 2.75 or higher. The TOEFL is required for all students whose first language is not English. Students must also submit a statement of goals and three letters of recommendation.

The audition will be judged on the student's technical ability, musicality, and potential for success at the graduate level. An interview with graduate and area faculty will also provide an opportunity for students to describe their past experiences and future plans in music. Applicants who complete their application and audition before the March 15 deadline may be considered for a Graduate Assistantship during the following fall semester.

## Degree Requirements

After completing advisory exams in music history and theory, students are offered a mixture of courses devoted to their area of interest, alongside academic core requirements in history, analysis, and research. A typical degree plan might include applied lessons each semester, repertoire courses for professional development, and independent studies on topics of the student's choice. All degree plans in music offer the opportunity to perform a recital, write a thesis, or both. Every student can gain breadth of experience through a variety of electives and performing ensembles (including chamber music) each semester. Upon the completion of all coursework, all students take comprehensive exams in the core requirements as well as in the student's main area of interest.

## Career Opportunities

Our Master of Music degree programs lead to a multitude of possibilities! Our goal in the School of Music is to prepare you for the professional world, whether it be performing in a professional ensemble

at the regional or national levels; teaching music in an elementary, secondary, or college environment; or further study—performance certificates or doctoral programs—at universities throughout the world. Our faculty members provide the first steps in forming a student's professional network with training that focuses on the needs of today's job market. In addition, our elective courses—electronic music or jazz history, for example—can help give your résumé a boost with broader experiences.

## Assistantship Opportunities

All students who complete a successful application and audition before the March 15 deadline will be considered for a Graduate Assistantship. These will be awarded on a competitive basis, reflecting the individual student's achievements and the current needs of the School of Music. Assistantships can be held for either full (20 hours/week) or two-thirds (13 hours/week) appointments and include a full tuition waiver and a monthly stipend. Typical duties may include assisting the faculty in an area of ensemble preparation, administrative tasks, grading, or tutoring undergraduate students. Students with assistantships are expected to retain good grades in full-time coursework for both semesters of an academic year. Non-English speakers without TOEFL will not be considered.

*Western Illinois University is an Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity employer with a strong commitment to diversity. In that spirit, we are particularly interested in receiving applications from a broad spectrum of people, including, but not limited to, minorities, women, and individuals with disabilities. WIU has a non-discrimination policy that includes sex, race, color, sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression, religion, age, marital status, national origin, disability, and veteran status.*

## Distinctive Features

Students have the opportunity to observe—and occasionally participate in—faculty ensembles, including the Lamoine Brass Quintet, the Camerata Woodwind Quintet, the Hopper Jazztet, and the Julstrom String Quartet. In addition, the School of Music sponsors the Al Sears

*“The Master’s program at WIU helped solidify the foundation of what I was already doing in the ‘real world’—playing and teaching. . . . All of my success is due to the education I received at WIU!”*

*—Toby Curtright, BA, 1985; MA, 1998  
Jazz Teacher and Performer*

## WIU.EDU/MUSIC



Jazz Festival in the fall and the New Music Festival in the spring. The direct Amtrak service to Chicago and the proximity to other Midwestern centers allow students to experience a variety of concerts, including world-class orchestral, chamber, operatic, and jazz ensembles.

### Faculty Expertise

The School of Music presents a rare phenomenon: students can study with full-time professionals for every voice type, instrument, and field of music. The student-teacher ratio is half the national average, and instruction is geared toward the individual student’s needs. Our faculty members perform at both regional and national levels, participate in professional conferences, and publish research and criticism in scholarly journals devoted to their respective disciplines.

### Facilities

Instruction in the School of Music is currently divided between Browne Hall and Sallee Hall on the Macomb campus of Western Illinois University. Our facilities include rehearsal spaces for large and small ensembles, classrooms with “smart” technology, computer labs with notation software, practice rooms, and an electronic music studio. Sallee Hall also includes a large lecture hall and a music library with thousands of scores and recordings, managed by a helpful and knowledgeable staff. Most of our performances occur in the recently remodeled College of Fine Arts and Communication Recital Hall, a beautiful space that seats an audience of 500, adjacent to our other facilities.

### Accreditations

Western’s School of Music is accredited with the National Association of Schools of Music, one of the first schools in Illinois to achieve this status.

Our faculty also maintain memberships in a wide array of music organizations at the regional and/or national level. Graduate students are often encouraged to join and/or attend the conferences of these associations as part of professional development.



*Toby Curtright*

### Featured Alums

Many of our alumni from the Master’s program have gone on to achieve great things, in multiple areas of music or related disciplines. Toby Curtright (BA in Music Theory-Composition, 1995; MA in Music Education, 1998) went on to receive his DMA in Jazz Studies at the University of Illinois. His accomplishments include teaching jazz performance at Minnesota State University, Moorhead, and performing internationally with a variety of jazz combos on bass. Says Dr. Curtright, “The experiences I had while working on my Master’s were extremely beneficial to my career, including the opportunities to direct large and small ensembles, touring and the logistics behind the tours, and personal attention in classes and lessons.”

Jay Regennitter (BA in Music—Choral Music Education, 1999; MA in Music—Organ Performance, 2001) remarks that Western’s graduate program “gave me ample opportunity to prepare for careers in performance and church music. . . . I had the confidence to prepare complex recital literature, having given recitals throughout the United States. One of my greatest accomplishments was being asked regularly to play demonstration recitals and service music on the magnificent instruments of Duke University Chapel.” Jay went on to get his Master of Divinity degree at Duke and, in his capacity as Associate Pastor at a church in the Quad Cities, has recently co-authored a book, *Charting the Course* (Discipleship Resources, 2007).

### Contact Information

For admissions process and general program information, contact School of Graduate Studies, Western Illinois University, 1 University Circle, Macomb, IL 61455, (309) 298-1806, [Grad-Office@wiu.edu](mailto:Grad-Office@wiu.edu), [wiu.edu/grad](http://wiu.edu/grad).

For general program questions, contact Cheryl Matteson, School of Music, Western Illinois University, [cs-matteson@wiu.edu](mailto:cs-matteson@wiu.edu), (309) 298-1544, or Dr. Brian Locke, Graduate Adviser, School of Music, Western Illinois University, 1 University Circle, Macomb, IL 61455, (309) 298-1969, [b-locke@wiu.edu](mailto:b-locke@wiu.edu). For specific program questions, visit [wiu.edu/music](http://wiu.edu/music).