Admission Requirements
Students with a Bachelor of Music (or equivalent) degree can apply and audition for entrance into the Western Illinois University program in either the fall or spring (January) semesters. The grade point average requirement is 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.

Degree Requirements
Students in the Performer’s Certificate program complete 18 semester hours over a two-semester period. During this time, students focus almost exclusively on their performance medium without the lecture-style coursework required for the Master of Music degree.

Career Opportunities
The Performer’s Certificate program leads to a multitude of possibilities. The goal of the WIU School of Music is to prepare students for the professional world, whether that is performing professionally, teaching or further study. WIU music faculty provide the first steps in forming a student’s professional network, with training that focuses on the needs of today’s job market.

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 many annual festivals.

Faculty Expertise
The WIU School of Music offers 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. WIU faculty members perform at regional, national and international 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 divided between Browne and Sallee halls on the Macomb campus. The school’s music library includes thousands of scores and recordings, managed by a helpful and knowledgeable staff. Most performances occur in the College of Fine Arts and Communication Recital Hall, a beautiful space that seats an audience of 500, adjacent to the University’s other facilities.

Accreditations
WIU’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. School of Music faculty also maintain memberships in an 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.