

The Jazz Studies Program at San Diego State University
School of Music and Dance
College of Professional Studies and Fine Arts
Scholarship and Placement Audition Policies

The SDSU Jazz Studies Program has designed the following policies to apply to students who are seeking to audition for placement in the program as incoming freshmen, undergraduate transfer students (upper division) and graduate students.

The SDSU Jazz Studies Program web page, <http://jazz.sdsu.edu/index.php>, contains the following downloadable documents in PDF and HTML formats:

Audition Repertoire list

Undergraduate and Graduate Scale Syllabi (please click on Resources and Requirements link)

Live Auditions

The purpose of this audition is to determine a student's qualifications for placement as a jazz performance major. To accurately facilitate that evaluation, the following repertoire policies are required. Live auditions are conducted by jazz studies faculty members.

Students who reside in San Diego, Orange, Riverside, Imperial and Los Angeles counties will be required to audition live at San Diego State University on specified audition dates found on School of Music and Dance website, "Audition and Apply" link.

Out-of-area auditioning students please see DVD audition requirements starting on page 4.

Freshman Brass Players, Woodwind Players, Guitarists, Bassists and Vibraphonists

- 1) The auditioning student will perform two pieces in contrasting tempos, keys and styles from the Freshman Repertoire List that is included along with these policies on the jazz studies website.
- 2) Jazz faculty will provide piano accompaniment. Please have copies of your music (in lead sheet form) available for them in concert key.
- 3) The auditioning student will be expected to accurately perform the themes of the pieces he or she has chosen and improvise on those pieces.
- 4) The auditioning student will sight read various excerpts from jazz band repertoire.
- 5) The auditioning student will also be prepared to play major scales in all keys, one and a half or two octaves, in eighth notes (♩ = 100-120), as is determined by individual instrument ranges.

Freshman Pianists

- 1) The auditioning student will perform two pieces in contrasting tempos, keys and styles from the Freshman Repertoire List that is included along with these policies on the jazz studies website.
- 2) Jazz faculty will provide bass line accompaniment in the bass register of the piano in the manner of a jazz bassist.
- 3) The auditioning student will be expected to accurately perform the themes of the pieces he or she has chosen and improvise on those pieces.
- 4) The auditioning student will sight read various excerpts from jazz band repertoire.
- 5) The auditioning student will also be prepared to play major scales in all keys, in two octaves, in eighth notes (♩ = 100-120), hands together in parallel motion.

Freshman Drum Kit Players

- 1) The auditioning student will be required to play a number of different rhythmic styles accompanied by jazz faculty.
- 2) The auditioning student will also sight read various excerpts from jazz band repertoire accompanied by jazz faculty.

Important Note

Drum kit players who are accepted as jazz studies performance majors will take split private lessons on drum kit and a secondary melodic/harmonic instrument, which can include vibraphone, piano, guitar, bass or a woodwind or brass instrument. The student will choose this secondary instrument based on his or her level of ability and familiarity, as the student will be required to perform on a secondary instrument for jury examinations, divisional recitals (starting in the sophomore year), along with the junior and senior recitals.

Junior Level (Upper Division) Transferring Brass Players, Woodwind Players, Guitarists, Bassists and Vibraphonists

The student will prepare a Junior Level Examination that will include the following:

- 1) Prepare two pieces in contrasting tempos, keys and styles from the Junior Level Repertoire List that is included along with these policies on the jazz studies website. Jazz faculty will provide piano accompaniment. Please have copies of your music (in lead sheet form) available for them in concert key.
- 2) The auditioning student will be expected to accurately perform the themes of the pieces he or she has chosen and improvise on those pieces.
- 3) The auditioning student will sight read various excerpts from jazz band repertoire.
- 4) The auditioning student will also be prepared to play the listed scales in all keys, one and a half or two octaves, in eighth notes (♩ = 100-120), as is determined by individual instrument ranges:
 - a) Melodic Minor Mode (Jazz Form)
 - b) Harmonic Minor Mode
 - c) Lydian Mode
 - d) Lydian Dominant Mode (a.k.a. Lydian ♭7)

Junior Level (Upper Division) Transferring Pianists

The student will prepare a Junior Level Examination that will include the following:

- 1) Prepare two pieces in contrasting tempos, keys and styles from the Junior Level Repertoire List that is included along with these policies on the jazz studies website. Jazz faculty will provide piano accompaniment. Jazz faculty will provide bass line accompaniment in the bass register of the piano in the manner of a jazz bassist.
- 2) The auditioning student will be expected to accurately perform the themes of the pieces he or she has chosen and improvise on those pieces.
- 3) The auditioning student will also sight read various excerpts from jazz band repertoire.
- 4) The auditioning student will also be prepared to play the following scales in all keys, two octaves, in eighth notes (♩ = 100-120), hands together in parallel motion:
 - a) Melodic Minor Mode (Jazz Form)
 - b) Harmonic Minor Mode
 - c) Lydian Mode
 - d) Lydian Dominant Mode (a.k.a. Lydian ♭7)

Junior Level (Upper Division) Transferring Drum Kit Players

The student will prepare a Junior Level Examination that will include the following:

- 1) The auditioning student will be required to play a number of different rhythmic styles accompanied by jazz faculty.
- 2) The auditioning student will also sight read various excerpts from jazz band repertoire accompanied by jazz faculty.
- 3) If the auditioning drum kit player has experience improvising jazz on a secondary instrument (see specifications below [*]), prepare two pieces in contrasting tempos, keys and styles from the Freshman Repertoire List that is included along with these policies on the jazz studies website.
- 4) The auditioning student will also be prepared to play the major scale in all keys on their secondary instrument in two octaves, in eighth notes (♩ = 100-120).

**Drum kit players who are accepted as jazz studies performance majors will take split private lessons on drum kit and a secondary melodic/harmonic instrument, which can include jazz vibraphone, piano, guitar, bass or a woodwind or brass instrument. The student will choose this secondary instrument based on his or her level of ability and familiarity, as the student will be required to perform on a secondary instrument for jury examinations, divisional recitals (starting in the sophomore year), along with the junior and senior recitals.*

Graduate Brass Players, Woodwind Players, Guitarists, Bassists and Vibraphonists

- 1) The auditioning student will perform two pieces in contrasting tempos, keys and styles from the Graduate Repertoire List that is included along with these policies on the jazz studies website.
- 2) Jazz faculty will provide piano accompaniment. Please have copies of your music (in lead sheet form) available for them in concert key.
- 3) The auditioning student will be expected to accurately perform the themes of the pieces he or she has chosen and improvise on those pieces.
- 4) The auditioning student will sight read various excerpts from jazz band repertoire.
- 5) The auditioning student will also be prepared to play the listed scales in all keys, one and a half or two octaves, in eighth notes ($\downarrow = 100-120$), as is determined by individual instrument ranges:
 - a) Melodic Minor (Jazz Form)
 - b) Harmonic Minor
 - c) Diminished Scale*

*aka Octatonic Scale or Symmetrical Dominant Scale

Graduate Pianists

- 1) The auditioning student will perform two pieces in contrasting tempos, keys and styles from the Graduate Repertoire List that is included along with these policies on the jazz studies website.
- 2) Jazz faculty will provide bass line accompaniment in the bass register of the piano in the manner of a jazz bassist.
- 3) The auditioning student will be expected to accurately perform the themes of the pieces he or she has chosen and improvise on those pieces.
- 4) The auditioning student will sight read various excerpts from jazz band repertoire.
- 5) The auditioning student will also be prepared to play the following scales in all keys, two octaves, in eighth notes ($\downarrow = 100-120$), hands together in parallel motion:
 - a) Melodic Minor (Jazz Form)
 - b) Harmonic Minor
 - c) Diminished Scale*

*aka Octatonic Scale or Symmetrical Dominant Scale

Graduate Drum Kit Players

- 1) The auditioning student will be required to play a number of different rhythmic styles accompanied by jazz faculty.
- 2) The auditioning student will also sight read various excerpts from jazz band repertoire accompanied by jazz faculty.
- 3) If the auditioning drum kit player has experience improvising jazz on a secondary instrument (see specifications below [*]), prepare two pieces in contrasting tempos, keys and styles from the Junior Level Repertoire List on the jazz studies website.
- 4) The auditioning student will also be prepared to play the following scales in all keys on their secondary instrument in two octaves, in eighth notes ($\downarrow = 100-120$), two octaves, in eighth notes, ($\downarrow = 100-120$):
 - a) Major Scales (all keys)
 - b) Melodic Minor (Jazz Form) (all keys)
 - c) Harmonic Minor (all keys)

**Drum kit players who are accepted as jazz studies performance majors will take split private lessons on drum kit and a secondary melodic/harmonic instrument, which can include jazz vibraphone, piano, guitar, bass or a woodwind or brass instrument. The student will choose this secondary instrument based on his or her level of ability and familiarity, as the student will be required to perform on a secondary instrument for jury examinations, and his or her graduate recital.*

DVD Auditions

All Students read the first three paragraphs before reading specific instrument audition procedures.

Students who live outside of San Diego, Orange, Riverside, Imperial and Los Angeles counties may audition via DVD. Audio compact discs will be accepted with DVDs as backup audition performance documentation, but not in lieu of DVDs. DVD auditions for jazz majors (all instruments) are for provisional acceptance only. If accepted provisionally, you will still have to perform a second audition that will include sight-reading of various excerpts from jazz band repertoire at the close of your first semester of study at SDSU for final acceptance into our program.

The jazz faculty will expect all DVDs to clearly indicate the auditioning student's name, instrument and selected repertoire. While the jazz faculty does not expect "professional" level production quality, it is very important that DVDs have an audio quality sufficient for the committee to clearly hear the auditioning student's performance.

VHS Tapes will also be accepted, but DVDs are preferred.

Freshman Brass Player, Woodwind Player, Pianist, Guitarist, Bassist and Vibraphonist DVD Auditions

- 1) The auditioning student will perform two pieces in contrasting tempos, keys and styles from the required Freshman Repertoire List that is included along with these policies on the jazz studies website.
- 2) Ideally, the committee would prefer to hear the auditioning student perform with a live rhythm section. If this is not possible, Abersold play along tracks or other digitally sequenced accompaniments are acceptable as long as they are properly balanced.
- 3) The auditioning student will be expected to accurately perform the themes of the pieces he or she has chosen and improvise on those pieces.
- 3) The auditioning student will also record his or her performance of Major scales in all keys, one and a half or two octaves, in eighth notes (♩ = 100-120) as is determined by individual instrument ranges. Pianists will be expected to play two octaves, hands together in parallel motion. The major scales may be performed around the circle of 5ths or chromatically.
- 4) If conditionally accepted, the first semester jury will also include the aforementioned sight-reading component that will determine final acceptance into the program.

Freshman Drum Kit Player DVD Auditions

- 1) The auditioning student will be required to play a number of different rhythmic styles which would include swing, bossa nova, samba, jazz waltz, ballad (with brushes) and funk styles. Record with a live rhythm section including piano and/or guitar and bass. If this is not possible, Abersold play along tracks or other digitally sequenced accompaniments are acceptable as long as they are properly balanced.
- 2) In the swing style, in a twelve measure blues, with a live rhythm section, or digitally sequenced rhythm section, play four measures of time and four measures of solo over the blues form for three choruses.
- 3) If conditionally accepted, the first semester jury will also include the aforementioned sight-reading component, which will determine final acceptance into the program.

Important Note

Drum kit players who are accepted as jazz studies performance majors will take split private lessons on drum kit and a secondary melodic/harmonic instrument, which can include vibraphone, piano, guitar, bass or a woodwind or brass instrument. The student will choose this secondary instrument based on his or her level of ability and familiarity, as the student will be required to perform on a secondary instrument for jury examinations, divisional recitals (starting in the sophomore year), along with the junior and senior recitals.

Junior Level (Upper Division) Transferring Brass Player, Woodwind Player, Pianist, Guitarist, Bassist and Vibraphonist DVD Auditions

The student will prepare a Junior Level Examination that will include the following:

- 1) Prepare two pieces in contrasting tempos, keys and styles from the Junior Level Repertoire List that is included along with these policies on the jazz studies website.
- 2) Ideally, the committee would prefer to hear the auditioning student perform with a live rhythm section. If this is not possible, Abersold play along tracks or other digitally sequenced accompaniments are acceptable as long as they are properly balanced.
- 3) The auditioning student will be expected to accurately perform the themes of the pieces he or she has chosen and improvise on those pieces.
- 4) The auditioning student will also record the following modes in all keys, one and a half or two octaves, in eighth notes (♩ = 100-120) as is determined by individual instrument ranges. Pianists will be expected to play two octaves, hands together in parallel motion.
 - a) Melodic Minor Mode (Jazz Form)
 - b) Harmonic Minor Mode
 - c) Lydian Mode
 - d) Lydian Dominant Mode (a.k.a. Lydian ♭7)
- 5) If conditionally accepted, the first semester jury will also include the aforementioned sight-reading component, which will determine final acceptance into the program.

Junior Level (Upper Division) Transferring Drum Kit Players DVD Auditions

The student will prepare a Junior Level Examination that will include the following:

- 1) The auditioning student will be required to play a number of different rhythmic styles which would include swing, bossa nova, samba, jazz waltz, ballad (with brushes) and funk styles. Record with a live rhythm section including piano and/or guitar and bass. If this is not possible, Abersold play along tracks or other digitally sequenced accompaniments are acceptable as long as they are properly balanced.
- 2) In the swing style, in a twelve measure blues, with a live rhythm section, or digitally sequenced rhythm section, play four measures of time and four measures of solo over the blues form for three choruses.
- 3) If the auditioning drum kit player has experience improvising jazz on a secondary instrument (see specifications below [*]), prepare two pieces in contrasting tempos, keys and styles from the Freshman Repertoire List that is included along with these policies on the jazz studies website.
- 4) The auditioning student will also record his or her performance of the major scale in all keys, two octaves, in eighth notes (♩ = 100-120). The scales may be performed around the circle of 5ths or chromatically.
- 5) If conditionally accepted, the first semester jury will also include the aforementioned sight-reading component, which will determine final acceptance into the program.

**Drum kit players who are accepted as jazz studies performance majors will take split private lessons on drum kit and a secondary melodic/harmonic instrument, which can include jazz vibraphone, piano, guitar, bass or a woodwind or brass instrument. The student will choose this secondary instrument based on his or her level of ability and familiarity, as the student will be required to perform on a secondary instrument for jury examinations, divisional recitals (starting in the sophomore year), along with the junior and senior recitals.*

Graduate Brass Player, Woodwind Player, Pianist, Guitarist, Bassist and Vibraphonist DVD Auditions

- 1) The auditioning student will perform two pieces in contrasting tempos, keys and styles from the required Upper Division Undergraduate Repertoire List, which is included along with these policies on the jazz studies website.
- 2) Ideally, the committee would prefer to hear the auditioning student perform with a live rhythm section. If this is not possible, Abersold play along tracks or other digitally sequenced accompaniments are acceptable as long as they are properly balanced.
- 3) The auditioning student will be expected to accurately perform the themes of the pieces he or she has chosen and improvise on those pieces.

Graduate Brass Player, Woodwind Player, Pianist, Guitarist, Bassist and Vibraphonist DVD & VHS Tape Auditions cont.,

- 4) The auditioning student will also record his or her performance of the following modes in all keys, one and a half or two octaves, in eighth notes ($\downarrow = 100-120$) as is determined by individual instrument ranges. Pianists will be expected to play two octaves, hands together in parallel motion.
 - a) Melodic Minor (Jazz Form)
 - b) Harmonic Minor
 - c) Diminished Scale (dominant form)
- 5) If conditionally accepted, the first semester jury will also include the aforementioned sight-reading component, which will determine final acceptance into the program.

Graduate Drum Kit Players DVD Auditions

- 1) The auditioning student will be required to play a number of different rhythmic styles which would include swing, bossa nova, samba, jazz waltz, ballad (with brushes) and funk styles. Record with a live rhythm section including piano and/or guitar and bass. If this is not possible, Abersold play along tracks or other digitally sequenced accompaniments are acceptable as long as they are properly balanced.
- 2) In the swing style, in a twelve measure blues, with a live rhythm section, or digitally sequenced rhythm section, play four measures of time and four measures of solo over the blues form for three choruses.
- 3) If conditionally accepted, the first semester jury will also include the aforementioned sight-reading component, which will determine final acceptance into the program.
- 4) If the auditioning drum kit player has experience improvising jazz on a secondary instrument (see specifications below [*]), prepare two pieces in contrasting tempos, keys and styles from the Freshman Repertoire List that is included along with these policies on the jazz studies website. While the committee would prefer to hear the auditioning student perform with a live rhythm section. If this is not possible, Abersold play along tracks or other digitally sequenced accompaniments are acceptable as long as they are properly balanced.
- 5) The auditioning student will also be prepared to play the following scales in all keys on their secondary instrument in two octaves, in eighth notes ($\downarrow = 100-120$), two octaves, in eighth notes, ($\downarrow = 100-120$):
 - a) Major Scales (all keys)
 - b) Melodic Minor (Jazz Form) (all keys)
 - c) Harmonic Minor (all keys)
- 6) If conditionally accepted, the first semester jury will also include the aforementioned sight-reading component, which will determine final acceptance into the program.

**Drum kit players who are accepted as jazz studies performance majors will take split private lessons on drum kit and a secondary melodic/harmonic instrument, which can include jazz vibraphone, piano, guitar, bass or a woodwind or brass instrument. The student will choose this secondary instrument based on his or her level of ability and familiarity, as the student will be required to perform on a secondary instrument for jury examinations, and his or her graduate recital.*