

# Audition Requirements for Brass Instruments

*The Music Department at Towson University*

Trumpet, Trombone, Horn, Euphonium, Tuba

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*Bachelor of Music in Composition*

*Bachelor of Science in Music*

*Bachelor of Science in Music Education*

*Music Minor*

## Requirements

In addition to a short interview, the required repertoire for the audition shall consist of the following four items:

- All major scales memorized in one consistent format determined by the candidate.
- A memorized chromatic scale in the following suggested registers (written tones):
  - *Trumpet* (in treble clef, f-sharp below the staff to c above the staff)
  - *Horn* (a at the bottom of the staff in bass clef to c above the staff in treble clef)
  - *Trombone* (e below the staff in bass clef to b-flat above the staff in tenor clef)
  - *Euphonium* (in treble clef, f-sharp below the staff to c above the staff)
  - *Tuba* (in bass clef, f one octave below the staff to a at the top of the staff)
- A prepared solo of Grade IV or higher as listed in the Maryland Band Directors' Association Handbook or two contrasting etudes of equivalent difficulty (one technical and one lyrical). Accompaniments for solos are optional and must be provided by the candidate when used.
- Sight-reading provided by the brass department.

## Standards

Incoming freshmen music majors and minors are expected to demonstrate technical proficiency and musical expression equivalent to or above the standards necessary to receive a superior rating at the Maryland State Solo and Ensemble Festival. Additionally, candidates must demonstrate the potential to succeed and excel in the field of music. For the BS in Music Education, candidates must display significant interest in teaching.

## *Bachelor of Music in Performance*

### *Requirements*

Audition requirements for the BM in Music Performance are the same as the BS degrees; however, the addition of two or three contrasting orchestral excerpts is recommended.

### *Standards*

Candidates for the BM in Music Performance must excel in technical proficiency and musical expression, demonstrate significant potential as performers in the field of music, and display a knowledge and understanding of the challenges presented in becoming a professional in the field.

## *Bachelor of Music in Jazz/Commercial Performance* *Bachelor of Music in Jazz/Commercial Composition*

### *Requirements, as applicable, for Jazz Applicants*

- All major scales memorized, two octaves where possible, in one consistent format determined by candidate
- A memorized two octave chromatic scale starting on any pitch, determined by the auditioner, displaying the command of the instrument's range
- Sight reading chosen by the Jazz/Commercial faculty
  - The ability to sight read simple melodies and chord progressions is essential to the success of a candidate for a Bachelor of Music degree in Jazz/Commercial music. Applicants who cannot read music must learn to do so before auditioning.
- Demonstrate good pitch matching either on the instrument or by vocalization
- Interview

### *Prepared Selections for Trumpet and Trombone*

- Prepared solo of Grade IV or higher as listed in the Maryland Band Directors' Association Handbook or one etude of equivalent difficulty. Accompaniment for this solo is optional, but when used, it must be provided by the candidate.

- Improvisation on blues or standard tune with accompaniment (the Music Department will provide a stereo with CD player only. Applicants are responsible for their recorded accompaniments).

### *Standards for Jazz Candidates*

Candidates for the Bachelor of Music in Jazz/Commercial Performance are expected to demonstrate technical proficiency, musical expression and improvisational skills. Additionally, candidates must demonstrate the potential to succeed and excel in the field of music.

Candidates for the Bachelor of Music in Jazz/Commercial Composition must display evidence of promise as a creative composer. Additionally, candidates must demonstrate proficiency in at least one area of performance (must pass Department of Music audition in candidate's primary performance area). Composition candidates must submit a portfolio of completed compositions by October 1 for consideration for the spring semester and by February 1 for the fall semester. Details can be found on the Department of Music website on the composition web page.

It is expected that all Jazz applicants be prepared for the rigors of the music curriculum through dedicated and continued study of their primary instrument with a qualified private instructor provided by the university.