



SCHOOL OF FINE & PERFORMING ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

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### Undergraduate Audition Requirements: Jazz Studies

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The Department of Music at Portland State University requires that all students wishing to declare themselves as a music major or minor must first pass an entrance audition in their chosen instrumental or vocal area. Students wishing to transfer in at higher levels (290, 390, 490) should consult the area coordinator before preparing for their audition.

### QUALIFICATIONS FOR ENTRANCE TO JAZZ STUDIES

The BM in Jazz Studies is a comprehensive performance degree that demands a full commitment from the student to the art of Jazz. It is recommended that a student applying for admission to the Jazz Studies Area will have performed with his/her high school Jazz Ensemble (if possible) and studied Jazz privately for at least one year. It is expected that the applicant will have basic experience in improvising in a combo setting. The audition procedure is similar for all instruments. A live audition can be accomplished two ways. First, an applicant can schedule a time during regular school hours to come to a large ensemble rehearsal and sit in with the band or a combo, sight read music and possibly take some solos. This would also include a short interview with a jazz faculty member to discuss background, experience, etc. This type of audition should be scheduled in advanced with the Jazz Area Coordinator. Secondly, an applicant may schedule a private audition-interview during the regular audition period. All applicants should be prepared to perform 3 jazz standards in different styles, preferably using an accompaniment CD such as the Aebersold CDs. Sight reading will also be required. Specific requirements for individual instruments are listed below:

**Guitar:** Chord forms and scales in several positions. One of the standards should be a chord melody. Important: auditioning guitarists must demonstrate a basic degree of Jazz "awareness" such as the ability to discuss famous jazz guitarists from the past and present, play in a convincing jazz context, and articulate future goals as they relate to the Jazz Studies degree.

**Bass (acoustic and electric):** Similar to guitar without chord forms. Bassists should be able to walk a convincing line over chord changes and also demonstrate a basic degree of Jazz "awareness". Additional styles such as funk and fusion are welcome.

**Piano:** Similar to bass and piano, plus performance of a relevant classical etude or piece is encouraged.

**Drums:** Similar to bass, guitar, and piano. Drummers should demonstrate skill in various styles: swing, latin, funk and rock.

**Winds and Brass:** A classical etude in addition to the standards is encouraged.