Undergraduate Entrance Requirements: Music Composition

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The School of Music at Portland State University requires that all students wishing to enter Music Composition degree program must submit a Portfolio in application to the Music Composition degree program during spring term of their sophomore year. Transfer students will be asked to complete the Portfolio and may be admitted conditionally pending admittance at the 390 level in a performance program.

The portfolio requirements for the Music Composition program:

- Complete three terms of Composition (MUS240, MUS241 & MUS242).
- Successfully complete the upper division exam in your performance area (Taken by most music majors at the conclusion of two years of performance study, this exam qualifies students for entry into the 390 performance level. While composition majors are not required to take applied performance lessons beyond the 290 level, successful completion of this exam, also referred to as a level change, is the final step to complete the applied performance requirement for the degree.).

Note: Until the performance audition has been completed, transfer students who have not yet taken a term of study at PSU may be accepted conditionally to the composition major pending placement in a performance studio. Transfer students who are already at PSU cannot be admitted to the composition major without completing a performance audition.

- Portfolio Submission:
  Please submit at least three and no more than six pieces for consideration by a committee comprised of composition faculty. You are encouraged to include a wide range of genres and styles. While “style study” pieces may be included (for example, you might include a two-part invention in the style of J.S. Bach completed for a theory class), they should not form the bulk of the portfolio. Compositions for acoustic instruments should include scores, while works for electronic media can be evaluated on CD or DVD as appropriate.

  Your scores should be legible and bound with plastic comb bindings. Please include only one copy of each score. If you have recordings of performances, reading sessions, or MIDI realizations, you are encouraged to include them on a CD. Please make sure that you include an audio CD (rather than a Data CD) which can be read by a CD player. Please include all works on the same CD with clearly labeled track numbers. Include a CD case (plastic, cardboard, or paper) with your CD.

  Please include a completed submission form with your scores and CD. Transfer students and returning students should also include an unofficial copy of their transcripts.