

**Excerpt from the
NASM Handbook 2015-16**

**Standards for Admission to Undergraduate Study in Music
(pages 89-90)**

V. ADMISSION TO UNDERGRADUATE STUDY

- A. Admission Criteria.** Institutions are responsible for establishing specific admission requirements for their undergraduate programs in music. Admission standards must be sufficiently high to predict the prospect of success in the program for which the student is enrolling. Diversities of previous education, background, and interests of applicants should be considered in assessments of potential as appropriate to the specific purposes of individual degree programs.
- B. High School Diploma.** The admission policy at the undergraduate level should be clearly stated with respect to students entering from high schools. Admission standards for music degrees should compare favorably with those of the college or university as a whole.
- C. Open Admission.** See Standards for Accreditation V.D.1.
- D. Musical Aptitudes and Achievements**
- 1. Auditions and Evaluations.** At some point prior to confirmation of degree candidacy, member institutions must require auditions, examinations, or other evaluations consistent with the purpose of the degree as part of the admission decision. Member institutions are urged to require such auditions and evaluations prior to matriculation.

NOTE: Some institutions have open admission policies. In such cases, auditions and evaluations associated with the decision about degree candidacy must occur no later than the end of the first half of the degree program.

- 2. Musicianship.** The musical background required for admission to curricula leading to an undergraduate degree in music must include the ability to relate musical sound to notation and terminology both quickly and accurately enough to undertake basic musicianship studies in the freshman year.
 - 3. Performance, Composition, and Scholarship.** A level of achievement in musical performance is normally a factor in determining eligibility for entrance to all undergraduate degree programs. It must be a factor for entrance into professional degree programs and a significant factor for students seeking professional degree study in performance. Institutions admitting students to professional degree study in composition and scholarly subjects normally review evidence of creative or scholarly work during the admission procedure.
 - 4. Professional Undergraduate Degrees.** Admission procedures for professional undergraduate degrees in music should develop evidence that the candidate possesses exceptional talent, the potential to develop high-level musicianship, artistic sensibilities, and a strong sense of commitment.
- E. Standard Published Examinations.** The use of standard published examinations in the admission process is the prerogative of the institution. Any utilization should reflect the goals and objectives of the undergraduate program in general and specific undergraduate programs in particular.
- F. Admission to Advanced Standing.** Students who are able to pass examinations in music demonstrating competence beyond that required for entrance may be exempted from one or more college-level courses in the subject or subjects covered by the examinations, provided that such demonstration of competence is confirmed by further successful study in residence in the same field.
- G. Admission by Transfer of Credits.** For standards covering the granting of course credits to transfer students, see Standards for Accreditation III.A.3.