



Conservatory of Music and Dance

4949 Cherry ♦ Kansas City, MO ♦ 64110-2229 ♦ conservatory.umkc.edu ♦ 816-235-2900

GRADUATE WIND CONDUCTING

APPLICATION/AUDITION PROCEDURES

UMKC offers both the Master of Music degree and Doctor of Musical Arts degree in instrumental conducting. The studio is designed to be highly selective and limited to four to ensure adequate podium time and individualized instruction as needed. The process for admission to the conducting program is as follows and involves a “dual admission process” – one from the Conservatory and one from the Conducting faculty. In order to be considered for a live audition, an applicant must apply to both to UMKC and the Conservatory, and must meet the requirements for advanced study.

APPLICATION PROCESS AND REQUIREMENTS

To begin the process, please [apply to the Conservatory](#). Details about audition and application procedures can be found [on our website here](#).

All incoming conducting students must have significant previous conducting experience as well as a Bachelor’s Degree in Music. It is recommended that applicants do not attend straight out of an undergraduate degree program. ‘Real-life’ experience is preferred.

Applicants must upload the following to the Conservatory’s Decision Desk application:

- A video of approximately 20 minutes of your conducting in performance or rehearsal. This video should be of your front and not shot from behind. It is permissible to include excerpts of different pieces or rehearsals to convey a wider range of styles but not required. Also on your recording, please include a small introduction of yourself and describe your goals in pursuing a conducting degree.
- A six-concert season of programming that best describes your repertoire knowledge and musical dynamics. This concert season should be for a professional/top tier collegiate wind band. Utilize both chamber and large ensemble repertoire.
- Submission of significant prose on a piece of substantial repertoire written by a historically significant composer showing theoretical and musicological understanding of your highest level of understanding within a framework of academic writing. (must be at least six pages)
- Comprehensive curriculum vitae, with a list of references

AUDITION

If you are chosen to come and do a live audition with the Wind Symphony on campus, you will be contacted by February 1. During your live audition at UMKC, you will be asked to conduct and rehearse the Wind Symphony for about 15-20 minutes. The literature to conduct will be discussed with you before you arrive.

Following your audition, you will have an interview with some other faculty members and then have a private conducting lesson on a selection of your choice.

If you have any questions about anything along the way, please feel free to contact:

Director of Bands and Wind Ensembles **Steven D. Davis** at: davisst@umkc.edu