UMKC Conservatory

To all prospective undergraduate music composition majors:

I am pleased to hear of your interest in the UMKC Composition Programs. There are approximately 50 students majoring in composition at the Conservatory, from freshman through doctoral levels, which means that we will expect to admit 12-15 new students per year. I encourage you to look at our degree catalog, as well as our other UMKC websites (umkc.edu, conservatory.umkc.edu) for details about the composition program, the online catalog, application procedures, and about the members of the composition faculty, all of whom teach composition and orchestration plus one additional area of specialization. Please feel free to contact us by email or phone for assistance.

Dr. Chen Yi	Lorena Searcy Cravens/ Millsap/ Missouri Distinguished Professor of Composition	cheyi@umkc.edu, 816-235-2911
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Dr. Paul Rudy	Curators' Distinguished Professor of Music Composition	rudyp@umkc.edu, 816-235-2940
Dr. Yotam Haber	Associate Professor of Composition	habery@umkc.edu, 816-235-2968

For questions relating to Conservatory admissions, please contact cadmissions@umkc.edu

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Apply to UMKC and upload all required application materials. Applications for all Conservatory degrees require an artistic resume or CV and two letters of recommendation. In addition, **the following portfolio materials are required** for BM Composition applications:

A) **Three or more representative compositions** – including scores (unless a particular piece is for recorded media alone), recordings if available. Make sure each is labeled with: Name, Instrumentation, Duration, and Year of Composition.

B) A complete **list of works you have composed** (this can include original works as well as arrangements, orchestrations and study pieces); labeling should be similar to A.) above.

*Prospective freshmen please note***:** *Freshmen often have had very little access to instruction in notation; although you should make every effort to present your music as professionally as possible, we will generally be more interested in what the music looks and sounds like than how correctly it has been notated.*

> **ALL APPLICATION MATERIALS MUST BE RECEIVED BY DECEMBER 1, 2024.**
> **Late and incomplete applications will not be advanced.**

AUDITION REQUIREMENTS:

Undergraduates must pass an applied music audition (instrument or voice) for final Conservatory entry. 2025 auditions will consist of **live auditions**. Audition dates are chosen as part of the application. Details and procedures are on our website's Admission Page or by contacting the Conservatory at 816-235-2900. In order to be eligible for all possible scholarship and fellowship assistance, the audition must be completed no later than March 7th, 2025.

Current Catalog BM Applied Track Options:
- **Applied Music Interest Area A:** Complete level 101 through 301 in any single primary instrument offered by the Conservatory and enroll in the concurrent Studio Class.
- **Applied Music Interest Area B:** Complete ten hours of primary and/or second instrument applied music courses and/or techniques classes.
- **Applied Music Interest Area C:** Complete six hours of CONSVTY 335 (Electronic Music Composition) plus four hours of 100B level second instrument applied music courses and/or techniques classes.

Auditioning with Computer as Major Instrument (Track C):

The purpose of the audition for those interested in *Applied Music Interest Area C* are to assess skills in performance and/or creation (composition, sound design or interactive media or performance) with a "computer" or other electronic device as their main instrument. You are expected to bring your own laptop and any hardware you wish to use, or be able to provide links to tracks, and other resources that demonstrate your skills.

There are two areas of skill assessment:

1. The use of software in the creating of instruments and/or compositions; and
2. The use of hardware in the performing and/or creating of those instruments or composition

Skill area 1: Software
Competencies:
a. Demonstrate an understanding of custom signal flow in a DAW or other computer environment
b. Creating original material using either synthesis instruments, original sampling, or complex signal processing of either or both
c. Use of effects processing and mastering tools to build a cohesive sound environment in musically compelling ways
Additional optional avenues of demonstrating competencies:
d. demonstrate original programming (such as MAX for live, MAX, Pd or Open Source, Tidal Cycles-live coding, etc.), sound designing, performance using means not listed above.

Skill area 2: Hardware
Competencies
- Use of MIDI or other controllers for real-time performance into a DAW
- Use computer keyboard or other device to control
- Enter and/or perform either in compositional time (entering data into a sequence for example)
- or as a performative technique in real-time (such as live DJing or performing in a group, etc.).

An example-

Prior to the audition, create a short composition that demonstrates the following skills:

1. Create an original synthesis instrument from scratch (using Ableton Operator or Tension or Analog or another software of your choice)
2. Create a drum instrument using a sample, or use a preset, but modify at least 2 of the sounds in the kit.
3. Demonstrate a short etude using these two instruments (the synthesis and drum instruments). This could be playing it for us and walking through what you made, and how you made/customize it.

Three audition dates are available:

- Saturday, February 8, 2025
- Monday, February 17, 2025
- Friday, March 7, 2025

If you live more than **300 miles from campus, you may request a video audition.** Please note that full scholarship consideration may not be available to video auditions.

All applicants are very strongly advised to audition on campus. If scheduling difficulties or distances are insurmountable, applicants may request to audition via recording. Contact cadmissions@umkc.edu for approval.

<u>Composition Check List -- Domestic Undergraduate Students</u>

- ☐ Did you complete the UMKC application?
- ☐ Did you upload your scores, sound files, and list of works composed to the application?
- ☐ Did you list two references on the application?
- ☐ Did you upload your artistic resume/CV?
- ☐ Did you select your audition day?
- ☐ Did you arrange for your transcripts and test scores to be sent to UMKC admissions?

On behalf of the entire Composition faculty, I thank you for your interest in the Composition programs.

Dr. Yotam Haber, Associate Professor of Music Composition