



Graduate Choral Conducting

APPLICATION /AUDITION PROCEDURES 2025

2025 Graduate Choral Conducting auditions will consist of a **pre-screening, a live audition, and interview process.**

APPLICATION

Auditions are scheduled at the time of application. To schedule your audition, please [apply to the Conservatory](#). Details about audition and application procedures can be found on [our website](#). The deadline to apply is **December 15th, 2024.**

Applicants must upload the following to the application:

- a current resume or CV
- a personal statement explaining your future goals and reasons for your interest in studying choral conducting at UMKC
- a copy of a recent academic paper representative of your research and writing skills in music.
- a video recording of a recent rehearsal *and* performance that represents your abilities as a choral conductor

Note: Applicants will be notified, via email, by mid-January regarding whether or not they will be invited for a live audition. Applicants who have been selected for a live audition will receive further audition information and materials at that time.

AUDITION

The graduate choral conducting audition will consist of:

- Interview with choral faculty: This is an opportunity to talk with the faculty about the graduate conducting program and ask any questions you may have.
- Musicianship assessment: This assessment will take place during the interview time with the faculty. Candidates will be asked to complete a short sight-singing example, and sight-reading a hymn or Bach chorale on the piano. This component of the audition assesses pragmatic skills needed to lead choral sectionals or full rehearsals.
- Informal lunch with current graduate students: This offers you an opportunity to ask questions about the graduate experience at the Conservatory and hear from the students' point of view.
- Conducting/rehearsal demonstration with a Conservatory choral ensemble: Information about the rehearsal structure will be sent via email as part of the live audition invitation. This demonstration allows us to observe your conducting style, rehearsal pacing, teaching strategies, and communication skills.
- Voice Audition: The music audition for the choral conducting degree requires the performance of one art song or aria of your choosing. Memorization is optional and a pianist will be provided.

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 should contact cadmissions@umkc.edu.