

UMKC Conservatory

Composition

To prospective graduate music composition majors (US citizens & permanent residents):

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 entries for the [M.M. in Music Composition](#) and the [D.M.A. in Music Composition](#), 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
Dr. Zhou Long	Distinguished Professor of Music Composition	zhoul@umkc.edu, 816-235-2924
Dr. Paul Rudy	Curators' Distinguished Professor of Music Composition	rudyp@umkc.edu, 816-235-2940

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

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

[Apply to UMKC](#) online and upload the following. 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 MM and DMA 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.

ALL APPLICATION MATERIALS MUST BE RECEIVED BY DECEMBER 1, 2025.
Late and incomplete applications will not be advanced.

Composition majors at the MM and DMA level are **exempt from the admission audition** on an instrument or voice.

All Composition applicants will take part in an interview with the Music Composition Faculty. All graduate applicants will have their interview via Zoom. The Composition faculty will reach out to schedule virtual interviews.

Composition Application Check List -- Domestic Graduate Students

- ☐ Did you complete the UMKC application and pay the application fee?
- ☐ 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 complete a Composition Interview with the faculty?
- ☐ Did you arrange for your transcripts to be sent to UMKC Admissions?