

Recommended Collegiate Music Audition Procedures Trombone, Euphonium, and Tuba

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How to take an audition

Many factors contribute to performing a successful collegiate audition. The audition process contains not just your performance on your instrument, but also includes components of a job interview and an analysis of your personality or demeanor. Studio professors are looking for the best players they can fill their studios out with, but also students who will be good citizens of the studio setting. Remember to dress up for this event, its important to look the part of a leader and pleasant person. Wearing your everyday clothes also promotes the idea that you do not take the audition seriously or give it importance. Also remember that the way you interact with the auditioning committee is important. Being an engaged, thoughtful, and pleasant student often leaves more of an impression of you than your playing.

Preparing

Take audition preparation seriously. Study with a private teacher who can help you prepare (the best is to study with a private teacher for many years, to prepare for contest, solo ensemble festival, and become the best player you can). Study recordings of established performers on your instrument to find the characteristic sound required of your instrument. Pay attention to all the musical notation on your music- look up terms and words you do not know, follow the musical notation, and above all, play musically. Studio teachers are most interested in students who can already perform at a high level. Once prepared, [register](#) for an audition time.

Taking a sample lesson

Consider taking a sample lesson with the professor you are auditioning for. Taking a sample lesson is just as important for you as it is for the professor. Not only does it provide you an opportunity to show what you can bring to the studio, but also shows you who the professor is as a person and teacher. Taking as sample lesson the day or week of the audition is not as useful as taking a lesson a few weeks before and incorporating what was discussed in the lesson into your audition.

The day of the audition

Bring the materials you will and may need for the audition. A simple checklist is below, but be sure to think carefully of anything else you may want.

- Sheet music
- Accompanists music (or a copy, in case they forgot it!)
- Tuner
- Metronome
- Pencil

- A list of questions about the school of music, degree programs, or teacher (the committee will ask if you have questions, have some!)
- Résumé of your musical history. Include private teachers, honor bands, all state ensembles, and more.
- Mutes, mouthpiece, etc.
- Audition clothes (if you are uncomfortable traveling in your audition clothes, bring a set to change into. Just do not forget it!)

Audition Questions

You may want to think about what your questions for the audition committee may be. Some things to consider asking about include:

- Will you study with the main professor or a graduate student?
- How long are lessons?
- When do lessons meet?
- Is there a studio class?
- What chamber ensembles are available to your instrument?
- Are there guest clinicians or master classes?
- Should you buy any books or materials over the summer?
- What should you prepare for your first lesson?
- What is the expected equipment level for entrance into the studio?

Ear Training and Theory Placement

Most School of Music auditions include an ear training and theory placement diagnostic exam. Be sure to find out when that is held and how to register for it. Most of these exams are used to place you where you are best suited, but some may be used for your acceptance into the school of music. Find out from the studio teacher if you should be studying for the exam, and what to study if you should.

All students should register for the [Theory Placement Diagnostics](#) Exam at UL Lafayette.

Repertoire

Check the school website for recommended audition repertoire. On trombone, a technical and a lyrical etude will suffice. You may also choose to play a solo with varied sections and styles.

Scales

Scales are required. Check the posted requirements for the speed minimum and octaves required for your audition

Sight-Reading

Sight-reading is a component of the audition. Practice sight-reading, by sight-reading. Practice from method and etude books you have not practiced from before. Ask your band director for sight-reading practice.