



Eight Frequently Asked Questions – Department of Music

1. What is required in order to be accepted as a music major at Mars Hill University?

Becoming a music major at Mars Hill University is a three step process. First, you must be accepted to MHU through the regular admissions process (to do so, go to: www.mhu.edu/admissions). Once accepted to the university, you must also be accepted as a music major by the faculty in your applied area. In order to do that you need to complete the online Music Major Application. Once completed and submitted, you will be scheduled for an Entrance Audition.

2. What is the Entrance Audition Process?

The Entrance Audition process is unique to each area (and the specifics will be discussed with you after you submit the music major application), but each audition consists of performance on your principal instrument/voice and an evaluation of your musical skill and knowledge.

3. Why do you evaluate musical skill and knowledge as a part of the audition process?

The purpose of the audition is to make certain you have the skills and background to be successful in our program. Since you will be expected to be a literate, intelligent musician during your course of study, we feel it is in your best interest to make certain you have the basic skills required to be successful in your degree.

4. What if I am not sure if I want to major in music?

First, don't panic! This is not uncommon. But here is what you should know and consider: most majors are two-year courses of study (meaning you take two years of university core/general education courses and then two years of courses in your major content area). In music, that's not the case (not just at MHU, but anywhere). So, it is important to know that if you want to graduate with a music degree in four years, you must start in the music degree day one of your first year of study.

5. So what happens if I don't start as a music major and then decide to become one? Can I still graduate as a music major?

Yes, but not in four years.

6. What about community college for the first year? Is this a good idea if I want to major in music?

While community colleges do great things, and while most courses will transfer, typically this is not a good route to take if you wish to major in music. Again, the music degree is a four-year course of study in the major, so even though you might have completed two years of courses, most likely they will not be in music. This means you still have four more years of study left after your two years at community college.

7. Does Mars Hill University offer music scholarships?

Yes, but our music scholarship awards are packaged with the other offers you will receive from Financial Aid. So, in addition to music awards, you may receive academic awards and need-based assistance. The best way to start this process is to apply to the university (as this will give you an initial sense of what kinds of awards we can offer). Then, as a part of your Entrance Audition, you will be awarded additional music scholarship (based upon the quality of your audition). Please note that for music scholarship consideration, you should audition prior to March 1 of your senior year.

8. If I decide not to major in music, can I still participate in MHU music ensembles?

Absolutely! We have students in our ensembles from all across our campus. Additionally, many of our courses (and private instruction) are open to non-major registration. The key is to let us know of your interest. Please contact the appropriate person below for more information.

Voice/Choral: Dr. Rodney Caldwell

Marching Band/Wind Ensemble: Mr. Mike Robinson

Other instrumental ensembles/lessons: Dr. Jim Sparrow

Keyboard: Dr. Teresa Sumpter