

Application and Audition Policies for SUM Bible College's BA in Worship & Music Program

Applicants to the BAWM program must submit an audition video or schedule a live in-person audition at the main campus. Students must also complete a piano proficiency assessment at the end of their program. The purpose of these entrance requirements is to 1) determine what level of musical proficiency is present, 2) assess the student's musical growth upon completing the program, and 3) assess whether any remedial courses are needed.

Audition Process

The audition videos will be uploaded here. If the student opts for a live audition, please indicate that you would like to schedule a time to do so and it will be recorded.

The student shall perform:

1. Two Praise/Worship songs (3-5 minutes each)
 - A. Fast Song – more upbeat, energetic song, faster tempo.
 - B. Slow Song – slower tempo, displays more passion and feeling.
2. Instrumental Audition Video demonstrating specific instrumental proficiencies.

Note to applicant: Students should use these songs as an opportunity to both display musical character as well as technical capability. The songs should have a balance of musical performance capability as well as musical beauty. The musical selections should be musically dynamic, expressive, and demonstrate the student's spiritual ability to lead worship.

Worship Video

Video Guidelines:

The video should display the applicant's face and torso if singing. If the student is playing piano or guitar, the hands should be visible in the video.

Guidelines for Evaluation Process - Worship Video

- Applicants will be evaluated according to a rubric. There will be separate rubrics for: voice only, voice + instrument, and instrument only.
- Each song will be graded separately.
- Students who will only sing must have live accompaniment or utilize a professional-level backing track without lead vocals.
- Students will need to meet minimum marks on the rubric to be admitted into the program. Voice and instrument must score an average of at least 18/30 points.
 - For students who do not meet the minimum marks, they may be admitted to the program on a provisional basis, but must re-audition within their first year and must pass their second audition for full acceptance into the program. Students who do not pass their second audition will have the option to transfer to the BATM program.

- Three to Four staff/faculty will review the audition to grade according to the rubric. The 3-4 reviewers will decide whether the student has the musical ability to succeed in the program.
- The same entering rubric will be used to evaluate the final recital of the program in order to assess progress.

Instrumental Video Audition

Video Guidelines:

The video should display the applicant's hands clearly. If the student is playing piano, full view of the keyboard and the hands are required from either the side or behind and to the side, with the left hand to the left of the shot or the top of the shot. Do not shoot straight on where the left hand is on the right side of the shot. For guitar, both hands and the full guitar neck should be visible in the shot. You do need to show your face in the beginning of the video and introduce yourself.

Guidelines for Evaluation Process - Worship Video

- Applicants will be evaluated according to the [Instrumental Entrance Requirements](#) for successful proficiency.
- Piano and Guitar entrance videos are evaluated by our piano and guitar faculty.
- Students who do not pass instrumental entrance requirements will be admitted to the program on a provisional basis, but must re-audition within their first year and must pass their second audition for full acceptance into the program. Students who do not pass their second audition will have the option to transfer to the BATM program.

Piano and Guitar Proficiency Exams

All students will be required to have a basic knowledge and skill level in piano and guitar. BAWM students must enter the program with some experience in either instrument. Students with zero instrumental experience will be admitted on a provisional basis. Provisional students will audition their instrumental skills at the end of their first year for full acceptance into the program.

Students will choose either piano or guitar as their primary instrument upon admission into the program, and subsequently the other will be their secondary instrument. Students will enter secondary instrument studies in their second year of the program. All BAWM majors must complete both piano and guitar proficiency examinations in order to graduate.

A Note for Instrumentalists

For new BAWM applicants who do not currently sing you must demonstrate proficiency in either piano or guitar, and be willing to pursue vocal training while enrolled in the BAWM

program towards vocal proficiency. The BAWM program does not currently offer an instrumental only track.

You may enter an audition video for an instrument other than piano or guitar. The video should demonstrate your proficiency on that instrument in either a worship context, or in a solo performance context. Video length should not exceed 5 minutes.

Theory Placement Examination

All new BAWM applicants must complete a Theory Placement Examination and score a minimum of 75% in order to be placed in Music Theory I. All students who choose to waive the exam or score below 75% will be enrolled into Fundamentals of Music their first Fall trimester.

All students who place into Music Theory I will take Music Appreciation or another elective in their Fall trimester, and take Music Theory I in the Winter Trimester.

