

The Audition Process at Alverno College

The audition process for the Music Therapy or B.A. in Music degree at Alverno College encompasses four components. Whether the student attends one of our on-campus audition days or opts for a virtual audition, each of these components will be addressed:

- 1) performance on your major instrument
 - 2) sight-reading / pitch matching
 - 3) piano assessment
 - 4) music theory assessment
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1. Performance on your major instrument shows faculty that you are ready to study musicianship at a college level. Students must perform two contrasting pieces on their major instrument at their live audition. A good measure of what is expected for audition at the college level would be two contrasting pieces of Class A (sometimes Class B) music from the state Solo and Ensemble list. It is advised that those intending to audition work with a private teacher in preparation for the audition. Accuracy of notes and rhythm is expected and expressive components are assessed.
 2. All students auditioning will be asked to sight-read simple melodies on their instrument and sing a simple song to determine if they have the ability to match pitch and sing in-tune. Because the voice is the primary tool of a music therapist, it is important for students to have this basic ability upon entrance to the program. Students with little vocal experience may wish to work with a voice teacher or sing in a choir regularly in preparation for this part of the audition.
 3. A piano assessment is conducted for students who indicate a background of piano skills to determine placement in beginning piano courses and may be used to allow students with more extensive experience to be waived from piano courses. No piano experience is required prior to audition, as the curriculum allows for students to learn piano from beginning levels. (Piano assessment is not required for those who audition on piano as their major instrument.)
 4. The music theory assessment is for placement purposes only and is usually held during the first semester of course work. A written test combined with an interview with theory faculty is used to determine the best starting course for individual students. Those with AP coursework or transfer credits may be able to bypass beginning music theory courses or be allowed to audit courses to review material.