

JMU

MT AUDITION REQUIREMENTS

2024/25



WHAT TO DO?

An audition and interview are required for admission to the Musical Theatre Major in the School of Theatre and Dance. In the 2024-2025 Admissions Cycle we will offer in-person and video options. Students should apply to both JMU and the School of Theatre and Dance separately and register for an audition/interview.

1. Apply to JMU

Apply to JMU using the [Common App](#). Once you have listed JMU as one of your schools and have listed your intended major, a portfolio section will open in the JMU portion of the Common App. That will link you directly to JMU's SlideRoom application, where you can submit your artistic application and upload your portfolio of work to be reviewed by our faculty.

2. Register for a Musical Theatre Audition

3. Apply to School of Theatre and Dance on Slideroom



SLIDEROOM



Musical Theatre Major applications to the School of Theatre and Dance are submitted through **Slideroom**. Applicants who wish to be considered for BOTH Theatre and Musical Theatre only need to submit one Slideroom application (but schedule separate auditions, and follow the submission guidelines for both Theatre and Musical Theatre). Slideroom applications should be submitted 9-days before your audition/interview along with the following materials:

- **Headshot:** Photo of yourself
- **Resume:** including any relevant artistic experience.
- **Unofficial Transcript:** from high school or, in the case of transfer students, BOTH college and high school.
- **Personal Statement:** Please describe a creative experience you've had that was particularly meaningful, engaging, or transformative. You might, for example, discuss a production you worked on, a play you wrote, a performance you saw, or a creative experience not specifically connected to theatre or musical theatre. Help us to understand through your writing who you are, your life experience, and how it may relate to your interest in Musical Theatre and/or Theatre. Please limit your response to 1000 words or less.
- **Supplementary Materials:** Please upload the requested supplementary videos to Slideroom. **This is not a prescreen**, and does not need to be the same material you will present at a live/virtual audition. We use these videos as a supplement to your live/virtual audition for those attending in-person and virtual auditions. These are used as the audition for those requesting a video audition without a virtual or inperson component.

Please submit your Slideroom application at least 9-days prior to your audition.



AUDITION REQUIREMENTS

We aim to host inclusive and accessible auditions that allow all participants to engage and share fully. To request accommodations please contact lumpkikr@jmu.edu.

Please prepare the following for your audition for the Musical Theatre major at James Madison University:

SONGS

- Students should prepare two contrasting songs, each 60-90 seconds in length. One song should be a ballad and one song should be an uptempo.
- Choose one of the following options:
 - **OPTION A:**
 - One song written before 1970 (musical theater, Golden Age, pop, hip-hop, folk, rock, rap, soul, country, punk, etc.).
 - One song written after 1970 (musical theater, pop, hip-hop, folk, rock, rap, soul, country, punk, etc.). This song should contrast the style of the first selection.
 - **OPTION B:**
 - One musical theater song from any time period.
 - One song of your choice from any time period and in any style that best suits you (musical theater, pop, hip-hop, folk, rock, rap, soul, country, punk, etc.). This song should contrast the style of the first selection.
- For on-campus auditions an accompanist is provided. Please bring sheet music in the key that you intend to sing.
- For off-campus auditions, please bring your recorded accompaniment and a speaker.
- When filming your videos you may use live or recorded accompaniment.
- Please do not sing a cappella. All singing should be accompanied by music.

MONOLOGUES

- One monologue from a published (or written by a professional writer) play. A professional writer is someone whose plays have been produced, but may not have been professionally published.

DANCE

- At in-person auditions students will participate in a short jazz dance combination which will be taught on the day of the audition.
- For virtual and video auditions the dance media that you upload to Slideroom will be used for the dance component.

While James Madison University **does not require a prescreen** we follow the Musical Theatre Common Prescreen Criteria for the submission of the required videos in Slideroom. **Please remember that ALL auditionees (in-person, virtual, or video) are asked to upload videos of two songs, one monologue, and dance as part of the Slideroom application.**

OVERALL

Each piece should be filmed/uploaded as a separate piece of media. No continuous videos. Students are encouraged to use standard technology/recording devices that are available to them (i.e. smartphones, tablets, etc).

INTRODUCTION ("SLATE")

Record one introduction "slate" video stating your name. If you would like to include your pronouns, state them as well. Please speak loudly (project your voice) and clearly (articulate) directly at the camera. This is an opportunity for the auditors to get a sense of your personality and to learn the pronunciation of your name. **There is no need to slate your individual performance videos & pieces.** Instead, clearly label each video with your name and the title of the piece you are performing (see more details below).

LABELING GUIDELINES FOR ALL VIDEOS

Label each video file with the piece you are performing, the show or playwright, and your first & last name.

Title of Song - Musical/Show - Your First & Last Name

Title of Play - Playwright - Your First & Last Name

Examples:

Slate - James Smith

Your Daddy's Son - Ragtime - Minnie Mouse

Much Ado About Nothing - William Shakespeare - Luke Skywalker



SONGS

- Style: one song should be a ballad (where the piece has longer, sustained vocal lines) and one song should be an uptempo (where the vocal line moves at a conversational pace) so as to contrast style.
- Length: Each song file should be 60-90 seconds.
- Students must sing to musical accompaniment, which could include live or pre-recorded accompaniment. No "a cappella" singing (meaning singing without music).
- We recommend a waist up frame so we can see your face and hear you clearly.

MONOLOGUES

- Your monologue file should be 60-90 seconds in length (this time limit includes the slate at the beginning of the piece and is strictly adhered to; please do not upload media files longer than 90 seconds)
- We recommend a waist up frame so we can see your face and hear you clearly.

DANCE

- Please submit 60-90 seconds of dance in whatever dance discipline you feel most confident. This may include, but is not limited to jazz, ballet, tap, modern, hip hop, lyrical, contemporary, or dance styles beyond American and Euro-western styles. You may also choose to learn, film, and upload the JMU provided dance combination, which is linked below.
- We recommend a setup that allows us to see the top of your head to the floor. This allows us to see how you inhabit space.
- Style: Regardless of which style of dance you execute, the choreography and the movement should be connected to the music where the applicant is dancing with a sense of purpose.
- Please use steps, movement, and physical vocabulary that you are familiar with and can execute well. To the best of your ability, move your body fully. Please include at least one turn, one jump and one kick (or other suitable rotation, elevation, and extension that works for your body)
- Dance media can be self-choreographed, but must be a solo video of you. This can include a show, competition, or other performance so long as you are clearly featured on your own.
- All choreography must be performed to music; no "a cappella" dance media please.

The JMU provided dance combination can be found [HERE](#).

WILD CARD (optional)

- Submissions should be 60-90 seconds.
- This media can be ANYTHING you want: a special skill, an interesting story about yourself, a passion speech, an instrument that you play, etc. "What do you want us to know about you?" and "What makes you unique?" (See the resources page on the [Musical Theatre Common Prescreen](#) site for ideas on Wild Card submissions).



AUDITION PREPERATION

- **Choose material that will show off a range of what you do well right now.** Avoid songs and monologues that are outside of the scope of your current level of proficiency or experience.
- **Remember that the material you choose is a reflection of you.** Choose material that you LOVE. Your material is one of the ways we can learn something about you, your interests, and your taste.
- **With both the song and the monologue, we are looking to see how you work with your imaginary scene partner.** We suggest that you rehearse your song as a monologue to get at the core of the text. Avoid dance choreography or rigid blocking in your pieces. We are looking for grounded, truthful work.
- **Keep the monologue short and to the point.** 60-90 seconds may not seem like a long time, but you would be surprised how much you can communicate. Quality, not quantity is the key. **Please time your material.** If you find a monologue in a monologue book, make-sure to still read the entire play and know the context. **All material must be memorized.**
- **When cutting music it generally works best if you begin at the end of the song and count backwards.** 16-bars of a ballad or 32-bars of an uptempo will each take approximately 60 seconds. Please keeps each song selection in the 60-90 second timeframe.

Be yourself and have fun. Remember that we want you to do your best!

Questions? Contact Kate Arecchi, Musical Theatre Coordinator, at arecchk@jmu.edu and/or Kate Lumpkin, Musical Theatre Recruitment Coordinator, at lumpkikr@jmu.edu.

