Welcome to the School of Music at Western Illinois University. Our one-year Performer’s Certificate program offers concentrated instruction in your area of specialization (piano, voice, woodwinds, brass, strings, or percussion), working with professional musicians at the top of their fields. Students experience a high level of applied performance on a flexible schedule. The Performer’s Certificate program offers a challenging and exciting environment to assist you in realizing your professional goals.

**Admission Requirements**

Students with a Bachelor of Music (or equivalent) degree can apply and audition for entrance into the program in either the fall or spring (January) semesters. Their grade point average must be 2.75 or higher. The TOEFL is required for all students whose first language is not English. Students must also submit a statement of goals and three letters of recommendation. The audition will be judged on the student’s technical ability, musicality, and potential for success at the graduate level. An interview with graduate and area faculty will also provide an opportunity for students to describe their past experiences and future plans in music.

**Degree Requirements**

Students in the Performer’s Certificate program complete 18 semester hours (sh) over a two-semester period. During this time, students focus almost exclusively on their performance medium without the lecture-style coursework required for the Master of Music degree. Directed electives will enable students to pursue cognate areas closely related to their area of expertise—for example, literature and pedagogy in their performance medium. Such a focus will prepare students suitably for the performance level expected for a Doctor of Musical Arts (DMA) or other professional tracks.

**Career Opportunities**

Our Performer’s Certificate program leads to a multitude of possibilities. Our goal in the School of Music is to prepare students for the professional world, whether that is performing professionally, teaching, or further study. Our faculty members provide the first steps in forming a student’s professional network, with training that focuses on the needs of today’s job market.

**Distinctive Features**

Students have the opportunity to observe—and occasionally participate in—faculty ensembles, including the Lamoine Brass Quintet, the Camerata Woodwind Quintet, the Hopper Jazztet, and the Julstrom String Quartet. In addition, the School of Music sponsors many annual festivals, including the Piano Festival, New Music Festival, Al Sears Jazz Festival, Brassfest, and more.

**Faculty Expertise**

The WIU School of Music presents a rare phenomenon: students can study with full-time professionals for every voice type, instrument, and field of music. The student-teacher ratio is half the national average, and instruction is geared toward the individual student’s needs. Our faculty members perform at both regional and national levels, participate in professional conferences, and publish research and criticism in scholarly journals devoted to their respective disciplines.

**Facilities**

Instruction in the School of Music is currently divided between Browne Hall and Sallee Hall on the Macomb campus of Western Illinois University. Our Music Library includes thousands of scores and recordings, managed by a helpful and knowledgeable staff. Most of our performances occur in the College of Fine Arts and Communication Recital Hall, a beautiful space that seats an audience of 500, adjacent to our other facilities.

**Accreditations**

Western’s School of Music is accredited with the National Association of Schools of Music—we’re one of the first schools in Illinois to achieve this status. Our faculty also maintain memberships in a wide array of music organizations at the regional and/or national level. Graduate students are often encouraged to join and/or attend the conferences of these associations as part of professional development.

**Contact Information**

For admissions process and general program information, contact the School of Graduate Studies, Western Illinois University, 1 University Circle, Macomb, IL 61455, (309) 298-1806, (877) WIU GRAD toll-free, Grad-Office@wiu.edu, wiu.edu/grad.

For general program questions, contact Tammy Fretueg, School of Music, Western Illinois University, tl-fretueg@wiu.edu, (309) 298-1544, or Dr. Brian Locke, Graduate Advisor, School of Music, Western Illinois University, 1 University Circle, Macomb, IL 61455, (309) 298-1969, b-locke@wiu.edu. For specific program questions, visit wiu.edu/music.