

POMONA COLLEGE • DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS



Should I submit an Arts Supplement?

Whether or not you are thinking of becoming a music major, if you are planning to participate in the Music Department's offerings it is highly recommended that you submit an Arts Supplement to the Admissions Office by the application deadline. All supplements are given serious consideration in the admissions process. Materials should be submitted electronically through the website Slideroom at pomonacollege.slideroom.com. More information is available on the Admissions website under Special Interest Supplements. www.pomona.edu/admissions/apply/special-interest-supplements.aspx



What should my application supplement include?

You should submit at least 10 minutes of solo performance representing your abilities and demonstrating contrasting styles, along with a resume summarizing your experience, giving years of study and awards received. You may also include related letters of recommendation through Slideroom. If you have copies of the letters already, you may upload pdf copies attached to your resume. *Supplements should feature you as a soloist rather than as a member of an ensemble, so auditors can hear you.*



Do I have to audition to be a music major?

Pomona College is a liberal arts college with a strong Music Department, instead of with a conservatory or school of music attached. In common with other similar schools, it does not require students to audition to become music majors. However, in the course of their studies students must pass a qualifying exam in order to take one-hour lessons, one of the requirements for the major. Potential music majors usually do this within their first year.



I'm thinking about being a music major. How does the program at Pomona prepare me for a career in music?

Students who choose to pursue a career in music receive an excellent education through our curriculum. Recent music graduates have attended graduate schools such as Harvard, Yale, University of Michigan, San Francisco Conservatory, Cal Arts, USC, and UC Berkeley in the fields of music performance, music theory, music history, composition and non-western music. Others are active in arts management, musical theater and popular music.

How does the program prepare me for a career outside of music?

Our instruction is designed to develop skills that include self-discipline, teamwork, creativity, problem solving, decision-making, and communication in a precise and expressive manner. As one alumna has written, "My abilities to decipher patterns in scientific data and to conceptualize the 'invisible' world of chemistry are reasoning skills that were refined [through] the theoretical study and practice of music."

—Wendy Iskenderian-Epps '04
(Chemistry/Music); Ph.D. program in Organic Chemistry, MIT, 2011



Do I have to be a music major to participate in an ensemble?

No, all courses offered by the Music Department, including private lessons and ensembles, are open to all students regardless of major and are available for academic credit.

What performance opportunities will I have?

There are many opportunities for performance and they include student recitals, performance classes, large ensembles, chamber music, junior/senior recitals, master classes and workshops, and the PCO concerto competition. Department-sponsored ensembles include Band, Choir, Glee Club, Jazz Ensemble, Orchestra, Balinese Gamelan Ensemble, and a rotating Non-Western Ensemble (Afro-Cuban Ensemble, Hindustani Ensemble, West African Music Ensemble). There are also student-run ensembles, not affiliated with the Department, which include a cappella groups and bands.



Do I need to audition for the ensembles?

The Orchestra, Choir and Glee Club, and Jazz Ensemble have auditions at the beginning of the semester. The other ensembles do not require auditions.

How do I sign up for lessons?

Registration for music lessons occurs during the first week of each semester. Students must come to the Thatcher Music Building to enroll; the Registrar's office receives the registration information from the Music Department after students have registered.

Can I take lessons on two different instruments?

Yes, you may take lessons on more than one instrument.



How will I know who will be my teacher? How do I contact that person?

Most instruments have one instructor; piano, voice and guitar have multiple teachers. The faculty will place students with a teacher. If you wish to contact a particular teacher, please email music@pomona.edu for more information.

Will I be able to play chamber music?

Yes, many students in the large ensembles also form chamber music groups. Students form groups on their own and/or in consultation with faculty to find appropriate players. Faculty members are then available to coach these groups.

Can I use the practice rooms?

Yes, students who take lessons or play in a departmental ensemble may use the practice rooms in Thatcher Music Building. Those students can have access to the basement practice rooms 24/7 with a validated student ID.



What are the practice facilities like?

We have a number of practice rooms with upright pianos. Classrooms with grand pianos are available for practice when not being used for classes or lessons. Pomona has all Steinway pianos.



Will I be able to play a sport and still play in an ensemble?

In most cases, the schedules allow students to participate in sports and music without a direct conflict. However, it may be wise to check with the coach of your particular sport.

Are any scholarships specifically reserved for music students?

No. All of Pomona College's financial aid is need-based and there are no merit scholarships for music or any other field of study.

For more information on the Music Department

Visit our website at www.pomona.edu/music

Or call the Music Department Office at 909-621-1855