NIU Jazz Audition Requirements

Please review and prepare all requirements thoroughly. Auditions are held in person at NIU in January and February, unless otherwise determined. Please register for an audition date on our website. If you are unable to attend NIU’s audition days, you will need to contact the Music Admissions Coordinator (bcrawford@niu.edu) for permission to schedule an independent audition or obtain approval to submit an unedited video audition. Please bring copies of your music for the adjudication panel.

- **Technique**
  - Assigned audition excerpt (please see below for respective studio excerpts)
  - Scales including major, minor, pentatonic and chromatic
  - Common triad and 7th chord arpeggios (Maj, min, dom, dim).

- **Improvisation**
  - Blues melody of choice and 2 choruses of improvisation (*rhythm section players must also comp appropriate to style for 2 choruses);
  - Rhythm changes or standard melody of choice and 1 chorus of improvisation (*rhythm section players must also comp appropriate to style for 1 chorus).

- **Reading**
  - Sight reading of music appropriate for level of entrance (including chord reading for bass, guitar, and piano)

- **Graduate candidates also prepare**
  - Rhythm changes and standard melody of choice
  - Ballad of choice, 2 choruses maximum including melody and improvisation (unaccompanied, chord melody for guitar)
  - One transcription example

All auditionees must adhere to Technique, Improvisation, and Reading requirements. If you are auditioning only for the undergraduate Music Minor, you will complete all Technique and Reading requirements, and only the blues melody under Improvisation.

Questions? Contact Professor Reggie Thomas (reggiethomas@niu.edu).