

# **Valdosta State University**

## **Department of Music**

### **MAT Music Admission Interview**

One of the requirements for admission to the MAT-Music program is an interview. The purpose of the interview is to prompt the applicant to consider the types of dispositions that teachers should exhibit and to allow faculty members to gain greater insight into the applicant and their skills. The interviewers will try to determine whether the applicant has what it takes to succeed both in graduate school and later in the classroom as a teacher. Character traits such as maturity, communication skills, passion for teaching and motivation will all be important.

#### **The Typical Structure of the MAT-Music Admission Interview**

- Applicants should arrive 30 minutes prior to his/her assigned interview time to complete a written statement.
- The face to face interview is usually 20-30 minutes;
- Normally three faculty members comprise the MAT-Music Admissions Interview Panel
- The applicant will be evaluated in the areas listed below.
  - Communicates effectively orally (articulate, animated, few grammatical errors)
  - Communicates effectively in writing (clear organization of ideas, few misspelling and grammatical errors)
  - Displays excitement about teaching subject area
  - Maintains a professional appearance and presentation
  - Demonstrates sensitivity to others' feelings and opinions (e.g., diplomatic)
  - Treats others with respect
  - Enjoys working with diverse (i.e., special education, gifted, at-risk, minority, etc.) PreK-12 learners.
  - Demonstrates effective decision-making and problem solving skills

#### **Sample MAT-Music Written Statements**

Applicants should arrive 30 minutes prior to the scheduled interview and complete one of the following written statements with 500 words or less.

1. Provide a brief statement describing your current beliefs about education and explain how you see the purposes of school and the roles and relationships of teachers and students in a diverse democratic society.
2. Experience Statement- Provide a brief reflection on an experience from your life and discuss how that experience might influence your work with diverse populations of students.
3. Describe a teacher who made the greatest impact on your life (either positive or negative) and discuss why this teacher made such an impact.

## Sample MAT-Music Interview Questions

1. Why do you want to be a music teacher?
2. What do you find most appealing about a teaching career?
3. What have been your strengths and weaknesses as an undergraduate student?
4. What would one of your undergraduate teachers say about you as a student?
5. What courses have you enjoyed the most? What courses have you struggled with?
6. Why do you think you would make a good teacher?
7. What part of teaching do you look forward to the most? What part of teaching do you look forward to least?
8. What difficulties are you likely to encounter as a teacher and how would you deal with them?
9. Do you like to be challenged? Give an example to back up your answer.
10. You are meeting a middle school student for the first time. How would you convince him or her to join chorus/band/orchestra?
11. Describe your perfect music position.
12. What sorts of schools would you like to work in, and why?
13. Describe the kind of learning community you observed during your field experience in MUE 3000. How did the teacher facilitate this community? What did you learn about yourself during the field experience?
14. Describe the place of music in the overall educational program?
15. What goals should a good educator attempt to accomplish with students?
16. What are the three most important characteristics of an effective educator/teacher? Explain your answer.
17. What is the ideal relationship between a teacher and student? Provide an example.
18. Describe a teacher who made the greatest impact on your life (either positive or negative) and discuss why this teacher made such an impact.
19. Describe an experience from your life and how that experience might influence your work with diverse populations of students.
20. What else would you like to share?

**Valdosta State University  
Department of Music  
MAT-Music Interview Rubric**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

ID: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Communication Skills**

**A. Oral Communication**

**Points: 28/\_\_\_\_**

Demonstrates Excellence	Area of Strength	Needs Improvement	Unsatisfactory
4	3	2	1
Communicates effectively orally (articulate, animated, few grammatical errors)			
4	3	2	1
Displays excitement about teaching subject area			
4	3	2	1
Maintains a professional appearance and presentation			
4	3	2	1
Demonstrates sensitivity to others' feelings and opinions (e.g., diplomatic)			
4	3	2	1
Treats others with respect			
4	3	2	1
Enjoys working with diverse (i.e., special education, gifted, at-risk, minority, etc.)			
4	3	2	1
Demonstrates effective decision-making and problem solving skills			

**B. Written Communication**

**Points: 12/\_\_\_\_**

Evaluate the candidate's written communication skills evidenced by the attached essay.

	4 Demonstrates Excellence	3 Area of Strength	2 Needs Improvement	1 Unsatisfactory
Uses correct spelling, grammar and mechanics.				
Uses vocabulary and style appropriate to audience.				
Organizes written information.				

**Recommendation for Admission to MAT-Music Degree**

**Total Points: 40/\_\_\_\_**

31-40 points	21-30 points	11-20 points	1-10 Points
Strongly Recommend	Recommend	Conditionally Recommend	Not Recommend
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Interviewer's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*Above recommendation does NOT guarantee admission*