

**Pittsburg State University
Department of Music**

**Junior Qualifying Examination
(Updated August, 2023)**

Background - The Junior Qualifying Examination is a developmental landmark in the process of earning a music degree at Pittsburg State University, and represents the transition from lower division studies to upper division status. It evaluates the candidate in many areas of their educational development and serves as a benchmark for students in the program.

The intent is to ensure that the student is making adequate progress towards graduating in a timely manner and as a tool for faculty to provide feedback to students as they reach the academic and musical midpoint of their music degree program. The Junior Qualifying Examination occurs at the end of the 4th semester for zero-hour entries and at the end of the 2nd semester for transfer students. Exceptions to this timeline could be made on a case-by-case basis, but the number of 450 credits needed for degree completion should be carefully monitored.

Process - The Junior Examination consists of two areas of consideration: 1) applied music performance achievement and 2) adequate academic progress. These areas are detailed below:

Applied Music Performance Achievement

Applied Music Performance Achievement will be evaluated by an extended jury that is adjudicated by faculty members in the student's area (voice, woodwinds, brass, strings, piano, and percussion). This jury will take place during the normal jury time at the end of the semester, however, students should sign-up for two consecutive jury slots.

Music selection and performance standards should be determined by the student's applied teacher. For the purpose of the Junior Examination, the performance will be rated pass or fail and appropriate feedback will be provided to the student.

If a student does not pass the Junior Examination Jury, they are allowed one additional semester to address any performance deficiencies. Under normal circumstances, a student will be advised to change to a different academic major if not able to pass their second attempt at the performance jury.

Adequate Academic Progress

Academic Progress will be evaluated by a committee of music faculty members based on an academic portfolio that is submitted by the student to the music department chair by the **Monday of finals week or prior to the student's performance jury** (if jury is held

before finals week). It is recommended that students submit the portfolio entirely online, and as explained in this document.

Portfolio Contents

1. _____ The candidate will prepare a *Statement of Career Goals*. This should outline your career goals, both short-term and long-term, as well as goals pertaining to the remainder of the current degree. Correct grammar and spelling will be taken into consideration.
2. _____ Pdf or scanned copies of transcripts from all completed semesters in the program
3. _____ Pdf or scanned copies of all Recital Hour or other solo performance programs that the student has appeared in during their lower division status.
4. _____ The candidate will select 3 music faculty members to fill out an online recommendation form. This form will be shared with the faculty member when the candidate notifies the committee chair (Dr. Clanton) who they've selected.

All documents and correspondence should be directed to the chair of the Junior Qualifying Examination Committee – currently Dr. Clanton (jclanton@pittstate.edu)

[Submit your files here!](#)

Academic criteria used in consideration of the student's admission to upper division status are as follows:

- _____ Passed at least up through Theory 2 (a grade of C or better)
- _____ Passed at least up through Class Piano 132 (a grade of C or better)
- _____ Completed both English 101 and English 299 or the equivalent
- _____ Positive feedback from faculty via the 3 Forms of Recommendation
- _____ Completed all previous jury examinations successfully

Full admission to upper division status is contingent upon satisfactory completion of all of the above requirements. Students who pass the performance portion of the Junior Qualifying Exam, but who have failed to satisfy one or more of the academic requirements, will be allowed to enroll at the 450 level of Applied Music while continuing to work on the remaining component(s).