Guitar Department
Graduate Audition Requirements

Prescreening:

All Guitar applicants are required to submit an audio recording for prescreening purposes in order to receive an invitation to a live audition. It is not required that the format be a professional or studio recording, but the sound quality must be as good as possible.

Required materials for prescreening:

Applicants must submit recordings of two contrasting pieces that demonstrate performance ability. Any style of music is acceptable but keep in mind it should be a strong representation of the applicant’s ability, and should support the contemporary nature of the program.

Applicants should submit two musical samples to their admissions representative. Email containing digital audio files is preferred (mp3, mp4, aac, etc.), but mailed CDs will also be accepted. Individual pieces should not exceed a file size of 10 MB.

Audition:

Applicants who pass the prescreening portion of the audition will be invited for a live audition. All auditions are approximately 30-60 minutes in length. Each applicant to the Master of Music in Performance program with a major in Guitar will be required to present the following elements at an audition.

Required materials for live auditions:

1. Five ensemble pieces - 20 minutes in total performance time. Select a minimum of four songs, each a different style, from of the following categories: Rock, Jazz, Fusion, Latin, R&B, Funk, Country and Blues. You may request approval to perform songs from styles not listed but four different styles must be performed. Requests must be received in writing no later than 30 days prior to your audition date.

2. Select one more ensemble piece from any style that showcases your personal strength.
3. Applicants must provide clear charts or lead sheets for Bass, Drums and Keyboards/Rhythm Guitar. All music and charts must be received a minimum of two weeks before the audition date, and should be sent to: Joe.Elliott@mcnallysmith.edu.

4. Applicants must demonstrate style-appropriate comping and improvised solos on each piece. Solo length only needs to be enough to demonstrate applicant’s skill.

5. Two solo pieces – 10 minutes in total performance time. Select one each from the following three style categories: Classical, Finger-Style or Jazz Standard Chord Melody.