Voice Department
Graduate Audition Requirements

Prescreening:

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

Applicants should email (.mp3, .mp4, .aac) or mail (CD) two musical samples to their admissions representative. Individual pieces should not exceed a file size of 10 MB.

Required materials for prescreening:

1. Three pieces demonstrating versatility (range, timbre, style, feel, etc.), including:
   1. One jazz or pop standard
      1. At least two choruses
      2. Medium tempo
      3. First 8 bars (minimum) of the second chorus improvised
      4. Note: standards should be selected from the songbooks of composers such as Ellington, Rodgers & Hart, Lennon & McCartney, Mitchell, etc.
   2. Two additional contrasting pieces

2. Scales - a cappella / ascending and descending (on any comfortable syllable)
   1. Major scale (two octaves, any key)
   2. Chromatic scale (one octave)
   3. Whole tone scale (one octave)

Live Audition:

Applicants who pass the prescreening portion of the audition will be invited for a live audition. All auditions are approximately 30 minutes in length. Each applicant chooses his/her first work, and the faculty will choose additional works from the audition repertoire list provided by the applicant. Applicants must submit sheet music for all prepared pieces in advance to Charlie Christenson – charlie.christenson@mcnallysmith.edu. The music should follow a lead sheet format and include chords, lyrics and melody notated on a staff, as well as indications of style and tempo. Examples of acceptable formats include the Real Book and Fake Book series.

Applicants with piano or guitar skills are encouraged to accompany themselves.

Required materials for live auditions:
1. Five contrasting pieces (tempo, feel, key signature, style), including:
   1. One ballad (a section of which must be rubato)
   2. One piece showcasing improvisation (scatting or altering the melody)
2. Sight reading with piano accompaniment
3. Building of chords, a cappella, up to the seventh (faculty will choose two)
   1. Major 7th
   2. Dominant 7th
   3. Minor 7th
   4. Diminished 7th
   5. Half diminished 7th
4. Repertoire list / Resume

**Video / Skype Audition:**

Applicants who pass the prescreening portion of the audition, but are unable to be present for a live audition, will be invited to audition by video for conditional acceptance. Video need not be of professional quality, though audio and video clarity are certainly important. Applicants with piano or guitar skills are encouraged to accompany themselves, in addition to their rhythm section. Applicants must submit sheet music for all prepared pieces in advance to Charlie Christenson – charlie.christenson@mcnallysmith.edu. The music should follow a lead sheet format and include chords, lyrics and melody notated on a staff, as well as indications of style and tempo. Examples of acceptable formats include the Real Book and Fake Book series.

**Required materials for video auditions:**

1. Four contrasting pieces (tempo, feel, key signature, style), including:
   1. One ballad (a section of which must be rubato)
   2. One piece showcasing improvisation (scatting or altering the melody)
   3. Performed live with rhythm section
   4. Pieces must be different than prescreening materials
2. Scales - a cappella / ascending and descending (on any comfortable syllable)
   1. Major scale (two octaves, any key)
   2. Chromatic scale (one octave)
   3. Whole tone scale (one octave)
3. Building of chords, a cappella, up to the seventh
   1. Major 7th
   2. Dominant 7th
   3. Minor 7th
   4. Diminished 7th
   5. Half diminished 7th
Required materials for Skype audition:

1. Sight reading (provided by McNally Smith the day of the Skype interview)
2. Repertoire List