



Percussion Audition Requirements

Auditions are held at McNally Smith College of Music on specific dates each semester. Visit www.mcnallysmith.edu/admissions/auditions for upcoming audition dates, then email admissions@mcnallysmith.edu to schedule your audition time on one of the predetermined audition dates listed.

LIVE AUDITIONS (PREFERRED):

Students auditioning in-person should be able to perform all of the requirements listed below.

Rudiments

- Open/long roll (played slow to fast to slow)
- Single paradiddles (slow to fast to slow)
- Buzz or multiple bounce roll
- Alternating 5-stroke rolls (your tempo)

Snare drum sight-reading

- Etude in 4/4 with quarter- and eighth-note figures

Groove Play-Alongs

You will play along with several “music minus one” tracks, in various styles (e.g. rock, funk, hip-hop, bossa nova, samba, 4/4 medium swing, jazz waltz, ballad, etc.). We are looking for your ability to sync up with the track, and to fit within the given context/style.

Rhythmic call and response

The instructor will play several measure-long rhythms in 4/4 time. These rhythms are comprised of 8th-note and 16th-note figures, and each example will be played four times in succession. After the 4th time, you repeat the rhythmic phrase back to us. We will do several varied examples, and we are looking for your ability to hear and retain these rhythmic phrases.

Trade solos

We will trade solo ideas in a 4/4, shuffle hip-hop feel. We will trade 2-measure phrases and 4-measure phrases.

The audition generally takes about 45 minutes. All you need to bring is drumsticks. (Drum set and cymbals are provided).

SKYPE AUDITIONS:

Students who cannot audition in-person but have access to a webcam and microphone may audition via Skype. Contact Assistant Department Head David Schmalenberger for further information. Skype auditions must be scheduled on regular audition days. (david.schmalenberger@mcnallysmith.edu)