How to Apply

Applicants must apply and be admitted to the College of Graduate Studies at MTSU. Complete the application process online at https://mtsu.edu/graduate

Visit the program website here

Dr. Chris Combest
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MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

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0120-8662 / Middle Tennessee State University does not discriminate against students, employees, or applicants for admission or employment on the basis of race, color, religion, creed, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, disability, age, status as a protected veteran, genetic information, or against any other legally protected class with respect to all employment, programs, and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries related to nondiscrimination policies for MTSU: Assistant to the President for Institutional Equity and Compliance. For additional information about these policies and the procedures for resolution, please contact Marian V. Wilson, assistant to the president and Title IX Coordinator, Institutional Equity and Compliance, Middle Tennessee State University, Cope Administration Building 116, 1301 East Main Street, Murfreesboro, TN 37132; Marian.Wilson@mtsu.edu; or call (615) 898-2185. MTSU's policy on n nondiscrimination can be found at http://www.mtsu.edu/iec.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

The Master of Music in Jazz Studies

Study with MTSU's internationally renown Jazz faculty

The MTSU School of Music Graduate Program

Description

The Master of Music in Jazz Studies is an advanced course of study which focuses on individual jazz instruction, improvisation, ensemble work, history and pedagogy. The Jazz Studies program enhances the cultural life of both the university and community, most notably through the MTSU Jazz Artist Series and the annual MTSU Illinois Jacquet Jazz Festival. Each year, several guest artists and clinicians visit the campus to present concerts, perform with student ensembles, and give workshops and master classes. Graduate teaching assistantship opportunities are available to qualified students.

Program Structure

A common set of core courses provides students with comprehensive insights into the basic expectations, problems and methods of research in music. These courses introduce topics in Music History, Music Theory and Analysis in order to enrich the student's understanding and performance. Additional electives focus on jazz-centered topics.

Core Studies (9 hours)

- Bibliography and Research
- Music History
- Analytical Techniques

Guided Electives (9 hours)

- Chosen from Jazz History, Pedagogy, Arranging, and Improvisation

Courses for Specialization (14 hours)

- Three Semesters Private Instruction
- Two Semesters Jazz Ensemble/Jazz Combo
- Graduate Recital

The Details

The Curriculum

The Master of Music in Jazz Studies is a 30 credit hour degree consisting of 9 hours in core course-work, 12 hours in guided electives and 12 hours in courses for the specialization (Private Instruction and Recital).

Time to Completion

Full-time: typically two years
Part-time: approximately three to four years
Maximum: 10 years (MTSU Policy)

Cost of Attendance

Instate credit hours cost $497 + $78 Program Fee
Regional Scholars (<250 miles) $785 + $78
Out of State: $1,376 + $78
Typical Fulltime Schedule is 9 to 12 credits

Proficiencies

Depending upon the result of diagnostic examinations in music theory and music history, students may be required to complete additional coursework.

Graduate Jazz Faculty

Professor Don Aliquo, Saxophonist, is an active performing and recording artist based in the Nashville area. Since his appointment in 1999 as Professor of Saxophone and Jazz Studies at Middle Tennessee State University, he has traveled and performed extensively. Recent highlights include two trips to China with MTSU Jazz faculty performing in Beijing, Nanjing, Wuxi and Wuhan. His most recent cd release (The Innocence of Spring) was recorded live with pianist Michael Jefry Stevens. Released in Fall 2019, it has received critical acclaim including a nomination by jazz critic Ludwig van Trikt for National Public Radio's top 10 jazz recordings (2019).
Email: Don.Aliquo@mtsu.edu

Professor Jamey Simmons, is an arranger, composer, trumpeter, and educator that grew up in Wisconsin and knew early on that music was his unique gift. He earned his Bachelors of Music at the University of Wisconsin and his Master of Music at the Eastman School of Music where he studied under jazz composer and arranger Fred Sturm. Simmons is currently Director of Jazz Studies at Middle Tennessee State University. As a trumpet player, Simmons toured with the Glenn Miller Orchestra across the United States, South America, and Japan. A commissioned composer and arranger, his works are available through Heritage Jazz Works/ Lorenz Music, and Kjos Music Publishing.
Email: James.Simmons@mtsu.edu

Facilities

MTSU is an “All-Steinway School” with a thriving School of Music and Excellent facilities, including the James E. Walker Library (a four story, 250,000-square foot building with over 1 million volumes and more than 33,000 periodicals). Jazz Studies Artist will have the chance to perform recitals at the historic Hinton Hall.

Admission Requirements

Admission to the program requires an earned bachelor’s degree in music from an accredited university/college and a grade point average in all college work of at least 3.0 .

To Apply, a student should:

- submit an application with the appropriate application fee (online at www.mtsu.edu/graduate/apply.php)
- submit official transcripts of all previous college work
- submit three letters of recommendation
- complete an audition. For audition requirements, see https://www.mtsu.edu/music/pdf/graduatejazzauditionrequirements.pdf

Deadlines

Students are admitted on a rolling basis, but to be considered for a Graduate Teaching Assistantship their application must be completed byFebruary **1.**

Graduate Assistantships

The Master of Music program offers a limited number of graduate teaching assistantships to qualified applicants. Two types are available: 20-hour and 10-hour. The 20-hour assistantship covers full tuition plus a stipend of $6,500 per year and requires 20 hours of work. The 10-hour assistantship covers 50% tuition plus a stipend of $3,250 per year and requires 10 hours work per week.

Visiting Artists/Masterclasses

Currently in its twenty-first season, the MTSU Jazz Artist Series brings internationally-renowned jazz artists to the region for performances and educational workshops. Past guest artists have included some of the most important jazz musicians and educators in jazz history.