

## Evening Division Composition Courses FAQ

---

### **Which course is right for me?**

This depends on your skill level and what you seek to do in composition. Some courses are designed for beginners with little experience, while others are for more advanced composers with a good deal of experience, and others still are for the most advanced composers, many of whom are working professionals.

The course descriptions and the orientation video on the website will explain what each course is about and what is expected. The interview process will help you determine the right course fit, and also allows for time to ask questions.

### **What prerequisites are there for the various courses?**

Prerequisites are listed in the course descriptions.

### **What is the audition/interview like?**

At the interview, faculty meet with students individually, speak with them about their interests, experience, and goals, and review samples of their work.

### **Do I need to bring any work samples?**

For most courses, yes. For Introduction to Composition and Introduction to Music Technology, samples are not required but are helpful, and can be in notated or recorded form.

For Composition, Orchestration, Advanced Orchestration, and Advanced Composition, you should bring two contrasting examples of compositions in the form of fully-notated scores, preferably using Sibelius or Finale. Scores can be presented in hard copy or on laptop or tablet.

For Scoring to Picture and Music Production Workshop, you should bring samples in Logic Pro, though notated scores are helpful as well.

### **What if I cannot make it to the audition night?**

On occasion faculty will be able to determine eligibility by reviewing samples sent via email and/or speaking with prospective students by phone, but usually faculty would like to meet prospective students in person.

### **Are composition courses focused solely on classical music, or are other styles included?**

It depends on the class. Most courses focus on classical music, but some allow for other styles or genres. In general, pop or rock music is not included.

**What is the average class size?**

The average class size is 7 students. Music technology-related courses have a maximum of 6 students because of limited space in the Music Technology Lab, but other courses, like Orchestration, can have up to 10 students.

**What is the homework load like?**

Some courses have weekly assignments, others have a combination of small and large projects that are completed over time. In general, more advanced courses have more homework that is more extensive.

**Do all students get to hear their work performed, or is it competitive for limited spots?**

Students will be considered to hear their work read by musicians provided they have done the requisite classwork on time, and their performance materials have been prepared in a professional manner.

**What if I have to miss a class or two during the semester?**

If it is a pre-arranged absence, students are generally able to make up the missed work. However, individual faculty's course policies differ, and students should check the syllabus or speak with the faculty member to determine how absences would affect their grades.

**Do I need to own music notation software and be comfortable using it?**

For some courses, owning and having proficiency using music notation software is required. For other courses (like Introduction to Composition and Introduction to Music Technology) it is not required.

**Do I need to own Logic software?**

Students in advanced music technology courses will use Logic extensively, though they do not need to own it (they can use the computer lab). Other courses do not use Logic at all. Students will be advised of what programs are required (if any) during the interview.

**Can I take more than one course at time?**

Yes! If you qualify and are accepted.

## Evening Division Music Technology FAQ

---

### **Which programs do you use?**

All music technology courses use Logic Pro X, but Introduction to Music Technology occasionally touches on Ableton Live or music notation programs like Sibelius and Finale.

### **Do I need to be able to read music?**

Basic knowledge of music, including the ability to identify notes on a staff and a keyboard, is recommended but not required.

### **What level composing experience is best for each class?**

Intro to the Music Tech does not require any experience, although any prior knowledge would be useful. Since the course is primarily technical, aimed at building proficiency within a music software, composition knowledge isn't necessary to understand the functionality.

Music Production and Scoring to Picture are for more advanced students who are comfortable with Logic. Both classes require some composing experience, though formal training isn't necessary, nor does your music have to be of a certain style.

### **How will this class benefit my composing?**

- Students learn how to apply the tools and technology relevant to today's music industry to their own compositions.
- Students learn how to listen to their (and others') music more critically and give it a more professional sound.
- Through active participation in class discussion and critique sessions of homework assignments, students will be able to compare their compositions with those by colleagues and classmates, as well as with selected listening material assigned by the faculty.
- Students build steady habits of composing one (or more) short composition weekly. Being able to deliver under a deadline is crucial in the music scene today.

### **Will I learn how to use notation software?**

Notation software is not the primary focus of Introduction to Music Technology, but if there is interest from students it can be explored more extensively. Notation software is not covered in Music Production Workshop or Scoring to Picture.

### **Will I get to hear any of my music played in class?**

Yes. Each week, students will be given an assignment that targets one or several skills they are developing. These assignments will be played for the rest of the class and will be used as a platform upon which to review old concepts and introduce new ones.

**Will my compositions be recorded?**

Students record their works using MIDI and virtual instruments technology; audio recording sessions are not built into the courses. However, compositions made over the course of the semester will be put on a final playlist that students can use as a portfolio of work.

**Will I learn about microphones?**

The Intro to Music Tech class will use microphones for some basic recording, but microphones are not covered extensively, as the course is primarily focused on software. Microphones are not covered in Music Production Workshop or Scoring to Picture.

**Do I get access to Juilliard musicians?**

Music technology courses typically focus on electronic music and relevant software, with occasional recordings or sounds acquired elsewhere, therefore readings by live musicians are not included.

**I want to learn how to use technology in a certain style (Dub-step, Rap, etc.). Is that covered?**

Music technology courses focus on the tools that are used in a variety of styles, rather than exploring the individual styles themselves. However students are welcome to write in any style and apply the tools covered in the course to enhance their compositions.

**What kind of films will I score (Scoring to Picture)?**

Students score a variety of films and works for visual media including art films, commercial spots, documentaries, animations, short narrative films, and scenes from feature length films.

**Do I have to have my own computers and software?**

Acquiring a Mac computer and a copy of Logic Pro X and any other software we use in the course is encouraged but not at all required, as students will have access to the Juilliard Computer lab, which has all the programs loaded onto several machines.

**Do I get full access to the lab?**

Yes. Once students receive their Evening Division ID Card, you will be able to use the computer lab (not the music technology suite) during designated hours.

**Will I get a Juilliard.edu email address?**

No. Evening Division students do not receive Juilliard email addresses.