



RIDER UNIVERSITY  
College of  
Arts and Sciences

WESTMINSTER  
CHOIR COLLEGE

# MASTERS IN VOICE PEDAGOGY

## *FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS*

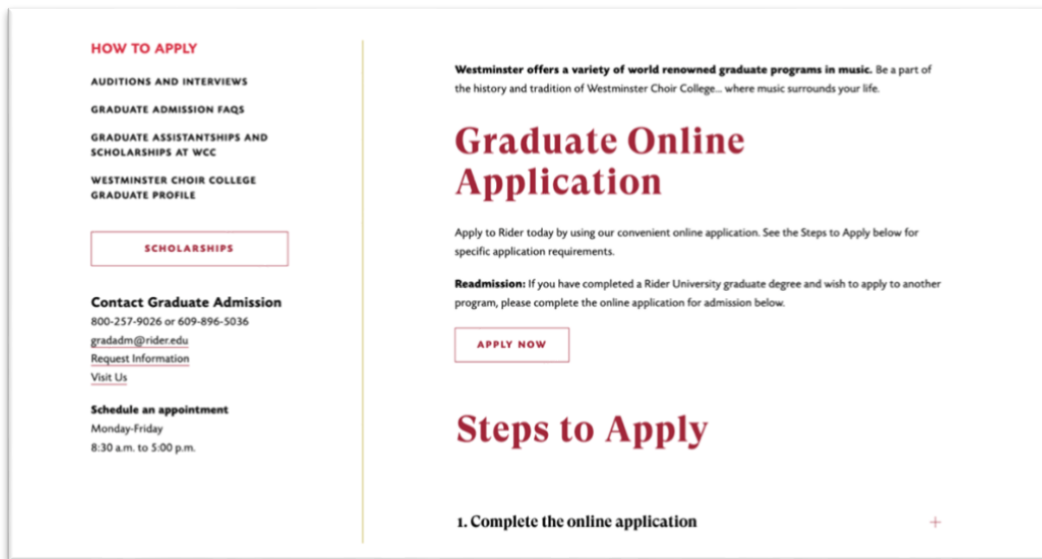
### WHAT YOU'LL FIND IN THIS GUIDE

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# 1. BECOMING A STUDENT

*How to apply*

- A. For **directions**: <https://www.rider.edu/academics/colleges-schools/college-arts-sciences/westminster-choir-college/graduate/master-voice-pedagogy>
- B. To **apply**, go to <https://www.rider.edu/admissions/graduate/how-to-apply/westminster-choir-college>
- C. Click on “**Apply Now**” as indicated in the **screenshot**:



- D. What you **need to apply**:
  - i. A **candidate's statement of intent**, outlining professional goals and expectations for Westminister's MVP program.
  - ii. **Two letters of recommendation**, specifically addressing teaching and/or singing abilities.
  - iii. **Documentation of post-baccalaureate professional experience in the field.** Candidates with significant prior teaching experience may include printed programs, audio recordings, reviews, or letters of support from former or current students.
  - iv. **Upload your digital portfolio** to the **Slate** platform (the **Admissions Office** can help you with this).
  - v. **Admissions interview** to be scheduled with **Dr. Christopher Arneson** at [carneson@rider.edu](mailto:carneson@rider.edu).

## 2. WHO'S WHO?

*Whom to go to when*

- A. I have questions about the **application process** or my **application status**:  
Contact the **Office of Admissions** at [+1 \(800\) 962-4647](tel:+18009624647) or [gradadm@rider.edu](mailto:gradadm@rider.edu)
- B. I have a question about **finances**:  
Contact the **Bursar**—[rider.edu/tuition-aid](http://rider.edu/tuition-aid)
- C. I have a question for the **Masters in Voice Pedagogy faculty**:  
Contact **Dr. Christopher Arneson** at [carneson@rider.edu](mailto:carneson@rider.edu) and see [rider.edu/about/faculty-staff-directory/christopher-arneson](http://rider.edu/about/faculty-staff-directory/christopher-arneson)
- D. I need to contact my **advisor**:  
To find your advisor, contact **Dr. Christopher Arneson** at [carneson@rider.edu](mailto:carneson@rider.edu)
- E. I need to get **registered for classes**:
  - i. You will need to **contact your advisor** for greenlighting, which will allow you to register online. To **register**, use your **myRider Student Portal** at [myrider.rider.edu](http://myrider.rider.edu) . If you need **additional assistance**, contact Susan Makowski at [smakowski@rider.edu](mailto:smakowski@rider.edu) and see <https://www.rider.edu/about/faculty-staff-directory/susan-makowski>
- F. I need to **drop a class**:  
Contact **Registrar Justina Nicita** at [jnicita@rider.edu](mailto:jnicita@rider.edu)

### 3. GETTING STARTED

#### Selecting classes & getting online

##### A. What **classes** do I have to take?

- i. See our course catalog:

**Classical track:** <http://catalog.rider.edu/graduate/colleges-schools/arts-sciences/programs-certificates/mm-voice-pedagogy-classical-track/#programrequirementstext>

**Musical theater track:** <http://catalog.rider.edu/graduate/colleges-schools/arts-sciences/programs-certificates/mm-voice-pedagogy-music-theatre-track/#programrequirementstext>

##### B. How do I know what classes I can take online in a term?

- i. Check the **ECR** on the **myRider Student Portal** at [myrider.rider.edu](http://myrider.rider.edu) (i.e., where you arrive when you click on “**Course Roster**” for the semester of interest)
- ii. **Narrow your fields** for your options
  1. Select the **semester** you want
  2. Enter “**OL**” for **online** under the **course section** filter
  3. Enter “**WC**” for **Westminster** under the **college** filter
  4. Enter the **prefix** for the course subject in which you are interested: for example, “**VC**” for **voice**, “**CR**” for **conducting**, “**MH**” for **music history**, etc. If you know the **course number** and/or **section**, you may add those as well to narrow your search. Note: “**OL**” before a section number indicates the course is **online**

Subj	Crs	Sec	Title	Instructor	CRN	Credits	Days	Time	Avail	Open/Clsd	Campus	College	Building	Room	Restrictions	Prereqs	Comments
ME	595	OL1	Assessing Music Learning	Holcomb (Al)	[10693]	1.0			19	OPEN	WCC	WC			I ONLY Senior  ONLY Graduate& Undergraduate		
VC	661	OL1	German Lied	Penna (Jerry J.)	[10721]	3.0			24	OPEN	WCC	WC			I ONLY Graduate		
VC	724	OL1	Voice Ped II: Methods	Arneson (Christopher)	[10723]	3.0			7	OPEN	WCC	WC			I ONLY Graduate	VC 723 GR D	

##### C. How to use **Canvas**:

- i. You can get to **Canvas** by following this link: [canvas.rider.edu](http://canvas.rider.edu)
- ii. Use your **Rider Key** credentials to log in
- iii. If you have difficulty navigating **Canvas**, see resources available here: [community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-4121](http://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-4121)

## 4. DEGREE COMPLETION

### *Additional information on degree requirements*

A. How many **classes** should I **take a semester**?

This will depend a little on what the offerings are and what requirements you still need to fulfill. Some semesters will have more than one option for your pedagogy courses, and other semesters will be better for tending to elective and other credit-type requirements—those offered online.

B. What are **“core” electives**?

Core electives can be any subject area *except for voice* (anything that doesn't have the prefix of VC). You could take a Music Education, Business, or other course of interest to fulfill this requirement. **It must be a three-credit, graduate-level course.**

C. What are **“free” electives**?

Free electives can be filled by any subject area, *including voice*. You can also use summer workshops, such as the Voice Pedagogy Institute. **You must register for graduate-level** (i.e., 500 number or higher) **courses.**

D. What about **paying for credits**?

There is a **pay-per-credit rate** regardless of the number of credits. Federal student loans are available when you take six (6) credits or more in a semester. You may be eligible to receive tuition discounts through one of rider university's partners: <https://www.rider.edu/admissions/partnerships>

E. What do I need to do to **satisfy the language requirement**, which is **required for the Classical Track only**?

You will need to take **two undergraduate-level semester classes for each of two of the main languages for singing: Italian, German, or French.** If you did this in your undergraduate studies, you can confirm with the registrar that those credits will be honored by emailing **Susan Makowski** at ([smakowski@rider.edu](mailto:smakowski@rider.edu)) If you did not take formal classes but feel that you have a high level of proficiency in one or two of those languages, you can request to test out of the requirement by contacting **Margaret Cusack** ([mcusack@rider.edu](mailto:mcusack@rider.edu)). Many students take advantage of online language courses offered by community colleges across the country. Be certain to always have them pre-approved by the Academic Coordinator's office before taking a course from another institution.

F. What about **transfer credits**?

You may be able to transfer credits from an accredited institution for **GRADUATE** course work which you have already completed. These credits may count towards your **FREE ELECTIVE** courses. *It is also possible that, depending on the course, your transfer credits could count for a core elective or a theory/history elective, and all transfer credits must be approved before the transfer is completed.* You must provide a copy of the transcript from the institution where you took the course to **Margaret Cusack** ([mcusack@rider.edu](mailto:mcusack@rider.edu)).

G. What is a **teaching internship** and **when can I complete it**?

i. **What is it?**

In one scenario, students observe private and, possibly, group lessons and may be given readings, written assignments, and/or projects associated with their own teaching. It may be offered on an intensive basis in conjunction with Westminster Summer Session events, such as The High School Solo Vocal Artist and/or Vocal Institute. The student may also teach under faculty observation and supervision, including follow-up private discussion with the observer. Other scenarios are possible and can be discussed with your advisor, but the topic must on focused on **TEACHING.**

ii. **When can I complete it?**

The timing for completing this requirement is flexible. The internship is most effective when taken towards the end of your degree work for more meaningful synthesis of your studies.

H. **How and when** should I start work on the **pedagogy capstone**?

i. **What is it?**

Under faculty supervision, students design and execute a significant research project exploring an aspect of voice/voice teaching that interests them. Students with special interests in speech pathology or voice therapy may elect to visit the clinics of medical voice specialists in the area who have an association with Westminster. Students usually register for this course in a later (or last) semester or summer term in which assistance is provided by the capstone advisor.

ii. **When can I work on it?**

Again, this is flexible based on your needs and ability. Ideally, it should be done in a semester when you are not taking any other pedagogy track courses and near the end of your degree work.

iii. **Are there other exams or tests (e.g., orals) required for graduation?**

Yes, you will be **required to do an Oral Examination**. Again, this nearly always occurs in the last semester of your degree program. For more information, see:

1. *Voice & Graduate Department Handbook:*

[rider.edu/sites/default/files/docs/docs/201911\\_Voice\\_VoiceHandbook201920.doc](http://rider.edu/sites/default/files/docs/docs/201911_Voice_VoiceHandbook201920.doc)

*c. The form to request and oral examination can be found at*

[rider.edu/academics/academic-support/registrar/forms](http://rider.edu/academics/academic-support/registrar/forms)

- I. As you proceed, you will want to check on courses in your degree that are still required. These are viewable 24/7 on Degree Works. You will need to login to **myRider**. Click the **Student** tab and then find **Degree Works** under the **Advising & Academic Support** section. Requirements that have already been satisfied will be marked with a green check.