All instrumentalists (both undergraduate and graduate) who are interested in auditioning to be a Jazz Major must submit a video recording as the first step in the audition process.

----------UNDERGRADUATE AUDITION INFORMATION----------

For acceptance into the Bob Cole Conservatory of Music as a Jazz Major, undergraduate students must:

1. Complete and submit an application to California State University Long Beach (visit [this page](#) for application information).

2. Submit (upload) a video recording. This recording must include TWO song selections in contrasting styles. Both of the pieces must include improvisation.

   • **DEADLINE for submitting your pre-screen video audition:** January 15th (if you have missed the deadline, please contact Jeff Jarvis, Director of Jazz at 562-233-9811 or jeff.jarvis@csulb.edu).
   
   • Recordings will be reviewed to determine your advancement in the audition process.
   
   • Upload a private video to YouTube, and email the link to: jeff.jarvis@csulb.edu
   
   • At the beginning of the recording, state your name, your class standing (freshman or transfer student), your email address (SLOWLY), and your phone number.
   
   • Recordings must be *unedited* and without artificial enhancement such as reverb, pitch correction, etc.
   
   • Check both the quality and playability of your recording before you send it.
• Be sure that you (the soloist) can be heard clearly above the rhythm section / accompaniment.
• You should review/listen (perhaps with your teacher or other experienced musician) the entire recording before submitting it, to make sure all is in order.

3. Based on that recording, you will be notified if you have been selected to perform a live audition.

IF OFFERED A LIVE AUDITION:

Live Audition Requirements for Freshman and Transfer Students:

Wind Players

Prepare two medium-tempo or up-tempo jazz standards/etudes in contrasting styles. Be prepared to perform the melody of the tune and improvise to the chord changes accompanied by live musicians or accompaniment tracks provided by you. A sound system with a CD player and connecting cords for laptop computers, iPods, iPhones and similar devices is provided. As part of the audition process, you will sightread a jazz etude or excerpt to evaluate rhythmic and note accuracy in a consistent time feel.

Saxophonists should be prepared to demonstrate woodwind-doubling skills on a jazz or classical etude or excerpt. Alto saxophonists should be prepared to play soprano sax and flute. Tenor saxophonists should be prepared to play clarinet and flute. Baritone saxophonists should be prepared to play bass clarinet and flute.

Guitar and Piano

Prepare two medium-tempo or up-tempo jazz standards/etudes in contrasting styles. Be prepared to perform the melody of the tune, perform a chord melody (guitar only), “comp” the chord changes, and
improvise on the chord changes accompanied by live musicians or accompaniment tracks provided by you. A sound system with a CD player and connecting cords for laptop computers, iPods, iPhones and similar devices is provided. As part of the audition process, you will sightread a jazz etude or excerpt to evaluate rhythmic and note accuracy in a consistent time feel. Guitarists will be asked to play the written melody line; Pianists will be asked to play the written melody while comping the chord changes in the left hand. A guitar amp is provided, but candidates are welcome to bring their own. Patch cords are not provided.

**Bass**

Prepare two medium-tempo or up-tempo jazz standards/etudes in contrasting styles. Be prepared to perform the melody of the tune, provide a bass line (comp), and improvise to the chord changes accompanied by live musicians or accompaniment tracks provided by you. A sound system with a CD player and connecting cords for laptop computers, iPods, iPhones and similar devices is provided. Candidates must audition on acoustic bass, but may also demonstrate their electric bass skills. The Jazz Studies area does not admit candidates who play electric bass exclusively. As part of the audition process, you will sightread a jazz etude or excerpt to evaluate rhythmic and note accuracy in a consistent time feel. A bass amp is provided for auditions, but candidates are welcome to provide their own.

**Drums**

Prepare two medium-tempo or up-tempo jazz standards/etudes in contrasting styles. Be prepared to perform the tunes accompanied by live musicians or accompaniment tracks provided by you. A sound system with a CD player and connecting cords for laptop computers, iPods, iPhones and similar devices is provided. You will be asked to demonstrate proficiency in a variety of styles, plus the ability to play in odd meters. As part of the audition you will be asked to sightread a portion of a big band chart to demonstrate your ability to play a consistent groove in the style, play set-up figures, and accurately play
notated ensemble cues. A drum kit is provided for all auditions. Candidates are welcome to provide their own cymbals.

Is “Jazz At The Beach” right for you?

Undergraduate and Graduate jazz studies degree programs are designed to put the finishing touches on your previously acquired jazz skills. Collegiate jazz programs are not designed to accommodate those with little or no jazz background and/or those with undeveloped music notation reading skills. Here are some general guidelines and prerequisite skills that indicate whether the Jazz Studies degree programs at “Jazz At The Beach” are a good fit for you:

Bachelor of Music in Jazz Studies Candidates

Successful candidates have a history of excellence in high school and/or community college academics, have 4-6 years of experience as leading players in their secondary school and/or community college jazz ensembles, listen to jazz regularly, are building a repertoire of jazz standards, and are able to sight read musical notation at a collegiate level.

For application and admission policies and procedures, go to www.csumentor.edu. If you still have questions or concerns, undergraduate candidates should contact the music office at (562) 985-4781 or the Undergraduate Advisor, Dr. Leland Vail at leland.vail@csulb.edu.

The Jazz Studies Handbook was compiled and is updated annually to publicize jazz area policies, offer helpful advice, and answer frequently asked questions from prospective and current Bob Cole Conservatory jazz majors. If you have any further questions specific to the Jazz Studies area that are not covered in this handbook, please e-mail me at jeff.jarvis@csulb.edu. All of us at “Jazz At The Beach” are eager to help you realize your goals.
Sincerely,

Jeff Jarvis
Director of Jazz Studies
562-233-9811
jeff.jarvis@csulb.edu