

Blair Academy

AT VANDERBILT



Student Handbook 2020-2021



Precollege & Adult Program Handbook & Catalog

2020-2021

<http://blair.vanderbilt.edu/blairacademy>

Dear Parents and Students:

Welcome to the Blair School of Music! Blair offers music lessons, classes and ensembles for infants through senior adults seven days a week. Precollege students study alongside undergraduates and adults, taught by the same premier faculty. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many offerings will be on Zoom. Zoom is an innovative and effective method of delivering instruction to students in the comfort of their homes. Blair's creative faculty continues to refine techniques to make lessons effective and rewarding. Our goal is to return to in-person instruction as soon as it is safe to do so.

This handbook complements the [Blair Academy at Vanderbilt website](#). Together, they serve as your guide to Blair programs, policies, requirements, and procedures.

As senior associate dean for the Blair Academy, please know that I am eager to help you and your student guide your musical journey. Please call or email me to introduce yourself, and learn about the wide array of opportunities for precollege and adult students at Blair.

Cordially,

Pam Schneller

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Contents

Mission Statement.....	1
History, Faculty, Resources and Benefits.....	2
Precollege Offerings	4
Adult Offerings	6
General Information	7
Registration, Tuition, and Financial Aid.....	8
Conduct and Grading.....	10
Safety, Security, and the Protection of Minors at Vanderbilt.....	11
Precollege Certificate Program.....	13

Mission Statement

The mission of Blair Academy at Vanderbilt, the precollege and adult program of the Blair School of Music, is to provide the highest caliber of music education for children and adults, so they may achieve their full potential as artists, citizens and leaders.

To achieve this mission, Blair Academy at Vanderbilt has identified these goals:

- To serve students of all ages and ability levels in a unique blended community of musicians. Precollege and university students study with the same nationally renowned faculty in a challenging and welcoming environment.
- To strive for continued and growing excellence in teaching and musical performance, attracting and challenging the most talented, gifted and dedicated young musicians in the region.
- To seek, through a robust need- and merit-based scholarship program, to ensure that financial considerations do not deter qualified students from enrolling in our programs.
- To expand our commitment to the principles of equity, diversity, inclusion and belonging. We seek to create community partnerships to broaden our student and family population, and extend our ability to share our resources with the broader Nashville community.
- To continue research and innovation in teaching, learning, and performing, as well as to work collaboratively with other colleges at Vanderbilt.
- To serve the community and advocate for music education by offering concerts, lectures and recitals free of charge. We actively partner with area schools and arts organizations to promote music education.
- To be a resource for the greater Nashville community and beyond; a place where teachers and organizations can learn and take inspiration from our unique precollege and adult program model, and the specific programs within it.

History, Faculty, Resources and Benefits

A HISTORY OF THE BLAIR SCHOOL OF MUSIC

The Blair School has been a vital part of Nashville's musical life from its inception in 1964, and it maintains as its mission excellence in teaching music to persons of all ages, providing the training essential for a performing career or for an enriching and creative avocation. The school was established as Blair Academy of Music by the Justin and Valere Potter Foundation through a bequest of Valere Blair Potter in memory of her mother, Myra Jackson Blair. First a division of George Peabody College, Blair Academy became a private, independent institution and was accredited as a non-degree-granting school by the National Association of Schools of Music in 1977. In 1981, the school merged with Vanderbilt University and the undergraduate program was established in 1986. Studies leading to the Bachelor of Music and Bachelor of Musical Arts degree are available, as are a wide variety of courses for the general university student. In honor of its founding, the precollege and adult program reaffirmed its original name in 2019 and is now Blair Academy at Vanderbilt.

FACULTY

Blair School of Music is home to internationally known faculty members who are highly respected for performance, composition, conducting, and scholarly endeavors, as well as for their dedication to teaching. The faculty has a reputation for personal excellence and for its commitment to students as developing musicians and as human beings. The concept of a precollege "division" is foreign to Blair's philosophy. Many faculty members teach both precollege and university students, valuing greatly their involvement with both—a situation unique among music schools in this country. Many faculty members concertize nationally and internationally and have recorded on a variety of labels. For a list of current faculty members and their biographical information, please visit the Blair website at blair.vanderbilt.edu.

RESOURCES AND BENEFITS

CONCERTS AND CONCERT HALLS. Blair offers over 400 concerts annually, almost all of them free of charge. Guest artists from around the world, faculty and university student recitals and ensembles, opera, and a myriad of precollege recitals and concerts take place in the Martha Rivers Ingram Performance Hall, Steve and Judy Turner Recital Hall, and Choral Hall throughout the year for community enrichment and enjoyment.

ANNE POTTER WILSON MUSIC LIBRARY. The Wilson Music Library is an academic library that exists for study listening/viewing, and research purposes. The library's many resources are available to Blair Academy students. Registered precollege and adult students may apply for and receive library cards to check out materials including books, scores, DVDs, CDs and much more. The library's helpful staff is available to help find titles and assist with research. Special events for precollege students are held annually. A library area is devoted to

precollege books and materials and several computers are configured with precollege students in mind. Access additional precollege information at:

<http://researchguides.library.vanderbilt.edu/precollege>

COLLABORATIVE PERFORMANCES. Blair Academy students rehearse, collaborate, and regularly perform in concert with undergraduates and faculty in solo concerts, chamber music, and ensembles. Older students act as mentors for younger students, and younger students inspire others with their zeal, skill and artistry.

A COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT OF RESPECT AND APPRECIATION FOR MUSIC. Learning and making music is a lifelong endeavor. All are encouraged and appreciated for their unique gifts. This community excitement and respect infuses all we do in the Blair Academy at Vanderbilt.

Offerings for Children and Youth

See <https://blair.vanderbilt.edu/blair-academy> for complete information about each program. For current course listings, schedules, rooms and tuition, see the Blair Academy at Vanderbilt Course Offerings brochure, available in the office and on the [Blair Academy at Vanderbilt](#) website.

PRIVATE LESSONS. Blair Academy at Vanderbilt offers individual instruction in all orchestral instruments, and in piano, organ, harpsichord, guitar, saxophone, euphonium, banjo, dulcimer, fiddle, mandolin, steel pan, jazz instruments and voice. See the website for a list of faculty contacts to schedule an interview and audition.

KINDERMUSIK (ages 0-5 years.) Blair's nationally acclaimed music program is designed for young children and their caregivers. Participants enjoy singing, listening, dancing, interacting socially, and playing simple instruments. The program offers a variety of classes which focus on the child's emotional development. See the Kindermusik information on the Blair website: <https://blair.vanderbilt.edu/blair-academy/kindermusik.php>

BEGINNING AND PARTNER PIANO (ages 3 and up.) This tiered program includes weekly private and group classes. In addition to piano skills, students develop a conceptual understanding of the fundamentals of music: ear training, improvisation, sight ready, singing, and technique. Students perform in formal recitals at the end of each term.

BLAIR SUZUKI VIOLIN AND CELLO PROGRAM. (ages 4 and up) Founded on principles originally developed in Japan, the Suzuki Method is one of the most influential and popular methods of music instruction in the world. Key components include starting children young, active parental involvement, positive reinforcement and communal learning. Children may begin violin, viola or cello and progress through the multilayered program. They participate

in weekly private lessons and group classes. Performance groups are the Violin Performing Group and Children's Cello Choir. <https://blair.vanderbilt.edu/blair-academy/suzuki.php>

BLAIR CHILDREN'S CHORUS PROGRAM. (grades 1-12) This renowned program comprises seven choirs, offering a graded program for children and youth at all skill levels. Advanced choirs regularly perform with the Nashville Symphony and guest artists; some choirs tour annually. Choirs are: Training Choir, Young Singers of Blair, Boychoir of Nashville, Choristers, Girl's Concert Choir, Young Men's Chorus, and Chorale. Auditions are held in May, August, and December. <https://blair.vanderbilt.edu/blair-academy/blair-childrens-chorus.php>

VANDERBILT YOUTH ORCHESTRA PROGRAM (VYO). This tiered youth orchestra program encompasses eight student orchestras: Curb Youth Symphony (cosponsored by the Nashville Symphony), Philharmonia Orchestra, Repertory Orchestra, Youth String Orchestras I, II, and III, Reading Orchestra, and Beginning Reading Orchestra. All orchestras are open by audition; auditions are scheduled in August. Students accepted for membership are encouraged and expected to be in good standing in their school music organizations. <https://blair.vanderbilt.edu/blair-academy/NYOP.php>

BLAIR FIDDLE AND FOLK INSTRUMENT PROGRAM. (ages 7-18) This program offers a holistic approach that includes Suzuki philosophy mixed with the "Fiddle and Song" curriculum to teach traditional fiddle music. It incorporates ear training, singing, harmonies, improvisation and arranging. Fiddle lessons include a group experience such as the Fiddle Frenzy performance group. Folk Instrument String Band is open to mandolin, dulcimer, and banjo players. <https://blair.vanderbilt.edu/blair-academy/fiddle-folk.php>

CHAMBER MUSIC. Chamber ensembles of various sizes and instrumentation provide collaborative music learning. Blair Camerata is a conductor-less chamber orchestra. <https://blair.vanderbilt.edu/blair-academy/chamber.php>

STEEL DRUM AND SANKOFA. [Steel Drum band](#) and [Sankofa](#), the African drumming and dance ensemble, may be open to older precollege and/or adult students.

GROUP PERFORMANCE INSTRUCTION. Group instruction is available in dulcimer, Partner Piano and guitar.

PRECOLLEGE CLASSES. Children and youth may take classes in [Kindermusik](#), [music theory](#), [music history and literature](#), [musicianship](#), Alexander Technique, and [collaborative piano](#).

Adult Offerings

For current course listings, schedules, rooms and tuition, see the Blair Academy at Vanderbilt Course Offerings brochure, available in the office and on the [Blair Academy at Vanderbilt](#) website.

[PRIVATE LESSONS](#). Blair Academy at Vanderbilt offers individual instruction in all orchestral instruments, and in piano, organ, harpsichord, guitar, saxophone, euphonium, banjo, dulcimer, fiddle, mandolin, steel pan, jazz instruments and voice. See the [website](#) for a list of faculty contacts to schedule an interview and audition.

ADULT CLASSES. Adults may take courses in [music theory](#), [musicianship](#), [songwriting](#), [Music & Culture for Adults](#), [Alexander Technique](#) and [Tai Chi](#).

GROUP PERFORMANCE INSTRUCTION. Group instruction is available in piano, steel drum, [Suzuki violin for parents](#), and guitar.

[CHAMBER MUSIC](#). Chamber ensembles of various sizes and instrumentation provide collaborative music learning and performance. <https://blair.vanderbilt.edu/blair-academy/chamber.php>

[VANDERBILT COMMUNITY CHORUS](#). Comprising adult singers from all over the greater Nashville area, this chorus performs the best of choral music in three annual concerts, including one with orchestra. They toured Germany, Austria, and the Czech Republic in 2017. <https://www.vanderbilt.edu/community-chorus/>

General Information

SCHOOL CALENDAR. Blair Academy at Vanderbilt generally follows the academic-year schedule of the university, with 16-week fall and spring semesters and a 12-week summer session. Course offerings are updated three times a year in advance of each semester. see the Blair Academy at Vanderbilt Course Offerings brochure, available in the office and on the [Blair Academy at Vanderbilt](#) website.

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

The registrar is available 9 a.m.-6 p.m.

BUILDING HOURS. 7 am-10 pm weekdays (Children's Way entrance); 7 a.m.-8 p.m. (24th and 25th Ave. side entrances.) For security, the two side entrances are kept locked on weekends. Faculty, staff, and university students may use Vanderbilt ID cards to access the building. Precollege students and families should use the Children's Way main entrance doors. Building hours may vary in the summer and during specific holidays. Special building hours will be posted in advance of any changes for holidays or special event.

LOST AND FOUND. A lost and found is located in the main Blair office. The school is not responsible for instruments and belongings left unattended.

FIRST AID. First aid kits are located in the main office, the Ingram Hall box office, and on each floor of the classroom wing. AED machines are located in the corridor near the main office, and on the first floor, near the 25th Avenue elevator.

PARKING. Ten spaces marked with brown Blair permit signs are available to families with an enrolled student under age five and for students over age 75. The precollege registrar has Blair permits for these spaces. All other spaces in the 24th and 25th Avenue parking lots are owned and leased by the university. The West Garage, across Children's Way from Blair, is open at no charge to Blair students and families after 4:00 p.m. each weekday, and all day on weekends. Enter the garage via the Children's Way entrance.

SUZIE'S ESPRESSO. A café with snacks, sandwiches, salads and drinks is located on the third floor in the Student Lounge. Café hours are 7:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Monday through Friday during the fall and spring semesters. (Not open during 2020-2021)

VENDING MACHINES. Vending machines are located on the second floor of the building.

SCHEDULING RECITALS AND RECORDING AT BLAIR. Blair Academy students perform recitals in the three performance halls. All recitals are livestreamed on the Blair website unless the faculty request otherwise. Concert recordings may be obtained by concert participants by visiting the Wilson Music Library webpage: <https://www.library.vanderbilt.edu/forms/recital-request.php>

Registration, Tuition, and Financial Aid

REGISTRATION

- Students must register before having lessons or classes.
- Blair uses the VUPace online registration system: <https://vupace.vanderbilt.edu/>. The first step is to create a user name and password and complete the New Student application. Once the application is approved, you may register for lessons and classes and pay your tuition in full or in part.
- The user guide may be found here: <https://blair.vanderbilt.edu/pdfs/FALL17-PCA-registrationguide.pdf>
- Payment may be made in full or in installments with credit cards or checks.
- Students with overdue balances at Blair Academy at Vanderbilt re not permitted to register or participate in lessons, classes or ensembles for the next semester until the account is clear.
- Tuition for each semester must be paid in full by semester end.
- The Blair Academy at Vanderbilt semester is 16 weeks in the fall and spring, and students register for the full semester. Tuition will be prorated for new students entering late in the semester. In the summer, students may register for as few as four weeks and as many as 12 weeks, depending on teacher availability.

- If a student must withdraw from a course early in the semester, tuition may be adjusted accordingly. In such cases, permission of the Associate Dean must be granted.
- For help with VUPace the online registration system, please download the user guide: <https://blair.vanderbilt.edu/pdfs/FALL17-PCA-registrationguide.pdf>

PRIVATE LESSONS

- All new private lesson students schedule an interview with a faculty member prior to their first registration. Current information regarding interviews is available on the Blair website or by calling the Blair Academy registrar at 615.322.7655.
- After meeting with the faculty member and confirming availability and scheduling, new students should go online at <https://vupace.vanderbilt.edu/> and create a Profile and New Student Application. Once an approval email is received, the student may register online for lessons and classes.
- Requests for a specific teacher are honored when possible. Don't hesitate to discuss this with the interviewing faculty member.
- If a current Blair student wishes to change teachers, the situation must be discussed with the current teacher first.
- Lessons on two instruments concurrently should be discussed with both teachers to determine if there is sufficient time and motivation to sustain study at appropriate levels in both areas.

ENSEMBLE AUDITIONS

- The Blair Children's Chorus program holds auditions in December, May, and August. See the website blair.vanderbilt.edu for audition information or contact mary.biddlecombe@vanderbilt.edu
- The Vanderbilt Youth Orchestra Program holds auditions in August. See the [website](#) for information about the orchestras and audition requirements or contact carol.nies@vanderbilt.edu.
- Vanderbilt Community Chorus holds auditions by appointment. Contact david.b.williams@vanderbilt.edu.

PRECOLLEGE AND ADULT CLASSES

- Create a Profile and New Student Application on <https://vupace.vanderbilt.edu/>, receive an acceptance email, enroll and start learning. Please feel free to contact the appropriate faculty member with questions.
- Students enrolling in Interactive Music Theory will take a placement test during the first class to help the professor find the right level of instruction for you.

SCHOLARSHIPS

- The Blair School of Music is privileged to award a number of merit and need-based scholarships to precollege students.

- A precollege student is a child (infant to 19 years) who has not graduated from high school or the home-school equivalent.
- Scholarship awards are for one year only, and are based on a number of factors including performance at the scholarship audition, teacher recommendations, and financial need. Consequently, awards will vary from year to year.
- All students holding scholarships are expected to maintain at least a B average in their studies and must audition each year for scholarship consideration. Scholarship auditions are held each spring and are adjudicated by faculty committees. New students may be eligible to apply for aid at other times of the year as well. Contact the Blair Academy registrar for information. A full listing of scholarships offered is on the Blair website.

Conduct, Attendance, Absences, and Grading Policies

CONDUCT. Students of all ages fill the hallways and rooms of the Blair School to practice, perform, and study music. All students are expected to act responsibly and courteously on the online platform and throughout the building including the hallways, practice rooms, studios, performance halls, and library. Students who create excessive disturbance or who disrupt the school's teaching, performances, studying, or administration, may be dismissed from the school. No refunds will be granted upon dismissal.

ABSENCES. If a student must miss a lesson, the teacher should be notified as far in advance as possible. Faculty members are not required to reschedule lessons cancelled by students. Lessons or classes cancelled by faculty members will be rescheduled. As a general rule, the school is not closed for inclement weather. A faculty member who is unable to travel will notify students and reschedule lessons or classes.

DEFICIENCIES AND PROBATION. A precollege student whose progress is unsatisfactory may be placed on probation for half a semester. If, at the end of this period, the quality of work has not improved to the satisfaction of the teacher, the student may not continue at the school. In the event of a dismissal, no refund will be given. Written notification is made in each case.

SYLLABUS. Each student should receive a syllabus from the teacher at the beginning of the semester. The syllabus will include teacher contact information, course objectives, teacher expectations for attendance, homework and practice, calendar information including performance dates, and grading policies.

GRADING. Performances, examinations, semester reports, and classroom grade reports are an important part of the Blair Academy program. During performance examinations, students perform for a faculty committee. Those exam critiques and semester reports provide an evaluation of progress and suggestions for improvement. Precollege classes have

regular assignments and tests. Adults and young children generally do not play performance examinations. Many adult program classes do not give assignments, tests, or grades.

HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT. Students in some high schools and home-school students may earn enrichment credit for instruction taken at Blair Academy. Students must fulfill all requirements to the satisfaction of the teacher. Blair instruction for high school credit is coordinated through the Office of Academic Services. The student is responsible for determining his or her eligibility with the individual high school's guidance counselor.

CUMULATIVE RECORDS. Formal documentation of all student work (the cumulative record) will be provided upon written request from the student or guardian. Contact the Office of Academic Services. All student account balances at Blair must be paid in full before records will be released. At least one week's notice is required to process a cumulative record.

Safety, Security and the Protection of Minors at Vanderbilt

Parents are responsible for seeing that their students get to and from the lesson studio, ensemble meeting site, or classroom. Young children (generally under ten years of age) should be in the company of the parent/guardian at all times in the building. Normally, young children are dismissed directly to parents after Kindermusik, Training Choir, and Suzuki lessons and groups. Blair hallways are monitored by security cameras. Faculty and staff are available to assist, but cannot assume responsibility for unaccompanied children in the hallways.

ONLINE INSTRUCTION POLICIES. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Blair Academy lessons, classes and ensembles are held on the Vanderbilt University secure Zoom platform.

VANDERBILT POLICE AND COMMUNITY SERVICE OFFICERS. Police and the CSO officers regularly patrol the campus and campus buildings. Need a jump start? Locked your keys in the car? The Community Service officers are happy to help you and get you going safely. Call VUPD at 615-322-2745 if you need assistance.

CONFIDENTIALITY OF STUDENT INFORMATION. Blair Academy at Vanderbilt abides by the federal policies on student confidentiality. For more information on the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), please refer to the website: <https://registrar.vanderbilt.edu/ferpa/>.

PROTECTION OF MINORS AT VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY. The safety and security of students on campus is a vital priority at Vanderbilt University. All Blair School of Music personnel undergo regular background checks, take annual training and education on the protection of minors and learn the Vanderbilt codes of conduct when interacting with minors. See the full policy at https://vanderbilt.edu/riskmanagement/protectionofminorslanding_page.php.

Vanderbilt University personnel adhere to Tennessee state law on mandatory child abuse reporting to either the appropriate law enforcement agency or the state hotline operated by the Department of Children's Service. The Tennessee Child Abuse reporting hotline number is 877-237-0004.

In addition to external reporting, Vanderbilt has a mandatory internal child abuse reporting procedure. If you have reason to believe abuse or inappropriate behavior has occurred concerning a minor participating in a Vanderbilt University program, please contact one of the Blair School of Music associate deans, or Vanderbilt Risk Management (615-322-5155), or report via the Vanderbilt hotline at 844-824-5935.

DISABILITY SERVICES. Vanderbilt is committed to the principles of equal opportunity and affirmation action. The University provides reasonable accommodations for qualified persons with disabilities. Please tell us if your child requires a reasonable accommodation to participate in our program or to perform the program tasks. Examples of reasonable accommodations could include providing documents in an alternate format, or using a sign language interpreter.

Additional Blair Academy at Vanderbilt Policies for Precollege Student Safety

Blair students range in age from infants to octogenarians. This blended community contributes to the vitality of the school environment and reminds us daily that studying and making music is a life-long journey. Accordingly, ensembles, studios and classes will have different policies for drop-off and pick-up. Each studio or ensemble will have policies appropriate for the age and maturity of the participants, and those will be contained in the studio or ensemble syllabus distributed to families each semester. General policies are below.

- Parents are responsible for registering their student before taking classes or lessons. Accurate records are imperative for the staff to know who is in the building and when.
- Parents are responsible for seeing their student to and from the lesson studio, ensemble meeting site, or classroom. Young children should be in the company of the parent/guardian at all times in the building.
- In Kindermusik classes, Suzuki violin and cello, and Partner Piano lessons, a parent is required to be present.
- Private lesson instruction is one teacher, one student. Parents are welcome to attend lessons if desired. Please notify the instructor beforehand if you wish to attend lessons.
- Faculty are responsible for the safety of the student in studios, classes or ensembles. Young children (generally under age 10) should be in the company of the parent/guardian when they leave the class, lesson or are dismissed by the ensemble director.

BLAIR ACADEMY COVID-19 Policies Spring 2021

The health and safety of our Blair Academy community are our highest priority. We have put together these guidelines to ensure the well-being of our students while allowing them to continue their musical development. Please carefully read and review the following policies and information regarding Blair Academy COVID-19 safety. All students and families must read and agree to these policies before enrolling in lessons, classes, or ensembles for Spring 2021:

- Blair Academy is opening online Monday, January 11, 2021.
- Following the Provost's direction, we will gradually resume in-person private lesson instruction when it is safe to do so.
- If preferred, families may choose to continue online only instruction for the semester. Please confirm your preferred method of instruction with your teacher before registering.
- All classes (theory, history, musicianship, and classes for adults) will be online for the beginning of the semester.
- Ensembles will be online until conditions permit us to resume some in-person small group rehearsals.
- Per Vanderbilt University policy, all students aged three and up are required to wear a mask or face covering on the Vanderbilt and Blair campus.
- Registered students will receive a reusable cloth mask from the Blair Academy. Students should bring their mask or face covering with them every time they come to campus or Blair. A limited amount of disposable masks will be available if needed.
- Students and/or parents must download the VandySafe mobile app, a free app available through the App Store or Google Play.
- Using the app as a guest, students/parents must complete the COVID-19 self-assessment tool before every visit to campus. If students/parents exhibit any of the listed symptoms or have possibly been exposed to COVID-19, they should not come to campus but may continue lessons via Zoom.
- Per Blair Academy's Student Handbook, if a student has to reschedule or cancel a lesson for any reason, they must inform their teacher ahead of time to request a make-up lesson. If students would prefer to do a Zoom lesson, they must communicate with their teacher ahead of time. If students miss lessons without prior communication with their teacher, lessons may not be made up.
- Students and parents are expected to observe standard social distancing practices of staying 6 feet apart.
- In order to maintain a lower population density parents are not allowed to wait in the building during student lessons, with the exception of Suzuki and Partner Piano parents. Parents may wait outside the building or in their vehicle.
- Students arriving on campus for private lessons may not enter the building until their instructor contacts them. Please speak with your instructor to determine the best mode of communication.

- Students and parents will need to familiarize themselves with the new circulation plan at Blair to maximize social distancing. Maps of the circulation plan will be provided and may be accessed on Blair’s website as well.
- In the event of a COVID-19 exposure or outbreak, affected students, faculty and staff will be contacted by phone and/or email and asked to isolate. Affected areas of the building will be cleaned before reopening. As conditions change, Blair Academy will communicate policy updates via email and our website.

Blair Academy at Vanderbilt [Certificate Program](#)

Blair Academy at Vanderbilt awards two certificates to high school seniors who have completed formal programs that encourage excellence in performance and knowledge of music theory and history—all essential elements for development of mature musicianship in advanced students. Myra Jackson Blair Scholarship students generally fulfill all or most of the Certificate Program requirements and are especially encouraged to participate in this program.

FORMAL ADMISSION TO THE PROGRAM. High school students are nominated for the program by the departmental faculty at the spring scholarship auditions. Letters of invitation are sent to those students who qualify for the program. Students who accept the nomination to join the program enter at the Certificate of Merit level (advanced intermediate). They may audition for the Certificate of Distinction level (advanced) in the spring of their high school junior year. Occasionally, a student may petition to audition for the Distinction level in the fall of the senior year.

RESPONSIBILITIES. Students are responsible for knowing and fulfilling all requirements. The student should keep a personal record of study and accomplishment to supplement similar records being maintained by the studio teacher and Certificate Program coordinator. The student’s private teacher is the primary adviser throughout the program, selecting repertoire suitable for study, ensuring that all major periods and styles are covered, and determining when a student is qualified for the advanced audition. The Certificate Program Council determines policies and standards, working closely with the entire faculty in matters affecting the program.

FINANCIAL COST. There is no fee for participation. Total cost to the student will be the regular tuition for lessons and classes.

REQUIREMENTS. An overview of each certificate is outlined below. More detailed information is available from the certificate coordinator, the Office of Academic Services, and the Blair Academy at Vanderbilt website.

Minimum B+ in class work and performance

Activity	Requirement	Certificate of Merit	Certificate of Distinction
Achievement in Lessons and Performance Class	Instrumental or Vocal study at Blair	Two years minimum (four semesters)	Three years minimum (six semesters)
	Audition ranking	Intermediate rank	Achievement of "Advanced Level" rank by May of the junior year
	Performance Class participation (if offered)	Each semester enrolled in lessons	Each semester enrolled in lessons
Solo Performance	Studio recital performance	Each semester	Each semester
	Pre-recital hearing	Successful completion required	Successful completion required
	Certificate recital	Minimum 20-minute public performance	Minimum 30-minute public performance
Ensembles	Large ensemble participation	As qualified	As qualified
	Chamber Music/ Collaborative Piano	One-year minimum (two semesters) And participation in a recital	One year minimum (two semesters) And participation in a recital
Coursework	Precollege Music Theory	Successful completion of Level 4/Level 6*	Successful completion of Level 4/Level 6*
	Music History	Year One (Two semesters) Year Two (Two semesters)*	Year One (Two semesters) Year Two (Two semesters)*
	Recital attendance	Two faculty or professional concerts per semester	Two faculty or professional concerts per semester
Standards	Grade standards	Minimum B+ in class work and performance	

***Certificates with Honors**

Students that successfully complete at least Level 6 of precollege theory and two years of history are eligible to receive either the Certificate of Merit with Honors or the Certificate of Distinction with Honors.

