Audition requirements for the guitar program at
Southern Illinois University Carbondale
Dr. Isaac Lausell
Assistant professor/Head of the guitar program

The guidelines provided represent what is the acceptable level of repertoire and technical proficiency for admission however some player’s abilities might be above these guidelines. For more questions regarding the audition or to substitute pieces contact the guitar program’s head Dr. Isaac Lausell at isaac.lausell@siu.edu. **Make sure to summit the pieces for approval prior to the audition.** Bring at least 2 copies of your pieces to the audition.

All music majors including performance (classical or jazz), music education, composition/theory, music history, conducting and music business are required to audition to audition for the guitar studio. Music minors are also required to audition for admission into the program. As music major you are expected to take applied lessons and play in ensembles regardless if you are a performance major or not.

**Undergrad Audition requirements for the classical guitar program**

I. Technique

- Major and melodic minor scales. Must present a minimum of 2 scales of each of the required harmonic qualities. Even though in our guitar lessons we use Dr. Lausell’s *Book I: A new approach to scales for classical guitar* prospective students can present for the audition the scales from Abel Carlevaro and Andres Segovia’s respective books.
- Major and minor chords and their respective dominant chords in all keys in the 1st position.

II. Repertoire

Play an etude from the following list:
- Leo Brower: Etudes Simples (any of these is acceptable except for the 3rd one)
- Leo Brower: Nuevos estudios sencillos (any of them)
- Matteo Carcassi: Any etude from #1 to #5, etude #7 or #9.
- Fernando Sor: Choose one from #1 to #5. The numbering for the etudes is from Andres Segovia’s edition however the use of facsimiles or faithful reproduction of Sor’s anthologies is acceptable.
- Benjamin Verdery: Either etudes 1 or 2.

Choose 2 contrasting pieces:
- El testament d’Amelia – Miguel LLobet
- El sueño de la muñeca – Agustin Barrios
Undergrad Audition requirements for the jazz guitar program

I. Technique

Play the major and natural minor scales in 2 octaves. Three-note per string fingerings are recommended but not required.

• Blues scale in all keys.
• Know major 7th, Dominant 7th, minor 7th, minor 7th flat 5 in all keys in at least 2 different string groups. Drop 2 and Drop 3 inversions are ideal but for this level knowing the chords in root position is sufficient.

II. Repertoire

Play a chord melody arrangement of jazz standard. Joe Pass, Barry Galbraith and Isaac Lausell’s books have suitable solo jazz guitar arrangements. An etude from the following list is also acceptable (with the fingers, no pick):

• Leo Brower: Etudes Simples (any of these is acceptable except for the 3rd one)
• Leo Brower: Nuevos estudios sencillos (any of them)
• Matteo Carcassi: Any etude from #1 to #5, #7 or #9.
• Fernando Sor: Choose one from #1 to #5. The numbering for the etudes is from Andres Segovia’s edition however the use of facsimiles or faithful reproduction of Sor’s anthologies is acceptable.
• Benjamin Verdery: Either etudes 1 or 2.

Play 2 contrasting jazz standard pieces. Play the head, improvise and comp. These are some examples of suitable repertoire:

• Billie’s Bounce
• Autumn Leaves
• Blue Bossa
• Watermelon Man
• Bye Bye Blackbird
• Sight reading – A short musical selection will be provided in the form of a lead sheet. Be ready to read a melodic line and to read chord symbols.

**Graduate Audition requirements for the classical guitar program**

I. Technique

• Major and Melodic minor scale in all 12 keys

II. Repertoire

• Play a transcription from a suite, partita or sonata by J.S. Bach.
• One major contemporary piece (not Neo classic)
• One major work by either a Spanish or Latin American composers.

**Graduate Audition requirements for the jazz guitarists**  
(For students who want to use jazz guitar to fulfill their instrument and ensemble credits in any of the majors of the graduate program)

I. Technique

• Major and Melodic minor scales and their modes in all 12 keys
• Play the following chord progressions in all keys: ii7 V7 I7, ii7 V7 I7

Repertoire – Play 2 contrasting jazz standard pieces. Play the head, improvise and comp. One of the selections should be an up-tempo Bebop or Hard Bop piece. These are examples of suitable pieces:

• Cherokee
• Oleo
• Anthropology
• Donna Lee
• Giant Steps
• 26-2
• Dolphin Dance
• Chega de Saudade
• Waltz for Debby
• Time Remembered
• Have you Met Miss Jones

II. Sight reading - A short musical selection will be provided in the form of a lead sheet. Be ready to read a melodic line and to read chord symbols.