

Keys To a Successful UNT Drum Set Audition

By Professor Quincy Davis

1. Read EVERYTHING that is written on the drum set audition page that pertains to your audition: <https://jazz.unt.edu/admission-auditions/percussion>.
2. Listen to as much music as possible. When you are listening, make sure to pay attention to song form, overall group interaction, ensemble balance and the collective feeling of the group. If you are always striving to learn from recordings, you will better understand what it takes to play in an ensemble at the highest level.
3. Practice emulating the drummers on the recordings. Pay attention to not only *what* the drummers are playing, but *how* they are playing. Emulating great drummers will naturally force you to address various aspects of your playing that are required to sound more professional and refined. Some of those aspects include: touch, sound, feel, tone, technique, balance, overall flow of groove and language.
4. Work on sight reading often by reading big band and small group charts. Your ability to sight read and interpret a chart effectively is dependent on being able to recognize and set up common rhythmic figures, flow and authenticity of the groove and your ability to follow the road map of a chart.
5. Look and carry yourself in a professional manner. Dress professionally for your audition.

For further information on UNT Percussion go to:
<https://percussion.music.unt.edu/home>