

University of San Diego Choral Scholars

Application Policy Brief

I. ***Acceptance into the Choral Scholars program.*** Students become Choral Scholars by being (1) admitted to the University of San Diego, and (2) identified as a Choral Scholar after an audition process. These are separate considerations. Admittance into the Choral Scholars does not mean entrance into the university or vice versa. Furthermore, a potential Choral Scholar must have previous experience in solo and/or choral singing.

A. *Acceptance into the University of San Diego.* Potential Choral Scholars must first be admitted to the University of San Diego, which requires going through the normal application process. An application is enclosed for your convenience. To give you an idea of the applicant pool, the average grade point average of the undergraduates admitted into the University of San Diego for the academic year 2008/2009 was 3.76, S.A.T. (Critical Reading and Mathematics) scores averaged 1175, and the average ACT score was 26. Please keep in mind, however, that these are only averages, and that in its evaluation, the Admissions Office takes into account the entire application (including your desire to join the Choral Scholars), not just G.P.A. and S.A.T. scores.

Please note that the deadline for application to the University of San Diego is in early January for admission for the following fall semester, and that the application should be mailed to the Office of Undergraduate Admissions. Part of the process includes application for other financial aid. Being in the Choral Scholars does not preclude you from receiving other financial assistance.

B. *Application for Choral Scholars.*

i. *Please check this web site periodically for updates.*

ii. *Application Letter.* Applicants should write a letter to the director requesting consideration as a Choral Scholar. Your application letter should summarize your musical background and clearly state your desire to pursue a major or minor in music. In particular, include why you are interested in the Choral Scholars and identify the positive attributes you would bring to the group. The application letter should be typewritten or computer-generated and no longer than two pages single-spaced. Note that Choral Scholars may major in any subject, not just music, at the University of San Diego.

iii. *Questionnaire and Audiocassette, CD or Videotape.* Along with their letter, applicants should send in the Choral Scholars Application Questionnaire and an audiocassette or videotape of themselves singing two or three songs which demonstrate their ability as a solo performer. At least one selection must be a classical art song or aria. All selections may be sung in English, however other languages are encouraged.

iv. *Teacher Recommendation.* Applicants must have one of their music teachers or voice instructors send in a Choral Scholars Recommendation Form (Available on the website Application page). This recommendation must be sent directly from the teacher or instructor.

The letter, the questionnaire, audio or videotape, and the teacher recommendation all must be received no later than January 30th, 2009.

These materials should be sent to:

Choral Scholars Program
Camino 142C
University of San Diego
5998 Alcalà Park
San Diego, CA 92110-2492

From these materials, finalists will be chosen and notified and will be asked to audition on the University of San Diego campus. The audition is scheduled for Saturday, February 28th, 2009. Unfortunately, we cannot accommodate with airport rides or housing, nor can we reschedule auditions, so please plan accordingly. Thank you!

C. *The Audition Process.* During the audition, students will be asked to perform two songs from memory. The songs may be the same as those submitted on the audiocassette or videotape. An accompanist will be provided and students are asked to bring three copies of their audition pieces. Students may bring their own accompanist, but they may not audition with a taped accompaniment. The student will also be asked to do some simple vocal exercises and demonstrate sight-reading ability with and without piano accompaniment. The student will be scored “outstanding,” “above average” or “average” in the following areas: vocal production; sense of pitch; sight-reading; general musicianship; and presentation.

After the audition, and after consultation with other members of the music faculty and the University Admissions Office, students will be notified as soon as possible whether they have been accepted into the Choral Scholars Program.

II. *Benefits of Being a Choral Scholar.* The primary benefits of being in the Choral Scholars are: (1) the musical and educational experience it affords; and (2) a substantial annual scholarship per academic year, renewable each year of their college career at the University, up to four years or up to completion of the 124 units required for graduation (whichever comes first); and (3) an additional subsidy to cover the cost of private voice lessons. (4) possibility of matching grants from Financial Aid for high S.A.T. and G.P.A.

III. *Staying in the Choral Scholars Program.* Please read carefully the attached Choral Scholars Policies and Procedures for the criteria for continuation in the Program.

Please do not apply to the program if you are not prepared to dedicate much time to singing and music. Regardless of your major, you will be expected to progress in your vocal abilities and in your musicianship, so that by your senior year, you will be capable of singing advanced solo and choral repertoire with ease and confidence.

Remember that there are two deadlines: the deadline for applications for admission to the University of San Diego is early January and the deadline for application materials for the Choral Scholars Program is January 30th.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the director, Dr. Edwin L. Basilio, by phone at 619-260-4111 or by email at ebasilio@san Diego.edu for additional information. Thanks again for your interest in the Choral Scholars Program.

Dr. Edwin L. Basilio
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San Diego, CA 92110-2492