

National Student Audition Categories in NSA, Regions, Districts, and Chapters

The National Student Auditions begin at the region-level and progress to the national preliminary, semifinal, and final rounds. Region auditions should offer all of the categories contained in the “Category, Repertoire, Age, and Time Requirements” section of this document on pp 9 & 15. Singers may only advance to the National Student Audition from a regional audition. Exceptions to this regulation must be approved by the NSA Coordinator, VP of Auditions, and NATS Executive Office staff. Winners of Chapter or District auditions may not be automatically advanced to the National Student Auditions.



Audition Category Terminology

CATEGORY	Categories are defined by voice type. Treble: Soprano, Mezzo-Soprano, Contralto, Countertenor Voices 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 1 TBB: Tenor, Baritone, Bass Voices 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12
CATEGORY NUMBERS	Categories numbers also reflect the student's level of study. Children–Middle School 1 & 2 , High School (HS) 3 & 4 , Lower: one–two years post-HS 5 & 6 , Upper: three–five years post-HS 7 & 8 , Advanced: post-undergraduate 9 & 10 , Other Adults 11 & 12
LENGTH OF STUDY	Length of Study in Selection of Appropriate Category of Entry Total voice study with a voice teacher (NATS Member or Non NATS Member) either in an independent studio or collegiate/conservatory program or in any combination of them is a determining factor in post-high school categories only. Post-High School Study: Lower: any one or two years of post-high school study, all as an undergraduate. Upper: any three to five years of post-high school study, all as an undergraduate. Counting years of study begins with the first day of post-high school study—meaning the first year of study is in progress. For example, a student in an undergraduate program in their fifth semester of voice study is in their third year of study. Any reasonable portion of a year will be counted as one year—even if the singer stops taking weekly lessons during a portion of that year, excepting if the singer is ill and unable or forbidden to sing during that time for medical reasons.
AGE LIMIT	Age limits are determined at the time of registration for singers in NATS auditions. Singers above the age limit of a category may not compete in that category. If an appropriate category is not available for a singer above the age limit, the singer may sing in that category for comments only. The age and years of study for NSA categories are determined at the regional audition and remain the same during that audition season.
REPERTOIRE	High school aged categories and younger in Chapter and District auditions may require two or three selections as best serves the needs and tradition of the Chapter or District. Regional and National Auditions will require three selections in all High School Categories.
AUDITIONING TEACHER-MEMBERS	NATS teacher-members who meet the requirements of a student audition category in terms of their age and years of study—may enter student auditions through the NATS member with whom they are currently studying, but they may not enter themselves in the audition. If they enter their students in the audition, they must be available to adjudicate a category in addition to auditioning.