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## SMFA Adjudicator requirements

It is a little difficult to pinpoint what it takes to be an adjudicator, but the essentials are as follows.

1. **Education:** a university music degree OR an Associate diploma or certificate in music, such as the ARCT from RCM, Conservatory Canada, or CNCM. It is also an asset if there is ongoing professional development such as participation in workshops, conferences, or presentation of workshops or clinics.
2. **Experience:** While performing is advantageous, teaching experience is very important. It is helpful to have taught all levels of students (from beginners to seniors) at one time or another in an adjudicator's career, however, many experienced professionals teach primarily at one level. It is also an asset if the teacher enters students in music festivals because they will be familiar with the system. This should be indicated to SMFA to aid in the proper placement at a festival.
3. **Professionalism:** Adjudicators not only represent themselves as professional educators/performers, but when they are adjudicating for SMFA, in a sense they also represent the organization for which they are working. They should treat all competitors fairly and respectfully, and be prepared to offer suggestions and constructive criticism - for technical and/or artistic aspects of the performance. Students and teachers enter music festivals to learn something, not merely be praised for their achievements (though that too is important).
4. **Preparation:** Adjudicators should be familiar with the regulations that govern the competition and become familiar with the repertoire they will be judging.
5. **Versatility:** Often we require one adjudicator who is knowledgeable about more than one discipline, especially for some of the smaller festivals, even if they can only comment on the musicality of a performance, rather than the technicality.
6. **Communication:** Obviously, adjudicators have to be able to clearly communicate their comments, or to demonstrate either themselves or with the students. Good written and verbal communication is a strong asset.

## How to become an adjudicator

- Attend SMFA's Adjudicator Professional Development Day (offered annually)
- Request to join an Adjudicator Bootcamp Webinar (offered annually)
- Send in Adjudicator Application including your current bio and photo  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AdjudicatorApplication>
- Contact the SMFA Adjudicator Liaison each year to inform them of your availability as well as any updates to your qualifications or training
- Additionally, you could gain knowledge and experience by:
  - volunteering as an adjudicator secretary at local festival
  - requesting an Adjudicator Shadowing assignment