

THE FIELD

The Department of Music offers diverse areas of concentration for students who wish to obtain a professional degree in the field. The department also offers a music minor and has a number of music courses for non-music majors, including music theory, music appreciation, jazz history, African American music, American popular music, and the lively arts. In addition, nearly 20 vocal and instrumental ensembles are available to students through an audition procedure held during the first week of each semester. Visit the Department of Music website for audition information (umass.edu/music).

Music majors may pursue secondary education certification in conjunction with the major. For more information, see the music education concentration described below, as well as the education major sheet, website, or the Guide to Undergraduate Programs (umass.edu/education; umass.edu/ug_programguide).

THE MAJOR

The music major can lead to a bachelor of music (BMus) or a bachelor of arts (BA).

The BMus is a performance-intensive degree designed as preparation for a professional career in music performance or education. The BA has a less performance-intensive curriculum, designed as part of a liberal arts and/or scholarship-focused educational experience. Students wishing to pursue either degree must audition (*see exceptions). Audition dates and requirements are available on the Department of Music website (umass.edu/music).

COMMON CORE REQUIREMENTS

All BMus and BA programs require courses in theory, aural skills, music history, and ensembles. Applied lessons are also required for BA-Music, BA-JAAMS, and all BMus programs.

BACHELOR OF MUSIC

In addition to the common core, the BMus requires courses in piano, conducting, and applied music, as well as the completion of a concentration (see below). BMus students are not subject to the foreign language requirements of the College of Humanities and Fine Arts. However, some BMus concentrations include a two-semester foreign language requirement.

There are four concentration areas in the BMus program; each requires special courses. The concentrations are:

Performance (Classical)—Twenty-eight hours (eight semesters) of applied lessons and the performance of junior and senior recitals are required. This concentration prepares students for careers as professional musicians. Graduates may also teach privately or at the college level. Music performance is the most restricted of all music fields. Full-time career opportunities are highly competitive.

Composition—This concentration is primarily concerned with compositional techniques and practices of Western classical music. The program prepares students for graduate work in composition. Those holding advanced degrees in composition often teach at the college level or compose in the private sector.

Music Education—Students complete courses in music education methods, instrumental and vocal techniques, and student teaching. Students must earn a grade of C or higher in approved professional courses. The curriculum prepares students for initial licensure to teach music in the public schools, grades PreK–12. Admission to, and completion of, the concentration requires passing scores on the Massachusetts Tests of Educator Licensure (MTEL).

Jazz and African American Music (BA-JAAMS)—The program in jazz performance requires junior and senior recitals, as well as courses in jazz history, African American music, jazz arranging and composition, jazz theory and improvisation, instrument- and voice-related classes, and applied lessons. Students also participate in a broad range of performance styles and ensembles, which is of great use when entering professional careers. As in all performance areas, full-time opportunities are highly competitive.

BACHELOR OF ARTS

In addition to completing specified elements of the common core, students pursuing a BA with a major in music must complete the requirements of the College of Humanities and Fine Arts, including a foreign language through the Intermediate II level.

There are four areas of emphasis in the BA (Music) program; each requires special courses. The areas of emphasis are:

Music (Classical Performance)—Twelve hours (six semesters) of applied lessons, optional recitals.

Music History—The study of music history as a profession requires advance music history courses and a senior thesis. The program prepares students for graduate work in musicology. Advanced degrees in this area are required for college-level teaching.

*In lieu of an audition, a writing sample is required for admission.

Music Theory—This area is primarily concerned with theoretical techniques of Western classical music. The program prepares students for graduate work in music theory. Advanced degrees in this area are required for college-level teaching.

*In lieu of an audition, a diagnostic exam is required for admission.

Jazz and African American Music—Six semesters of applied lessons, optional recitals.

HONORS

Students may pursue honors opportunities within the major. Contact the department's honors program director for more information.

STUDY ABROAD

Music majors may choose to study abroad if it supports their academic and career goals. Students should contact the International Programs Office (413-545-2710, umass.edu/ipo) and work closely with their academic advisor to choose the appropriate courses in preparation.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

For career opportunities with a BMus, see the concentration descriptions.

COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES AND FINE ARTS

The humanities focus on human creativity, endeavor, and culture. The imaginative and creative arts—literary and performing—derive from life and teach about human behavior and constructs of social reality. The history of social, political, and economic systems illuminates and shapes the present and the future. Students in the College of Humanities and Fine Arts are expected to broaden their perspectives on individual and cultural expressions within their own and other societies, to understand the development and evolution of the discipline of study in relation to the culture from which it emanates, and to learn the methods by which knowledge in the discipline is gained.

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