Music, B.A.

Learning Outcomes

Graduates of the B.A. program in music will be able to:

• demonstrate the ability to hear, identify, and work conceptually with the rhythmic, melodic, harmonic, and structural elements of music;
• identify compositional processes, aesthetic properties of style, and artistic and cultural forces in music;
• demonstrate a broad acquaintance with music literature, musical genres, and cultural sources;
• demonstrate the ability to read and write critically about music; and
• demonstrate the ability to sight read, prepare for performance, interpret, and perform both solo and ensemble music in a variety of musical styles.

Overview

The Bachelor of Arts with a major in music is intended for undergraduates who have a strong background in music, and who wish to major in music as part of a broad liberal arts education irrespective of specific career aspirations. The curriculum includes musicianship, performance, and electives.

The program is designed for students who have solid abilities and interest in music but are not planning on careers as musicians, or for those who wish to pursue a double major or earn more than one bachelor’s degree. Students must audition and be accepted into a performance area. They develop musicianship, performance skills, and select from a wide variety of music electives.

Students in many areas, from engineering and physics to history, art, and English, find that a B.A. in music is a good addition to their studies. Other students pursue the degree to complement course work in business (especially the minor in business administration), a world language and literature, or interdisciplinary fields such as American studies. Some students combine their B.A. with undergraduate preparation to study law or medicine.

Financial Support

A number of music performance-based merit scholarships are available to qualified undergraduate music majors. All music majors with scholarships must enroll in a major ensemble and studio lessons each semester. For information, contact the School of Music.

Requirements

The Bachelor of Arts with a major in music requires a minimum of 120 s.h., including 42-47 s.h. of work for the major. Students must maintain a g.p.a. of at least 2.00 in all courses for the major and in all UI courses for the major. B.A. students majoring in music may count a maximum of 56 s.h. earned in music courses toward their degree and they must earn at least 64 s.h. in course work outside of the School of Music in order to graduate. They also must complete the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences GE CLAS Core. Students must satisfy all requirements for graduation; contact the School of Music and the Academic Advising Center to learn more.

All undergraduate enrollments require School of Music approval. Entering first-year and transfer students who plan to major in music must be accepted into a performance area through audition either in person or by recording before they register. All entering students must complete the online theory diagnostic examination for MUS:1201 Musicianship and Theory I and a piano proficiency exam to determine appropriate placement in related courses.

Transfer students admitted to the School of Music must complete a minimum of one year of applied music (lower or upper level) and one year of major ensemble at the University of Iowa in order to earn a degree in music. Transfer students who have not completed the equivalent of the four-semester sequence of Musicianship and Theory I-IV (MUS:1201, MUS:1202, MUS:2203, and MUS:2204) must complete a theory diagnostic exam to determine appropriate placement in the musicianship and theory sequence. Transfer students who have not completed the equivalent of two semesters of class piano or a piano proficiency exam must meet piano proficiency requirements at the University of Iowa.

All music majors with scholarships must participate in a major ensemble and studio lessons each semester.

The B.A. with a major in music requires the following course work.

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MUS:1200</td>
<td>Fundamentals of Music for Majors (or successful completion of MUS:1201 online theory diagnostic examination)</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>MUS:1201</td>
<td>Musicianship and Theory I</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUS:1202</td>
<td>Musicianship and Theory II</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUS:1211</td>
<td>Group Instruction in Piano I</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUS:1212</td>
<td>Group Instruction in Piano II</td>
<td>1</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

To register for MUS:1201 Musicianship and Theory I, students also must register for MUS:1211 Group Instruction in Piano I or already have completed that course or have been exempted from it by proficiency exam. To register for MUS:1202 Musicianship and Theory II, students also must register for MUS:1212 Group Instruction in Piano II or already have completed that course or have been exempted from it by proficiency exam. Transfer students should complete the group piano requirement during their first year in residence unless they are exempted by proficiency exam.

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tr>
<td>MUS:1210</td>
<td>Recital Attendance (taken two semesters for 1 s.h. each)</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Lower-level applied music</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Major ensemble (minimum of four semesters)</td>
<td>4</td>
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Major ensembles include MUS:1176 Women's Chorale, MUS:3160 Symphony Band/Concert Band, MUS:3170 Kantorei, MUS:3172 Camerata Singers, MUS:3174 University Choir, and MUS:3180 Orchestra. With approval, students may use MUS:3730 Jazz Band to satisfy the major ensemble requirement. Any student who wishes to request adjustment of the major ensemble requirement must submit a request in writing to a review committee consisting of the ensemble director(s) involved, the studio instructor, and the associate director for undergraduate studies.
University of Iowa Honors Program

In addition to honors in the major, students have opportunities for honors study and activities through membership in the University of Iowa Honors Program. Visit Honors at Iowa to learn about the University’s honors program.

Membership in the UI Honors Program is not required to earn honors in the music major.

Academic Plans

Four-Year Graduation Plan

The following checkpoints list the minimum requirements students must complete by certain semesters in order to stay on the University’s Four-Year Graduation Plan.

In addition to the requirements listed under the checkpoints, all students must complete 2 s.h. in applied music and 1 s.h. in a major ensemble each semester.

The Bachelor of Arts in music requires 42-47 s.h. in School of Music courses.

Before the third semester begins: 15-18 s.h. of course work in the major, including MUS:1201 Musicianship and Theory I, MUS:1202 Musicianship and Theory II, MUS:1211 Group Instruction in Piano I, and MUS:1212 Group Instruction in Piano II

Before the fifth semester begins: at least 23-32 s.h. of course work in the major

Before the seventh semester begins: at least 33-41 s.h. of course work in the major and at least 90 s.h. earned toward the degree

Before the eighth semester begins: at least 40-46 s.h. of course work in the major

During the eighth semester: enrollment in all remaining course work in the major, all remaining GE CLAS Core courses, and a sufficient number of semester hours to graduate

Career Advancement

The Pomerantz Career Center offers multiple resources to help students find internships and jobs.

Honors

Honors in the Major

Students have the opportunity to graduate with honors in the major. Members of the School of Music honors program must have a g.p.a. of at least 3.80 in music course work.

To graduate with honors, students must complete at least 6 s.h. of honors work in music, normally in their junior and senior years. They must earn a minimum of 3 s.h. of the required honors work in MUS:4995 Honors in Music by completing one or more honors projects, such as solo or ensemble recitals; compositions, transcriptions, orchestrations, or arrangements; and essays, research papers, editions, or translations. Honors projects must be in addition to the projects normally required for graduation with a major in music.

Students also may earn honors credit in other honors courses (normally upper-level undergraduate courses) or in approved graduate courses (music history and music theory are particularly recommended).

For complete details about requirements for graduation with honors in the music major, visit Honors in Music on the School of Music website and consult the school’s honors advisor.

National Honor Society

The School of Music sponsors a chapter of Pi Kappa Lambda, the national music honor society. Students of exceptional ability are recommended for membership by faculty members. For more information, consult the School of Music honors advisor.