

# College Music Major Coursework

While the specific course requirements varies depending upon the school and degree, in general, the following represents the five categories of course work for most undergraduate music degree programs:

## Skill in music theory and aural perception

- Music Theory\* (4-6 Semesters)
- Aural Skills\* (4-6 Semesters)
- Piano\* (2-4 Semesters)

\* AP Music Theory credit and/or achievement on Proficiency Exams are often offered and accounted for.

## Knowledge in the field of music history and literature

- Music History (3-5 Semesters)
- World Music (0-2 Semesters)

## Competence in their chosen performance area

- Applied Music Study w/ Recital Requirements (8 Semesters)
- Music Ensemble(s) (8 Semesters)

## Training and experience within specialized area (a few examples listed below)

- Music Performance Major
  - Pedagogy, Repertoire, Composition, Conducting, Junior & Senior Recital Required, Electives (Jazz Studies, Arranging, Early Performance Practices, Instrument Repair, etc.)
- Music Education Major
  - Secondary Instruments and/or Vocal Pedagogy, Elementary/Middle/High School Music Education, Philosophy and History of Education, Conducting, Educational Psychology, Practicum and Observation (100 hours), Student Teaching (1 Semester off campus), Certification Exams, Electives (Music Technology, Music for Special Learners, etc.)
- Music Business Major
  - Elementary/Middle/High School Music Education, Music Technology, Business Classes (Math, Accounting, Marketing, Advertising, Law, Social Media and Design, etc.), Instrument Repair and Maintenance, Off-campus internship
- Music Therapy Major
  - Special Education, Psychology, Psychotherapy, Anatomy/Physiology, Guitar, Percussion, Communication, Clinical observation/training/experience (usually 1000 hours), Electives

## General College/University/Conservatory Graduation Requirements

- All colleges and universities have additional institutional general liberal arts requirements accounting for science, math, history, English/literature, communication, etc.
- Conservatory vs. College/University:

Conservatories are small schools that offer programs addressing a very specific area of study--in our case, music--with an intensely focused curriculum. While most conservatories are associated with a larger college/university, and therefore undergraduate students have often have some liberal arts requirements, the rest of the coursework and graduation requirements are centered on music. Major emphases are placed on students' private weekly lessons with their assigned faculty member and opportunities for performance. Conservatories are most appropriate for students who are quite focused on performance or composition as a career. Colleges and universities, on the other hand, offer a much broader range of programs and majors and may require additional general education courses as part of their curriculum.