

Bachelor of Music in Music Composition

A total of 120 credit hours (45 at the Jr/Sr level 300+) is required and is designed to further the student's knowledge, practice, and experience in music composition. To graduate, a student must earn a minimum grade-point average of 3.0 in all major courses and a minimum average of 2.0 in all course work.

Students will study with faculty members who are nationally and internationally recognized. Courses in music theory and musicology are part of the exploration of music as are private instruction, ensemble and chamber music opportunities. All students pursuing the B.M. degree will perform a senior recital on their primary instrument/voice.

With this degree, students can go on to pursue graduate studies in music, or create their own paths in music or music-related endeavors.

Instrumental Ensemble Policy

In order to remain enrolled in studio instruction (lessons), all undergraduate (B.A. & B.M.) and M.M. students who enroll in any level of studio instruction (including nonmajor levels) in band and orchestral instruments must audition for and perform as assigned in a major instrumental ensemble¹ each semester in which they are enrolled. For music majors, 1 ensemble taken for credit each semester is required for graduation. Exceptions to this policy are allowed on a case-by-case basis and only by the ensemble conductor in consultation with the faculty member in the studio area or the faculty advisor in music therapy as appropriate.

¹ Symphony Orchestra, Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, Marching Band, or Jazz Ensemble I. University Band or University Orchestra if placed by audition.

Undergraduate Admission to the School of Music

First-year students should enter the school directly. Students may transfer to the school from other institutions or from other KU schools if they have at least a 2.75 GPA (on a 4.0 scale) and are eligible to return to the college or university last attended in addition to completing a successful audition. Other students can be admitted only with the permission of the dean. Send applications to the Office of Admissions (<http://admissions.ku.edu/>). Visit the Office of International Admissions (<https://world.ku.edu/apply/>) for information about international admissions.

Students who wish to major in music must audition. All music students academically approved for admission to the School of Music are admitted contingent upon demonstration by audition of satisfactory level proficiency in their areas of applied music. Music audition and application information is available on the School of Music website (<http://music.ku.edu/admission/>). There is a limit of two times a prospective student may request an audition for entrance into one of the School's undergraduate degree programs. The second request must be within 12 months of the first and may be as early as 1 month following the first audition. The limitation also applies to students within the School auditioning from one program into another.

Transfer Students

Students may transfer to the school from other institutions or from other KU schools if they have at least a 2.75 GPA (on a 4.0 scale), are eligible to return to the college or university last attended, and complete a successful audition. Only grades of C or higher are accepted in transfer credit toward degrees offered by the School of Music. Students who wish to transfer performance credit from another institution toward any music degree at KU must validate this credit by audition. Music audition and application information is available on the School of Music website (<http://music.ku.edu/admission/>). There is a limit of two times a prospective student may request an audition for entrance into one of the School's undergraduate degree programs. The second request must be within 12 months of the first and may be as early as 1 month following the first audition. The limitation also applies to students within the School auditioning from one program into another.

Keyboard Skills Placement Examination:

If a student has a background in piano playing, they may choose to take one or more Piano Quiz-Out tests. Successfully passing a Quiz-Out will exempt a student from having to take a particular class in the PIAN sequence (PIAN 144, PIAN 148, PIAN 284, PIAN 288, and PIAN 310). Students should check with their advisor about how this will impact their particular degree requirements.

Freshmen and transfer students with no previous piano study experience should enroll in PIAN 144. No examination or permission number is necessary. Students should check with their advisor about their particular degree requirements.

More information about the Keyboard Skills Placement Examination including deadlines is available on the School of Music website (<https://music.ku.edu/entrance-exams/>).

Music Composition

To graduate, the student must maintain a minimum grade-point average of 3.0 in music theory and composition courses on both the first- and second-year and the junior/senior levels.

Students majoring in music composition (B.A. or B.M.) must complete MTHC 105, MTHC 106, MTHC 115, MTHC 116, and MTHC 205 before preparing a portfolio of their work for application to the professional sequence. The earliest a student may submit a portfolio is the fourth semester. Transfer students must be in residence for at least 1 semester before they can submit a portfolio.

This portfolio must include recent work (musical compositions for composers), 2 letters of recommendation (1 from the student's major instrument instructor and 1 from a MTHC professor who has had the student in a class), and a minimum grade-point average of 3.0 in MTHC courses. The student may be asked to provide a demonstration of musicality on his or her major instrument.

Portfolios are accepted once each semester for admission to the professional sequence the following semester. The portfolio is assessed by the MTHC faculty with one of 3 recommendations: admit, revise and resubmit next semester, or denied. Students in composition are not allowed to enroll in MTHC 583 Composition and MTHC 498 Undergraduate Recital without a favorable recommendation from the faculty.

B.M. Degree Requirements for the Music Composition Major

Students with a major in composition must offer in partial fulfillment of the degree requirements a recital of approximately 45 minutes duration consisting of original works in various media (MTHC 498). MTHC 499 is not required for the B.M. in Music Composition.

Pianists and organists take 16 credits of lessons (2 credits per semester) and do not take the additional 8 credits of piano, organ, and/or harpsichord lessons, while all other instrumentalists or vocalists take only 8 credits of lessons (1 credit per semester) and the additional 8 credits of the piano proficiency course sequence (PIAN 144, PIAN 148, PIAN 284, PIAN 288) and/or piano, organ, and/or harpsichord lessons.

A minimum of 120 hours (45 at the Jr/Sr level 300+) is required for the degree in Music Composition, distributed as follows:

Code	Title	Hours
Music Theory		
MTHC 105	Theory I (concurrent with MTHC 106)	3
MTHC 106	Aural Skills I	1
MTHC 115	Theory II (concurrent with MTHC 116)	3
MTHC 116	Aural Skills II	1
MTHC 205	Theory III	4
MTHC 315	Theory IV	4
MTHC 410	Form and Analysis	3
MTHC 433	Advanced Analysis of Contemporary Music	3
MTHC 442	Modal Counterpoint	3
MTHC 471	Tonal Counterpoint	3
MTHC 474	Orchestration I	3
MTHC 476	Orchestration II	3
MTHC 477	Electro-Acoustic Composition I	3
MTHC 480	Electro-Acoustic Composition II	3
Music Composition		
MTHC 252	Introduction to Composition	2
MTHC 253	Composition	2
MTHC 583	Composition (minimum 3 semesters)	6
MTHC 498	Undergraduate Recital	1
Music History		
MUSC 320	Music History I	3
MUSC 340	Music History II	3
MUSC 440	Music History III	3
MUSC 480	Music History IV	3
Music Courses		
Applied music lessons: 8 semesters instrument/voice (1 credit each) plus piano or 8 semesters piano/organ/harpsichord (2 credits each)		16
REC 100	Laboratory in Music Performance (2 semesters required satisfactorily completed)	0
COND 245	Conducting I	2
Ensembles 8 semesters for credit each semester		8
Basic Courses		
ENGL 101	Composition (or any course that fulfills GE21)	3
ENGL 102	Critical Reading and Writing (or any course that fulfills GE21)	3

COMS 130	Speaker-Audience Communication (or any course that fulfills GE22)	3
MATH 101	College Algebra: _____ (or any course that fulfills GE22)	3
FREN, GERM or ITAL: 2 semesters of same language		10
Natural Science: any course that fulfills GE3N		3
Social Science: any course that fulfills GE3S		3
PHIL 160	Introduction to Ethics (or any course that fulfills AE51 or AE52)	3
Total Hours		120

Non-Keyboard Emphasis/Instrument/Voice

Freshman

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
MTHC 105	3	MTHC 115	3
MTHC 106	1	MTHC 116	1
121 Studio lessons	1	121 Studio lessons	1
Ensemble	1	Ensemble	1
PIAN 144 (if placed, or PIAN lessons)	1	PIAN 148 (if placed, or PIAN lessons)	1
REC 100	0	REC 100	0
ENGL 101 (or any course that fulfills GE21)	3	ENGL 102 (or any course that fulfills GE21)	3
FREN, GERM or ITAL (2 semesters same language)	5	FREN, GERM or ITAL (continue the same language)	5
		15	15

Sophomore

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
MTHC 205	4	MTHC 315	4
MTHC 252	2	MTHC 253	2
MUSC 320	3	MUSC 340	3
221 Studio lessons	1	221 Studio lessons	1
Ensemble	1	Ensemble	1
PIAN 284 (if placed, or PIAN lessons)	2	PIAN 288 (if placed, or PIAN lessons)	2
COMS 130 (or any course that fulfills GE22)	3	MATH 101 (or any course that fulfills GE12)	3
		16	16

Junior

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
MTHC 410	3	MTHC 433	3
MTHC 583	2	MTHC 442	3
MUSC 440	3	MTHC 583	2
COND 245	2	MUSC 480	3
321 Studio lessons	1	321 Studio lessons	1
Ensemble	1	Ensemble	1
Natural Science: any course that fulfills GE3N	3	PIAN/ORGN/HPCD lessons	2
		15	15

Senior

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
MTHC 471	3	MTHC 476	3

MTHC 474	3 MTHC 498	1
MTHC 477	3 MTHC 480	3
MTHC 583	2 MTHC 583 (optional)	2
422 Studio lessons	1 422 Studio lessons/senior recital	1
Ensemble	1 Ensemble	1
Social Science: any course that fulfills GE3S	3 Ethics: any course that fulfills AE51 or AE52	3
	16	14

Total Hours 122

Piano/Organ/Keyboard Emphasis

Freshman

Fall	Hours Spring	Hours
MTHC 105	3 MTHC 115	3
MTHC 106	1 MTHC 116	1
121 Studio lessons	2 121 Studio lessons	2
Ensemble	1 Ensemble	1
REC 100	0 REC 100	0
ENGL 101 (or any course that fulfills GE21)	3 ENGL 102 (or any course that fulfills GE21)	3
FREN, GERM or ITAL (2 semesters same language)	5 FREN, GERM or ITAL (continue the same language)	5
	15	15

Sophomore

Fall	Hours Spring	Hours
MTHC 205	4 MTHC 315	4
MTHC 252	2 MTHC 253	2
MUSC 320	3 MUSC 340	3
221 Studio lessons	2 221 Studio lessons	2
Ensemble	1 Ensemble	1
COMS 130 (or any course that fulfills GE22)	3 MATH 101 (or any course that fulfills GE12)	3
	15	15

Junior

Fall	Hours Spring	Hours
MTHC 410	3 MTHC 433	3
MTHC 583	2 MTHC 442	3
MUSC 440	3 MTHC 583	2
COND 245	2 MUSC 480	3
321 Studio lessons	2 Ensemble	1
Ensemble	1 321 Studio lessons	2
Natural Science: any course that fulfills GE3N	3	
	16	14

Senior

Fall	Hours Spring	Hours
MTHC 471	3 MTHC 476	3
MTHC 474	3 MTHC 498	1
MTHC 477	3 MTHC 480	3
MTHC 583	2 MTHC 583 (optional)	2

421 Studio lessons	2 422 Studio lessons/senior recital	2
Ensemble	1 Ensemble	1
Social Science: any course that fulfills GE3S	3 Ethics: any course that fulfills AE51 or AE52	3
	17	15

Total Hours 122