

Bachelor of Music (Composition)

About This Program

The objective of Bachelor of Music in Composition is to prepare the Composition major for graduate school or freelance composing.

An audition or permission of the instructor is required for all large ensembles. All University students, regardless of major, are permitted to audition for and participate in all music department ensembles: concert bands, marching band, jazz ensembles, choirs, and orchestra.

This program is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music (NASM).

Competencies

1. Upon completion, students will develop competency in the use of basic concepts, tools, techniques, and procedures to develop a composition from concept to finished product, including the ability to work with a variety of media, styles, and forms; to use and develop notations; and to apply principles of scoring appropriate to specific compositions.
2. Upon completion, students will achieve mastery in the ability to compose in different styles and forms, as well as scoring for voices and instruments.
3. Upon completion, students will develop competency in keyboard skills, spoken and written language, conducting and rehearsal skills, analytical techniques, and applicable technologies.

Admissions Criteria

All prospective music majors must audition for proper placement in their respective performance areas and take a music theory placement test. Information concerning auditions and placement tests is available in the Music Office. Students returning after two long semesters away from University must re-audition and be re-admitted to the department. Exceptions are if student has previously completed all required private lessons and recitals.

All Bachelor of Music majors are required to pass the sophomore proficiency exam on their major instrument. For transfer students who transfer in at least four semesters of lessons and meet the proficiency requirements, the audition may serve as the proficiency exam. For transfer students who do not meet the necessary proficiency requirements, they will be enrolled in [MUSI 2223](https://catalog.uta.edu/archives/2025-2026/search/?P=MUSI%202223) (<https://catalog.uta.edu/archives/2025-2026/search/?P=MUSI%202223>) for applied lessons. Transfer students may take [MUSI 2223](https://catalog.uta.edu/archives/2025-2026/search/?P=MUSI%202223) (<https://catalog.uta.edu/archives/2025-2026/search/?P=MUSI%202223>) for as many semesters as they have transfer credits from another institution.

For example, if a student transfers in four semesters of lessons, they may take [MUSI 2223](https://catalog.uta.edu/archives/2025-2026/search/?P=MUSI%202223) (<https://catalog.uta.edu/archives/2025-2026/search/?P=MUSI%202223>) up to four times, but they may attempt the proficiency exam at the end of any semester if they are ready. If a transfer student transfers in three semesters of lessons, they may be placed in the fourth semester of the lesson sequence or in [MUSI 2223](https://catalog.uta.edu/archives/2025-2026/search/?P=MUSI%202223) (<https://catalog.uta.edu/archives/2025-2026/search/?P=MUSI%202223>). The lesson sequence is defined as the required list of applied lessons required under an individual student's degree plan. That student could take [MUSI 2223](https://catalog.uta.edu/archives/2025-2026/search/?P=MUSI%202223) (<https://catalog.uta.edu/archives/2025-2026/search/?P=MUSI%202223>) a total of three times or, with instructor approval, could move to the fourth semester of lessons after one or two semester(s) of [MUSI 2223](https://catalog.uta.edu/archives/2025-2026/search/?P=MUSI%202223) (<https://catalog.uta.edu/archives/2025-2026/search/?P=MUSI%202223>). Once a transfer student enters the lesson sequence, they are no longer eligible for placement in [MUSI 2223](https://catalog.uta.edu/archives/2025-2026/search/?P=MUSI%202223) (<https://catalog.uta.edu/archives/2025-2026/search/?P=MUSI%202223>).

Students can only attempt the proficiency exam two times. If they fail the sophomore proficiency exam the first time (either in [MUSI 2223](https://catalog.uta.edu/archives/2025-2026/search/?P=MUSI%202223) (<https://catalog.uta.edu/archives/2025-2026/search/?P=MUSI%202223>) or [MUSI 22XX](https://catalog.uta.edu/archives/2025-2026/search/?P=MUSI%2022XX)), they will receive a grade of Incomplete (I) for the semester, and they will be required to enroll in [MUSI 2222](https://catalog.uta.edu/archives/2025-2026/search/?P=MUSI%202222) (<https://catalog.uta.edu/archives/2025-2026/search/?P=MUSI%202222>) the following semester. At the end of [MUSI 2222](https://catalog.uta.edu/archives/2025-2026/search/?P=MUSI%202222) (<https://catalog.uta.edu/archives/2025-2026/search/?P=MUSI%202222>), students will be required to attempt the proficiency exam for a last time. If students do not successfully pass the proficiency exam, they will not be allowed to remain a Bachelor of Music major. If they pass the second attempt at the sophomore proficiency, their grade for fourth-semester lessons ([MUSI 22XX](https://catalog.uta.edu/archives/2025-2026/search/?P=MUSI%2022XX)) or preparatory lessons ([MUSI 2223](https://catalog.uta.edu/archives/2025-2026/search/?P=MUSI%202223) (<https://catalog.uta.edu/archives/2025-2026/search/?P=MUSI%202223>)) will be changed to the grade earned in their first attempt at [22XX/2223](https://catalog.uta.edu/archives/2025-2026/search/?P=MUSI%2022XX). If the student fails their second attempt at the sophomore proficiency, their grade for fourth-semester lessons ([MUSI 22XX](https://catalog.uta.edu/archives/2025-2026/search/?P=MUSI%2022XX)) or preparatory lessons ([MUSI 2223](https://catalog.uta.edu/archives/2025-2026/search/?P=MUSI%202223) (<https://catalog.uta.edu/archives/2025-2026/search/?P=MUSI%202223>)) will automatically be changed to "F."

All Bachelor of Music students are required to enroll in a large ensemble each semester in residence. Any student not enrolled in a large ensemble by the end of Late Registration will be given a warning and advised to do so, and students that are still not registered in a large ensemble after Census date may be removed from the music program and required to re-audition in a subsequent semester in order to be re-admitted. Ensembles that meet this requirement, as well as any minimum requirements for number(s) of semester in specific ensembles, are determined by each degree plan. Residence is defined as any semester that a student is enrolled in any private lesson section or enrolled in 6 or more semester hours at the university, except during student teaching or music industry studies internship.

All students are strongly urged to refer to the sections on Academic Regulations and Degree Programs in the current UT Arlington Undergraduate Catalog. Students seeking teacher certification should read the College of Education section of this catalog concerning admission to teacher education programs and state requirements for certification.

In addition to fulfilling University and the College of Liberal Arts requirements for admission to a degree program, students planning to be music majors must also fulfill the listed Music Department requirements.

Students should expect, in addition to attending weekly private lessons, a minimum preparation (individual practice) of five hours per week in courses granting two hours credit, 10 hours per week in courses granting three hours credit, and 12 hours per week in courses granting four hours credit.

Bachelor of Music Students must complete their lesson sequence before they can take elective lessons ([MUSI 0171](https://catalog.uta.edu/archives/2025-2026/search/?P=MUSI%200171) (<https://catalog.uta.edu/archives/2025-2026/search/?P=MUSI%200171>) or [MUSI 0271](https://catalog.uta.edu/archives/2025-2026/search/?P=MUSI%200271) (<https://catalog.uta.edu/archives/2025-2026/search/?P=MUSI%200271>)) on their primary instrument.

All private instruction, except [MUSI 0171](https://catalog.uta.edu/archives/2025-2026/search/?P=MUSI%200171) (<https://catalog.uta.edu/archives/2025-2026/search/?P=MUSI%200171>) or [MUSI 0271](https://catalog.uta.edu/archives/2025-2026/search/?P=MUSI%200271) (<https://catalog.uta.edu/archives/2025-2026/search/?P=MUSI%200271>), requires a jury.

Curriculum

Foundations		
General Core Requirements (https://catalog.uta.edu/academicregulations/degree requirements/generalcorerequirements/)		42
UNIV-LA 1000	FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCE	0
Music Specialization		
MUSI 1185	SIGHTSINGING AND EAR TRAINING I	1
MUSI 1186	SIGHTSINGING AND EAR TRAINING II	1
MUSI 1325	THEORY AND HARMONY I	3
MUSI 1326	THEORY AND HARMONY II	3
MUSI 2185	SIGHTSINGING AND EAR TRAINING III	1
MUSI 2186	SIGHTSINGING AND EAR TRAINING IV	1
MUSI 2325	THEORY AND HARMONY III	3
MUSI 2326	THEORY AND HARMONY IV	3
MUSI 3300	MUSIC HISTORY I	3
MUSI 3301	MUSIC HISTORY II	3
MUSI 1180	FUNCTIONAL PIANO I	1
MUSI 1181	FUNCTIONAL PIANO II	1
MUSI 2180	FUNCTIONAL PIANO III	1
MUSI 2181	FUNCTIONAL PIANO IV	1
Select eight hours of performance concentration (in one instrument or voice)		8
MUSI 2227	COMPOSITION TECHNIQUES	2
MUSI 3302	FORM AND ANALYSIS	3
Choose six hours from:		6
MUSI 3303	COUNTERPOINT	
MUSI 3308	INSTRUMENTAL CONDUCTING I	
or MUSI 3309	CHORAL CONDUCTING I	
MUSI 4350	20TH CENTURY FORM & TECHNIQUE	
MUSI 3392	COMPOSITION I	3
MUSI 3393	COMPOSITION II	3
MUSI 3394	DIGITAL MUSIC TECHNOLOGY	3
MUSI 4301	ORCHESTRATION	3
MUSI 4492	COMPOSITION III	4
MUSI 4493	COMPOSITION IV	4
MUSI 3127 & MUSI 3128	COMPUTER COMPOSITION I and COMPUTER COMPOSITION II	2
Select two hours from the following:		2
MUSI 1103	HIGH BRASS CLASS	
MUSI 1104	WOODWIND CLASS I	
MUSI 1105	VOICE CLASS	
MUSI 2103	STRING CLASS	
MUSI 2104	PERCUSSION CLASS	
Select two additional hours of performance concentration (in one instrument or voice)		2

MUSI 0174	SECONDARY KEYBOARD	1
MUSI 0174	SECONDARY KEYBOARD ¹	1
Select six hours of ensemble (any) with at least three hours in large ensemble		6
Program of original works		
Total Hours		121

¹ Keyboard concentrates must substitute MUSI 3243.

² Prepare and present original works.

ORAL COMMUNICATION AND COMPUTER USE COMPETENCE REQUIREMENTS

Students majoring in music are required to demonstrate computer use and oral communication competencies.

Computer use proficiency can be demonstrated by:

- successful completion of MUSI 3394; or
- successful completion of CSE 1301 or INSY 2303 INTRODUCTION TO M.I.S. AND DATA PROCESSING; or
- passing the University computer use competency exam.

Oral communication proficiency can be demonstrated by:

- successful completion of MUSI 3308 or MUSI 3309; or
- successful completion of one of the following:
 - COMS 1301 FUNDAMENTALS OF PUBLIC SPEAKING
 - COMS 2305 BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL COMMUNICATION
 - COMS 3315 COMMUNICATION FOR EDUCATORS

Students should discuss these options with their undergraduate advisor who may also provide a list of other courses approved by the University of meet these requirements.

Program Completion

Composition majors are required to prepare and present a public recital of original compositions. Students are responsible for recruiting performers to play their works, planning and organizing rehearsals, and ensuring all performers have clean printed copies of their music. Each piece is auditioned and critiqued by the instructor prior to the recital. Approval to present the recital is granted only after this process. Further assessment is given by the instructor after the recital has been presented. A good-quality recording is furnished to the student, and students are encouraged to engage in critical self-assessment.

All Bachelor of Music students are required to pass the Theory Proficiency exam.

Students must receive a C or better in all music courses in order to graduate. If a student does not earn a C or better, it may not count as a prerequisite for any other course.

If a student fails the same music degree-required course three times (making a D or F), the student must receive a C or better in their fourth attempt of the class or be dismissed from the Music program. They will not be permitted to take the course for credit at UT Arlington in subsequent semesters.

Advising Resources

All UTA Music Degrees require an audition for Music Department acceptance. First time in college students may contact the Music Department advisor for general degree information and will be advised in the department starting their second semester. Transfer students should contact the Music Department Advisor prior to acceptance for general degree information and again following a successful audition for acceptance into the UTA Music Department for academic advising and clearance to enroll. Students interested in the Music Minor should contact the Music Department advisor for the Minor course sheet, and Minor approval form, and may do so at any time in the semester.

Location:

Fine Arts 101C

Email:

Undergraduate: music@uta.edu

Graduate: musicgradadvisor@uta.edu

Phone:

817-272-3471

Web:

Degree information, Forms, and Advising (<https://www.uta.edu/academics/schools-colleges/liberal-arts/departments/music/current-students/undergraduate/>)