The Department of Music offers a bachelor's degree and a minor in music. Students may emphasize either Western Art Music or Jazz. The music major prepares students for graduate work in music or for a lifetime of musical participation, usually while pursuing a career in another field. Students planning on a career in music education must take two years beyond the BA at another institution in order to receive certification.

Students take classes in music theory, musicianship, music history, world music, and performance, in addition to the University’s general education requirements in other fields. They participate in performance through private lessons and in ensembles where they learn while making music with others in both formal and informal situations.

Students are taught by a faculty of internationally recognized scholars and composers and by a distinguished performance faculty devoted to the students’ growth as musicians.

Students contemplating a music major or minor should meet with the director of undergraduate studies and take the Music Theory placement exam in their freshman year. Ideally, they will do this in time to take Fundamentals of Western Music in the spring of their freshman year if necessary. The Music Theory placement exam is given in the School of Arts and Sciences Advising Center, 201 Thackeray Hall.

Required courses for the Music major
The music major requires the completion of 37 credits distributed as follows.

Prerequisite course
MUSIC 0100 Fundamentals of Western Music

Performance courses
Students are required to complete three terms of private lessons (one credit per term) and three terms of ensemble (one credit per term).

Choose one of the following tracks.

Music BA curriculum
MUSIC 0222 Western Music to 1750
MUSIC 0224 History of Western Music since 1750
MUSIC 0411 Theory 1
MUSIC 0412 Musicianship 1
MUSIC 0415 Theory 2
MUSIC 0416 Musicianship 2
MUSIC 0417 Theory 3
MUSIC 0418 Musicianship 3
MUSIC 0419 Theory 4
MUSIC 0420 Musicianship 4
MUSIC 1904 Senior Musician (with Senior Project **)

One of the following, taken during any term
MUSIC 1332 Music in Latin America
MUSIC 1340 Music in Africa
MUSIC 1352 Music in Southeast Africa
MUSIC 1354 Music in Asia

One elective from the following list
MUSIC 1222 Medieval and Early Renaissance
MUSIC 1224 Later Renaissance and Baroque
MUSIC 1226 Classical and Early Romantic
MUSIC 1228 Late Romantic and Early 20th Century
MUSIC 1230 Music since 1945
MUSIC 1320 Music in North America
MUSIC 1326 African-American Music in the United States
MUSIC 1332 Music in Latin America
MUSIC 1340 Music in Africa
MUSIC 1352 Music in Southeast Asia
MUSIC 1354 Music in Asia
MUSIC 1360 Global Popular Music
MUSIC 1394 Intercultural Music
MUSIC 1396 Music in Society
MUSIC 1398 Women and Music
MUSIC 1420 Composition 1
MUSIC 1421 Composition 2
MUSIC 1441 Electronic and Computer Music 1
MUSIC 1442 Electronic and Computer Music 1

Music BA Jazz concentration
MUSIC 0222 Western Music to 1750
MUSIC 0224 History of Western Music since 1750
MUSIC 0411 Theory 1
MUSIC 0412 Musicianship 1
MUSIC 0415 Theory 2
MUSIC 0416 Musicianship 2
MUSIC 0418 Musicianship 3
MUSIC 0419 Theory 4
MUSIC 0420 Musicianship 4
MUSIC 0711 History of Jazz *
MUSIC 1326 African American Music in the United States
MUSIC 1731 Jazz Arranging 1
MUSIC 1741 Jazz Improvisation 1
MUSIC 1904 Senior Seminar (with Senior Project **)

* No prerequisite; can be taken in the freshman year
** The Senior Project may consist of recital, a paper, an oral presentation, or other culminating project suitable to the interests and abilities of the student and guided by a faculty member.

Students must submit proposals to the director of undergraduate studies.
Grade requirements: A grade of B- or better is required in MUSIC 0100 in order to take other courses that count toward the major. Students may exempt this course based on their performance on the placement test. A minimum GPA of 2.0 in departmental courses is required for graduation.

Satisfactory/No Credit option: No course that counts toward the major can be taken on an S/NC basis.

Writing (W) requirement: Students must complete at least one W-course in the major.

Related area: A minimum of 12 credits is required in any one Arts and Sciences department chosen in consultation with the major advisor. The completion of an official Arts and Sciences minor or an Arts and Sciences or UCIS certificate also satisfies this requirement.

Credit by exam: It is possible to receive credit by examination for one or more of the Fundamentals of Western Music, Music Theory, and/or Musicianship courses. For additional information concerning this option, please consult the director of undergraduate studies and/or the course instructor.

Private lessons: All students interested in taking private lessons must complete a Request for Private Lessons form, available in the Music Building room 110. Music majors have first priority in scheduling private lessons, which cost an additional $325.00 per term.

Ensemble participation: Students are urged to participate in one of the ethno ensembles (MUSIC 0660 – MUSIC 0669) to fulfill one of the required ensemble credits.

Departmental honors: To graduate with departmental honors, a student must earn a minimum 3.25 GPA overall, a minimum 3.50 GPA in the music courses with no grade lower than a B-, take the department’s honors course (MUSIC 1904 Senior Seminar or other designated course), and complete a Senior Project for at least one credit.

Advising: Adriana Helbig
Director of Undergraduate Studies
MUSIC 306
412-624-4193
anh59@pitt.edu

Checklist for the Music major

Prerequisite course
______ MUSIC 0100

Required courses for the BA track
______ MUSIC 0222 (fall term) ¹
______ MUSIC 0224 (spring term) ¹
______ MUSIC 0411 (fall term)
______ MUSIC 0412 (fall term)
______ MUSIC 0415 (spring term)
______ MUSIC 0416 (spring term)
______ MUSIC 0417 (fall term)
______ MUSIC 0418 (fall term)
______ MUSIC 0419 (spring term)
______ MUSIC 0420 (spring term)
______ MUSIC 1904 (fall term)

One of the following
______ MUSIC 1332
______ MUSIC 1340
______ MUSIC 1352
______ MUSIC 1354

One elective from the following list
______ MUSIC 1200 series ¹
______ MUSIC 1300 series ¹
______ MUSIC 1400 series ¹

Required courses for the Jazz concentration
______ MUSIC 0222 (fall term) ²
______ MUSIC 0224 (spring term) ²
______ MUSIC 0411 (fall term)
______ MUSIC 0412 (fall term)
______ MUSIC 0415 (spring term)
______ MUSIC 0416 (spring term)
______ MUSIC 0418 (fall term)
______ MUSIC 0420 (spring term)
______ MUSIC 0711
______ MUSIC 1326 (spring term)
______ MUSIC 1731 (fall term)
______ MUSIC 1741 (spring term)
______ MUSIC 1904 (fall term)

1. The 0100-level courses must be completed prior to enrolling in a 1200-level or 1400-level MUSIC course.
2. These courses should not be taken until MUSIC 0411 and MUSIC 0415 have been completed.

Performance courses for the BA and Jazz concentration
______ MUSIC ______ (private lesson)
______ MUSIC ______ (private lesson)
______ MUSIC ______ (private lesson)
______ MUSIC ______ (ensemble)
______ MUSIC ______ (ensemble)
______ MUSIC ______ (ensemble)

Checklist for the Music minor

One of the following
______ MUSIC 0100
______ MUSIC 0411 (fall term)
______ MUSIC 0412 (fall term)
______ MUSIC ______ (ensemble)
______ MUSIC 0415 (spring term)
______ MUSIC 0416 (spring term)
______ MUSIC ______ (ensemble)

Note: Students must apply for any official minor they will complete or have completed at the time they apply for graduation.