

COMPOSITION MAJOR (B.M.)

<https://cola.unh.edu/music/program/bm/composition-major>

Description

If you dream of writing inspiring music for bands, orchestras, choirs, films, video games or innovative chamber ensembles, then the Bachelor of Music in composition is for you. The music composition degree program at UNH builds on a core set of classes in music theory, analysis and history, and places heavy emphasis on composition and continuing to develop your skills as a performer. The major is recommended for students considering a professional career in composition or graduate study leading to an advanced degree.

Requirements

Degree Requirements

Minimum Credit Requirement: 128 credits

Minimum Residency Requirement: 32 credits must be taken at UNH

Minimum GPA: 2.0 required for conferral*

Core Curriculum Required: Discovery & Writing Program Requirements

Foreign Language Requirement: No

All Major, Option and Elective Requirements as indicated.

*Major GPA requirements as indicated.

Major Requirements

All bachelor of music students are required to give a public performance during their senior year, which fulfills the Discovery Program capstone requirement:

For students in the composition option, a full lecture, lecture-recital or recital including at least one original composition is required.

Candidates for a degree must satisfy all of the University Discovery Program requirements in addition to satisfying the requirements of each individual major program. B.M. in music majors may use MUSI 502 Musics in Context (a required core course for the major) to satisfy the Inquiry Discovery category requirement, and MUSI 515 Music in World Cultures (a required core course for the major) to satisfy the World Cultures Discovery category requirement.

Music requirements must receive a grade of C- or better.

Code	Title	Credits
Core Curriculum		
MUSI 471 & MUSI 472	Theory I and Theory I	6
MUSI 473 & MUSI 474	Ear Training I and Ear Training I	2
MUSI 475 & MUSI 476	Functional Piano I and Functional Piano I ¹	2
MUSI 571 & MUSI 572	Theory II and Theory II	6
MUSI 573 & MUSI 574	Ear Training II and Ear Training II	2
MUSI 575 & MUSI 576	Functional Piano II and Functional Piano II ¹	2

MUSI 501 & MUSI 502	The Western Musical Canon and Musics in Context	6
MUSI 515	Music in World Cultures	4
MUSI 540	Recital Attendance	0
MUSI 691	Music Internship I	1-2
MUSI 731	Conducting	2
Advanced Music History:		3
MUSI 701	Topics in Music History	
Advanced Music Theory:		3
MUSI 781W	Analysis: Form and Structure	
Performance Study (Applied Lessons): select from the following courses		Variable
MUSI 541, MUSI 545, MUSI 546, MUSI 547, MUSI 548, MUSI 549, MUSI 550, MUSI 551, MUSI 552, MUSI 553, MUSI 554, MUSI 555, MUSI 556, MUSI 557, MUSI 558, MUSI 559, MUSI 560, MUSI 561, MUSI 562, MUSI 563, MUSI 564, MUSI 741, MUSI 745, MUSI 746, MUSI 747, MUSI 748, MUSI 749, MUSI 751, MUSI 752, MUSI 753, MUSI 754, MUSI 755, MUSI 756, MUSI 757, MUSI 758, MUSI 759, MUSI 760, MUSI 761, MUSI 762, MUSI 763, MUSI 764		
Performing Ensemble: select from the following courses		Variable
MUSI 441, MUSI 442, MUSI 448, MUSI 450, MUSI 452, MUSI 453, MUSI 454, MUSI 455, MUSI 456, MUSI 457, MUSI 459, MUSI 460, MUSI 462, MUSI 463, MUSI 464		
Total Credits		39-40

¹ Students will be given the opportunity to test out of MUSI 471 Theory I, MUSI 475 Functional Piano I, MUSI 476 Functional Piano I and MUSI 575 Functional Piano II, MUSI 576 Functional Piano II.

Bachelor of Music in Composition

Degree program has final approval from the National Association of Schools of Music.

Code	Title	Credits
Select 9 credits of MUSI 771, MUSI 795 (Independent Study/Advanced Counterpoint), MUSI 781W, and MUSI 782W		9
MUSI 775 or MUSI 776	Composition	4
MUSI 777	Advanced Composition	12
MUSI 779	Reading and Writing Musical Scores	3
MUSI 791	Music Internship II	2-4
MUSI 795	Special Studies (Advanced Music Theory) ¹	3
MUSI 795	Special Studies (Electronic Music)	2
MUSI 701	Topics in Music History	3
Performance Study (Applied Lessons): select from the following courses		8
MUSI 541, MUSI 545, MUSI 546, MUSI 547, MUSI 548, MUSI 549, MUSI 550, MUSI 551, MUSI 552, MUSI 553, MUSI 554, MUSI 555, MUSI 556, MUSI 557, MUSI 558, MUSI 559, MUSI 560, MUSI 561, MUSI 562, MUSI 563, MUSI 564, MUSI 741, MUSI 745, MUSI 746, MUSI 747, MUSI 748, MUSI 749, MUSI 751, MUSI 752, MUSI 753, MUSI 754, MUSI 755, MUSI 756, MUSI 757, MUSI 758, MUSI 759, MUSI 760, MUSI 761, MUSI 762, MUSI 763, MUSI 764		
Performing Ensemble: select from the following courses		8
MUSI 441, MUSI 442, MUSI 448, MUSI 450, MUSI 452, MUSI 453, MUSI 454, MUSI 455, MUSI 456, MUSI 457, MUSI 459, MUSI 460, MUSI 462, MUSI 463, MUSI 464		
Total Credits		54-56

¹ This is in addition to the other 700-level theory classes outlined above.

² This is in addition to the core required 700-level music history class.

Students in the bachelor of music in composition degree program may use a maximum of 8 ensemble credits toward graduation.

Students in the bachelor of music in composition degree are required to attend 8 semesters of composition seminar.

Degree Plan

Sample Degree Plan

This sample degree plan serves as a general guide; students collaborate with their academic advisor to develop a personalized degree plan to meet their academic goals and program requirements.

First Year

Fall		Credits
ENGL 401	First-Year Writing	4
MUSI 501	The Western Musical Canon	3
MUSI 471	Theory I	3
MUSI 473	Ear Training I	1
MUSI 475	Functional Piano I	1
500-level lesson		1
Composition Seminar		0
Performing Ensemble ¹		1
MUSI 540	Recital Attendance	0

Credits 14

Spring

Discovery/QR Course		4
MUSI 515	Music in World Cultures	4
MUSI 472	Theory I	3
MUSI 474	Ear Training I	1
MUSI 476	Functional Piano I	1
500-level lesson		1
Composition Seminar		0
Performing Ensemble ¹		1
MUSI 540	Recital Attendance	0

Credits 15

Second Year

Fall		
Discovery Course		4
Discovery Course		4
MUSI 571	Theory II	3
MUSI 573	Ear Training II	1
MUSI 575	Functional Piano II	1
MUSI 775	Composition	2
500-level lesson		1
Composition Seminar		0
Performing Ensemble ¹		1
MUSI 540	Recital Attendance	0

Credits 17

Spring

Discovery Course		4
MUSI 502	Musics in Context	3
MUSI 572	Theory II	3
MUSI 574	Ear Training II	1
MUSI 576	Functional Piano II	1
MUSI 776	Composition	2
500-level lesson		1
Composition Seminar		0

Performing Ensemble ¹		1
MUSI 540	Recital Attendance	0
Credits		16

Third Year

Fall

Discovery Course		4
MUSI 779	Reading and Writing Musical Scores	3
MUSI 781W	Analysis: Form and Structure	3
MUSI 701	Topics in Music History	3
MUSI 777	Advanced Composition	3
MUSI 691	Music Internship I (fall or spring)	1
700-level lesson		1
Composition Seminar		0
Performing Ensemble ¹		1
MUSI 540	Recital Attendance	0

Credits 19

Spring

Discovery Course		4
MUSI 731	Conducting	2
MUSI 781W	Analysis: Form and Structure	3
MUSI 701	Topics in Music History	3
MUSI 777	Advanced Composition	3
700-level lesson		1
Composition Seminar		0
Performing Ensemble ¹		1
MUSI 540	Recital Attendance	0

Credits 17

Fourth Year

Fall

Discovery Course		4
MUSI 771		3
MUSI 777	Advanced Composition	3
MUSI 791	Music Internship II (fall or spring)	2
700-level lesson		1
Composition Seminar		0
Performing Ensemble ¹		1

Credits 14

Spring

Discovery Course		4
MUSI 795	Special Studies	2
MUSI 772		3
MUSI 795	Special Studies	3
MUSI 777	Advanced Composition	3
700-level lesson		1
Composition Seminar		0
Performing Ensemble ¹		1

Credits 17

Total Credits 129

¹ Performing Ensembles are specified on the program requirements tab.

Student Learning Outcomes

Program Learning Outcomes

- Students will exhibit the skills necessary for artistic expression at the highest possible level as defined by their particular area of concentration in solo and small ensemble (not conducted) and large ensemble (conducted) settings.
- Students will exhibit competency in musicianship and analysis through: their understanding of musical forms and processes; aural, verbal and visual analyses; skill in performance; academic, pedagogical, and compositional applications; rudimentary ability to create derivative or original music.
- Students will demonstrate familiarity with musical literature from the formal concert repertory and from musical traditions outside of that repertory. Students will demonstrate the ability to place music in historical, cultural, and stylistic contexts.
- Students will demonstrate collegiate-level skill in the English language and competence in written and oral communication in English.
- Demonstrate the ability to use technologies current to their area of specialization for professional development and entrepreneurship, and career preparation and promotion.
- Demonstrate skill in the use of standard concepts, tools, techniques, and procedures to develop a composition from concept to finished product.
- Manage a formal performance of a finished product.