

Music

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Mission

The mission of the Department of Music at Mississippi State University is to contribute to the development of broadly acculturated citizens in our state and region through enhanced musical understanding and enriching musical experiences, providing access and opportunity to our diverse population through programs of teaching, research, and service.

About the Department

In the Fall of 2022 the department moved into a \$21 million state-of-the-art facility. The 37,000 square foot facility at 124 Hardy Road includes classrooms, a choral rehearsal hall, faculty offices, sound-proof practice rooms, recording studio, lecture/recital hall, student lounge, and administrative suite to complement the Famous Maroon Band facilities. The Department of Music is part of the College of Education and is an accredited institutional member of the National Association of Schools of Music.

Bachelor of Music Education

The Bachelor of Music Education is a 124-126 hour professional degree program (depending on concentration) that leads to licensure to teach music in the State of Mississippi. The Department of Music offers four concentrations of the BME: Guitar, Instrumental, Keyboard and Vocal.

The Instrumental concentration qualifies the student for a Music Instrumental (K-12) teaching license. The Vocal, Keyboard, and Guitar concentrations qualifies the student for a Music Choral (K-12) teaching license.

The Vocal concentration qualifies the student for a K-12 Choral Music teaching license, allowing graduates to teach General, Instrumental, and Choral music in all grades in the state of Mississippi.

Bachelor of Music Performance

The Bachelor of Music Performance is a 120-hour professional degree program that prepares students to work independently towards performance at the highest possible level; possess knowledge of applicable solo and ensemble literature; and to gain experience with the fundamentals of music pedagogy. The Department of Music offers four concentrations of the Bachelor of Music Performance; Guitar, Instrumental, Keyboard, and Vocal.

Bachelor of Arts in Music

The Department of Music offers a Bachelor of Arts in Music degree in a liberal arts tradition of music study. This degree is designed to provide foundation coursework to apply to a variety of interdisciplinary careers including music, in preparation for graduate study, or for self-improvement.

For suggested course sequence for all degrees and concentrations, visit the Department of Music website: <http://www.music.msstate.edu/academics/>

Students are required to earn a "C" or better in all required (non-elective) Applied Music (MUA), Music (MU), and Music Education (MUE) courses.

Auditions

All potential music majors and minors are required to audition for appropriate faculty in order to determine their preparedness to enter the program, participate in ensembles, and determine eligibility for a scholarship or service award.

Although alternate dates are available, the preferred audition date for music majors and minors in all areas is the third Saturday in February. Other audition dates are available by contacting the applied faculty of your area of concentration, the department office (662) 325-3070, or the major ensemble offices. (Choir (662) 325-3490; Band (662) 325-2713; Orchestra (662) 325-3070)

Transfer Information

After successful admission to the University, and in addition to the music major audition, transfer students are required to complete a music theory and aural skills entrance exam to determine preparedness for upper division study. For more information see the Department of Music website at <http://www.music.msstate.edu/students/transfers/> or call 662-325-3070.

Music Minor

The Department of Music offers MSU students the opportunity to complete a Minor in Music. The Music Minor is a comprehensive set of courses designed to increase student musicianship and knowledge. Students must audition/ interview and be accepted as a music minor before the minor may be declared. Acceptance in any given studio area is on a space available basis. The requirements for the music minor cannot be completed after graduating from MSU.

There are two tracks in the Minor of Music:

1. A general Minor in Music that offers the first two semesters of the Major in Music: Music Theory, Ear Training, Piano, Applied Study, Ensembles and a Fine Arts Music Topics course.
2. A Minor in Music and Culture which is intended for students with an interest in non-Western music, especially the music of Africa and the African Diaspora. This minor features an interdisciplinary approach to exploring music and supports MSU's vision of diversity and global involvement

For information and required courses, visit the Department of Music website: <http://www.music.msstate.edu/academics/minorinmusic/>

General Education and College Requirements

English Composition

EN 1103	English Composition I	3
EN 1113	English Composition II	3
or EN 1173	Accelerated Composition II	

Foreign Languages

3 semesters - Foreign Language - see advisor	9
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Humanities

Literature Elective - see A&S requirements	3
History Elective - see A&S requirements	3
Philosophy Elective - see A&S requirements	3
Must be from 2 areas - EN, HI, PHI or REL	6
Met in Major Core	3

Mathematics

If ACT Math score is less than 24:		
MA 1313	College Algebra	
If ACT Math score is 24 or higher:		
MA 1323	Trigonometry	
or MA 2113	Introduction to Statistics	

Math/Science Elective 3

If ACT Math score is less than 24:		
MA 1323	Trigonometry	
or MA 2113	Introduction to Statistics	
If ACT Math score is 24 or higher then any General Education Math or Science course is acceptable		

Natural Sciences

Physical Sciences w/lab (CH, GG, PH) ¹	3-4
Biological Sciences w/lab (BIO) ¹	3-4
Natural Science Elective ²	3-4

Fine Arts

MU 3013	Survey of Western Music History I	3
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Social Science

See A&S requirements		6
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Must be from 3 areas - AN, CO, EC, GR, PS, PSY or SO		9
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Met in Major Core		3
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Major Core

MU 1213	Music Theory I	3
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MU 1321	Ear Training I	1
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MU 1413	Music Theory II	3
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MU 1521	Ear Training II	1
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MU 2012	World Music	2
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MU 2613	Music Theory III	3
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MU 2721	Ear Training III	1
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MU 2813	Music Theory IV	3
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MU 2921	Ear Training IV	1
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MU 3023	Survey of Western Music History II	3
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MU 3412	Conducting	2
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MU 2111	Piano Class	4
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& MU 2121	and Piano Class	
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& MU 3111	and Piano Class	
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& MU 3121	and Piano Class	
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or MU 3112	Functional Skills of Piano I	
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& MU 3122	and Functional Skills of Piano II	
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Oral Communication Requirement

CO 1003	Fundamentals of Public Speaking	3
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Writing Requirement

EDF 3413	Writing for Thinking (See advisor for other approved courses.) ³	3
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Applied Study

6 semesters of study at 2 hours per semester:

2 semesters of 1000-level courses

2 semesters of 2000-level courses

2 semesters of 3000-level courses must be completed on the same instrument

At least 1 semester of 2000-level and 2 semesters of 3000-level work must be completed at MSU.

Ensembles

4 semesters of ensembles must be completed at MSU, two of which must be the designated major ensembles.

Other Requirements

Piano Proficiency Exam

Upper Division Proficiency Exam

MU 1010	Recital Hour (must be enrolled 8 semesters)	0
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Recital or Project

Music Electives

Music Electives		7-10
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Met in College Core		6
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Total Hours ⁴		122
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¹ See A&S Core.

² Any Natural Science from the Arts and Sciences core can apply. Consult advisor.

³ Any Arts and Sciences approved writing course can apply. Consult advisor.

⁴ At least 31 hours of upper division (3000 level or higher) hours are required.

Minor in Music and Culture

The minor in Music and Culture is intended for students with an interest in non-Western music, especially the music of Africa and the African Diaspora. The program offers students from any major, the opportunity to study the ways in which human cultural diversity is represented through music. The minor features an interdisciplinary approach to exploring music and supports MSU's vision of diversity and global involvement. The minor is distinct from other existing degrees in that it offers an anthropological approach that does not rely heavily on music performance skills.

Required Courses		6
AN 1143	Introduction to Cultural Anthropology	
MU 2012	World Music	
PE 1091	Contemporary Dance	
Electives		12
Choose at least two Non-Western Music and Culture electives		
MU 1103	African American Music	
MU 1153	Music of Africa	
MU 2023	Music of Latin America	
MU 3103	Native American Music	
Choose up to two Western Music and Culture electives		
MU 1123	History and Appreciation of American Music	
MU 1133	The History of Rock and Roll	
MU 1143	The History of Jazz	
MU 1163	Introduction to Music in Film	
Total Hours		18

General Minor in Music

The General Minor in Music is a comprehensive set of courses designed to increase student musicianship and knowledge. Students must audition and be accepted as a music minor before it can be declared. Acceptance in any given studio area is on a space available basis. The requirements for the music minor can not be completed after graduating from MSU.

Music History		2-3
Choose from the following:		
MU 1103	African American Music	
MU 1113	History and Appreciation of Music	
MU 1123	History and Appreciation of American Music	
MU 1133	The History of Rock and Roll	
MU 1143	The History of Jazz	
MU 1153	Music of Africa	
MU 1163	Introduction to Music in Film	
MU 1173	Music of the Beatles	
MU 2012	World Music	
MU 2023	Music of Latin America	
MU 2173	Women in Music	
MU 3013	Survey of Western Music History I	
Music Theory and Aural Skills		
MU 1213	Music Theory I	3
MU 1321	Ear Training I	1
MU 1413	Music Theory II	3
MU 1521	Ear Training II	1
Class Piano		
MU 2111 & MU 2121 or MU 3112	Piano Class and Piano Class Functional Skills of Piano I	2
Applied Study		4
Two semesters of study (2 credit hours each semester); must be completed on the same instrument		
Ensembles		2

Two semesters of major or minor ensembles

Recital Hour		
MU 1010	Recital Hour (must be taken for 2 semesters)	1
Total Hours		18-19

To earn a Minor in Music from Mississippi State University, all of the coursework listed above must be completed at Mississippi State University, Starkville Campus, with a grade of C or better. The requirements for any music minor cannot be completed after graduating from MSU.