

Music Performance, B.M.

Degree Offered

- Bachelor of Music

Nature of the Program

The performance curricula are especially designed for students wishing to prepare themselves as performers or as teachers of a particular instrument or voice. The increased interest of society today in the arts is creating many new opportunities for the professional musician and for the private music teacher.

The BM in Music Performance offers three areas of emphasis:

- Instrumental
- Piano
- Voice

Instruments included in the Instrumental area of emphasis are:

- Flute
- Oboe
- Clarinet
- Saxophone
- Bassoon
- Horn
- Trumpet
- Trombone
- Euphonium
- Tuba
- Percussion
- Violin
- Viola
- Cello
- Double Bass
- Harp
- Guitar

Admissions for 2025-2026

Acceptance into an undergraduate music degree program is contingent upon both admission to WVU as an undergraduate student and a successful performance audition. Auditions are held from late fall through the early spring semester. For maximum scholarship consideration, students are encouraged to complete the application (including audition) before March 1. Audition information can be found on the College's website or by contacting the CCAM Office of Recruitment at (304) 293-4339. Special accommodations may be made by contacting the School of Music at (304) 293-4532 or Music@mail.wvu.edu.

For admission consideration, all students must submit separate applications to the University and to the School of Music. The audition is a preliminary assessment of a student's potential for success. For the Bachelor of Science in Music and Health, students must audition at a minimum performance level four. If a student is admitted, their standing is confirmed or revised after the first semester of study.

Students should own their own instrument under normal circumstances (except for piano).

1. Apply to West Virginia University (How to Apply (<https://admissions.wvu.edu/how-to-apply/>))
2. Audition for the School of Music (Apply Now (<https://wvucca.wufoo.com/forms/w1qjwnk21fcr23v/>))

Acceptance into an undergraduate music degree program requires admission to WVU as an undergraduate student and a successful audition and/or interview. The audition and/or interview is a preliminary assessment of a student's potential for success in their intended major.

- BA Music - audition required
- BA Music Business and Industry: Applied Music Emphasis - audition required

- BA Music Business and Industry: Multi-instrumental Emphasis - interview required (no audition)
- BM Composition - audition and portfolio review required
- BM Music Education - audition and interview required
- BM Music Therapy - audition and interview required
- BM Performance - audition required
- BS Music and Health - audition required

Students who cannot attend one of our regularly scheduled audition days should contact the School of Music at: (304) 293-4532 or Music@mail.wvu.edu.

Music majors can change from one music curriculum to another with faculty approval, particularly during the freshman or sophomore year, without significant loss of course credit. Students are encouraged to explore and follow the curriculum for which they are best qualified and in which they can achieve the greatest success. Evaluation of students' work by the School of Music faculty informs these decisions. If students wish a broader, liberal arts-oriented program, they may pursue a Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Music.

Major Code: 3716

General Education Foundations

Please use this link to view a list of courses that meet each GEF requirement. (<http://registrar.wvu.edu/gef/>)

NOTE: Some major requirements will fulfill specific GEF requirements. Please see the curriculum requirements listed below for details on which GEFs you will need to select.

Code	Title	Hours
General Education Foundations		
F1 - Composition & Rhetoric		3-6
ENGL 101 & ENGL 102 or ENGL 103	Introduction to Composition and Rhetoric and Composition, Rhetoric, and Research Accelerated Academic Writing	
F2A/F2B - Science & Technology		4-6
F3 - Math & Quantitative Reasoning		3-4
F4 - Society & Connections		3
F5 - Human Inquiry & the Past		3
F6 - The Arts & Creativity		3
F7 - Global Studies & Diversity		3
F8 - Focus (may be satisfied by completion of a minor, double major, or dual degree)		9
Total Hours		31-37

Please note that not all of the GEF courses are offered at all campuses. Students should consult with their advisor or academic department regarding the GEF course offerings available at their campus.

Curriculum Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
	University Requirements	27
	Performance Major Major Requirements	93
Total Hours		120

University Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
	General Education Foundations (GEF) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 (31-37 Credits)	
	Outstanding GEF Requirements 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 and 8	25
MUSC 191	First-Year Seminar	2
Total Hours		27

Music Performance Major Requirements

Music Performance Majors must complete the Music Courses and one of the Applied Performance Areas of Emphasis: Instrumental, Piano, or Voice.

Code	Title	Hours
Music Convocation		
MUSC 189	Music Convocation (5 semesters)	
Applied Performance Study		24
Applied Music Study (MUSC 121-127, 221-227, 321-327, 421-427)		
Theory & Analysis		
MUSC 161	Aural Theory 1	2
MUSC 163	Aural Theory 2	2
MUSC 261	Aural Theory 3	2
MUSC 162	Written Theory 1	3
MUSC 164	Written Theory 2	3
MUSC 262	Written Theory 3	3
MUSC 130S	Piano Class 1	1
MUSC 131S	Piano Class 2	1
MUSC 132S	Piano Class 3	1
Select one of the following:		2 or 3
MUSC 362	Instrumentation and Orchestration	
MUSC 364	Popular Music Analysis Seminar	
MUSC 365	Songwriting: Composition and Analysis	
MUSC 461	Counterpoint, 16th Century	
MUSC 462	Counterpoint, 18th Century	
MUSC 463	Analysis of Eighteenth and Nineteenth Century Music	
MUSC 464	Compositional Techniques in Contemporary Music	
MUSC 465S	Electronic Music	
MUSC 466	Techniques for Electronic Music Performance	
MUSC 468	Jazz and Commercial Music Harmony	
MUSC 469	Counterpoint, 20th Century	
Musicology		
Select one of the following (GEF 8):		3
MUSC 111	Introduction to Music	
MUSC 113	American Popular Music	
MUSC 114	Music and the Immigrant Experience	
MUSC 115	Introduction to History of Jazz	
MUSC 116	Music in World Cultures	
MUSC 118	Music in Appalachia	
MUSC 270	History of Western Musical Traditions 1 (GEF 6)	3
MUSC 271	History of Western Musical Traditions 2 (GEF 8)	3
Conducting		
MUSC 200S	Fundamentals of Conducting	2
Methods and Pedagogy		2
MUSC 433	Methods and Pedagogy	
Literature & Repertory		2
MUSC 434	Literature & Repertory	
Music Technology or Industry		2-3
MUSC 236	Introduction to Recording Technology	
MUSC 336	Introduction to Digital Audio Workstation	
MUSC 410	Introduction to Music Industry	
Ensemble		
Major & Chamber Ensembles		12

(See Area of Emphasis for list of acceptable ensembles.)

Electives

Upper-Division Academic Music (300- or 400-level) Electives	3
Unrestricted Music Electives	3-5

Capstone

MUSC 488	Recital	0
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Area of Emphasis

Instrumental Performance (14 Hours)		
Piano Performance (14 Hours)		
Voice Performance (16 Hours)		
Total Hours		93

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Credits may vary. Refer to the School of Music Requirements (<http://catalog.wvu.edu/undergraduate/collegeofcreativeartsandmedia/music/>) for policies related to fulfilling the Major Ensemble and Chamber Ensemble requirements.

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Prerequisite for MUSC 270 or MUSC 271.

Areas of Emphasis

- Instrumental Performance (p. 4)
- Piano Performance (p. 6)
- Voice Performance (p. 8)

Instrumental Performance Area of Emphasis

Code	Title	Hours
Applied Lessons *		8
	Applied Music Study (MUSC 121-127, 221-227, 321-327, 421-427)	

Ensembles: List of acceptable Ensembles for the Instrumental Area of Emphasis

Major Ensembles

Eight (8) semesters from the following:

MUSC 300	Band: Wind Symphony
MUSC 300A	Band: Symphonic
MUSC 303	Orchestra
MUSC 353	Jazz Ensemble 1
MUSC 350	Jazz Ensemble 2

Chamber Ensembles

Four (4) semesters from the following:

MUSC 340	Chamber Music: Brass
MUSC 341	Chamber Music: Guitar
MUSC 343	Chamber Music: Strings
MUSC 344	Chamber Music: Woodwind
MUSC 345	Chamber Music: Vocal
MUSC 346	Chamber Music: Mixed Ensemble
MUSC 348	Chamber Music: New Music
MUSC 349	Chamber Music: Other
MUSC 349A	Chamber Music: Brass Choir
MUSC 351	Chamber Music: Percussion 1
MUSC 352	Chamber Music: Percussion 2
MUSC 353B	Chamber Music: Jazz Small Group
MUSC 354	Gamelan
MUSC 355	Steel Band
MUSC 356	African Music Ensemble
MUSC 357	Brazilian Music Ensemble

MUSC 358	Experiential Music Ensemble
MUSC 361	Fife and Drum Ensemble
MUSC 363	Appalachian Music Ensemble

Electives 6

Upper-Division Academic Music (300- or 400-level) Electives **

Total Hours	14
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*
One additional credit each semester.

**
To be chosen in consultation with your advisor.

Suggested Plan of Study

First Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
MUSC 121-127D		4 MUSC Major Ensemble	1
MUSC Major Ensemble		1 MUSC 121-127D	4
MUSC 161		2 MUSC 131S	1
MUSC 162		3 MUSC 163	2
MUSC 130S		1 MUSC 164	3
MUSC 191		2 MUSC 189	0
ENGL 101 (GEF 1)		3 GEF	3
	16		14

Second Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
MUSC Major Ensemble		1 MUSC Major Ensemble	1
MUSC 221-227D		4 MUSC 221-227D	4
MUSC 261		2 MUSC 270	3
MUSC 262		3 Select one of the following:	2-3
MUSC 132S		1 MUSC 362	
Select one of the following:		3 MUSC 364	
MUSC 111		MUSC 365	
MUSC 113		MUSC 461	
MUSC 114		MUSC 462	
MUSC 115		MUSC 463	
MUSC 116		MUSC 464	
MUSC 118		MUSC 465S	
MUSC 151		MUSC 466	
MUSC 189		0 MUSC 468	
Unrestricted Music Elective		2 MUSC 469	
MUSC Chamber Ensemble		1 MUSC 189	0
		ENGL 102 (GEF 1)	3
		Unrestricted Music Elective	1
	17		14

Third Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
MUSC 321-327D		4 MUSC 321-327D	4
MUSC Major Ensemble		1 MUSC Major Ensemble	1
MUSC Chamber Ensemble		1 MUSC Chamber Ensemble	1
MUSC 189		0 MUSC 189	0
MUSC 200S		2 Select one of the following:	2 or 3
MUSC 271		3 MUSC 236	

Unrestricted Music Elective	2	MUSC 336			
GEF 2	4	MUSC 410			
		Upper Division Academic Music Elective			3
		GEF			3
			17		14
Fourth Year					
Fall	Hours	Spring		Hours	
MUSC 421-427D		4 MUSC 421-427D			4
MUSC Major Ensemble		1 MUSC Major Ensemble			1
MUSC Chamber Ensemble		1 MUSC Chamber Music Ensemble			1
MUSC 433		2 MUSC 434			2
Upper Division Academic Music Elective		3 Upper Division Academic Music Elective			3
GEF		3 GEF			3
		MUSC 488 (Capstone)			0
			14		14

Total credit hours: 120

Piano Performance Area of Emphasis

Code	Title	Hours
Applied Lessons *		8
Applied Music Study (MUSC 123B, 223B, 323B, 423B)		
Ensembles: List of acceptable Ensembles for the Piano Area of Emphasis		
Major Ensembles		
Select two (2) credits minimum from the following:		
MUSC 300	Band: Wind Symphony	
MUSC 300A	Band: Symphonic	
MUSC 303	Orchestra	
MUSC 305	Chamber Singers	
MUSC 306	University Mountaineer Chorus	
MUSC 307	Mountaineer Singers	
MUSC 353	Jazz Ensemble 1	
MUSC 350	Jazz Ensemble 2	
Chamber Ensembles		
Select two (2) credits minimum from the following:		
MUSC 342	Chamber Music: Piano-4 Hand	
MUSC 346	Chamber Music: Mixed Ensemble	
MUSC 348	Chamber Music: New Music	
MUSC 349	Chamber Music: Other	
MUSC 349C	Chamber Music: Other-Vocal Accompaniment	
MUSC 354	Gamelan	
MUSC 355	Steel Band	
MUSC 356	African Music Ensemble	
MUSC 357	Brazilian Music Ensemble	
MUSC 358	Experiential Music Ensemble	
MUSC 359	Taiko Ensemble	
Electives		6
Upper-Division Academic Music (300- or 400-level) Electives **		
Total Hours		14

*

One additional credit each semester.

**

To be chosen with your advisor.

Suggested Plan of Study

First Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
MUSC 123B		4 MUSC 123B	4
Ensemble		1 Ensemble	1
MUSC 161		2 MUSC 163	2
MUSC 162		3 MUSC 164	3
MUSC 130S		1 MUSC 131S	1
MUSC 191		2 MUSC 189	0
ENGL 101 (GEF 1)		3 GEF	3
		16	14

Second Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
MUSC Major Ensemble		1 MUSC Major Ensemble	1
MUSC 223B		4 MUSC 223B	4
MUSC 261		2 MUSC 270	3
MUSC 262		3 Select one of the following:	2 or 3
MUSC 132S		1 MUSC 362	
Select one of the following:		3 MUSC 364	
MUSC 111		MUSC 365	
MUSC 113		MUSC 461	
MUSC 114		MUSC 462	
MUSC 115		MUSC 463	
MUSC 116		MUSC 464	
MUSC 118		MUSC 465S	
MUSC 151		MUSC 466	
MUSC 189		0 MUSC 468	
ENGL 102 (GEF 1)		3 MUSC 469	
		MUSC 189	0
		GEF 2	4
		17	14

Third Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
MUSC 323B		4 MUSC 323B	4
MUSC Chamber Ensemble		1 MUSC 189	0
MUSC Major Ensemble		1 MUSC Chamber Ensemble	1
MUSC 271		3 Select one of the following:	2 or 3
MUSC 200S		2 MUSC 236	
MUSC 189		0 MUSC 336	
Unrestricted Music Elective		2 MUSC 410	
GEF		3 Music Electives	5
		GEF	3
		16	15

Fourth Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
MUSC 423B		4 MUSC 423B	4
MUSC Chamber Ensemble		1 MUSC Chamber Ensemble	1
MUSC 433		2 Upper Division Academic Music Elective	3
Upper Division Academic Music Elective		3 Unrestricted Music Electives	2

GEF	3 MUSC 434	2
	GEF	3
	MUSC 488 (Capstone)	0
		13
		15

Total credit hours: 120

Voice Performance Area of Emphasis

Code	Title	Hours
Ensembles: List of acceptable Ensembles for the Voice Area of Emphasis		
MUSC 305	Chamber Singers *	
Opera		
MUSC 404	Lyric Theatre **	
Language		16
MUSC 269A	Diction for Singers: English and Italian	
MUSC 269B	Diction for Singers: German and French	
MUSC 478	Coaching for Singers ***	
MUSC 493	Special Topics ****	
Total Hours		16

- *
Eight (8) semesters
- **
Four (4) semesters
- ***
Repeated three (3) times
- ****
Language Related Study

Suggested Plan of Study

First Year		Hours	Spring	Hours
Fall	MUSC 126		3 MUSC 126	3
	MUSC Major Ensemble		1 MUSC Major Ensemble	1
	MUSC 130S		1 MUSC 131S	1
	MUSC 161		2 MUSC 163	2
	MUSC 162		3 MUSC 164	3
	MUSC 191		2 MUSC 189	0
	ENGL 101		3 Select one of the following:	3
			MUSC 111	
			MUSC 113	
			MUSC 114	
			MUSC 115	
			MUSC 116	
			MUSC 118	
			MUSC 151	
			GEF	3
		15		16

Second Year		Hours	Spring	Hours
Fall	MUSC 226		3 MUSC 226	3
	MUSC Major Ensemble		1 MUSC Major Ensemble	1
	MUSC 132S		1 MUSC 269B	3

MUSC 261	2	MUSC 189	0
MUSC 262	3	Select one of the following:	2 or 3
MUSC 189	0	MUSC 362	
MUSC 269A	3	MUSC 364	
ENGL 102 (GEF 1)	3	MUSC 365	
		MUSC 461	
		MUSC 462	
		MUSC 463	
		MUSC 464	
		MUSC 465S	
		MUSC 466	
		MUSC 468	
		MUSC 469	
		MUSC 270	3
		GEF	3
		16	15

Third Year			
Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
MUSC 326		3 MUSC 326	3
MUSC Major Ensemble		1 MUSC Major Ensemble	1
MUSC 404		1 MUSC 189	0
MUSC 478		1 MUSC 404	1
MUSC 271		3 MUSC 478	1
MUSC 200S		2 Language	3
MUSC 189		0 MUSC 393A	
Upper-Division Academic Music Elective		3 Music Technology or Industry	2 or 3
GEF		3 MUSC 236	
		MUSC 336	
		MUSC 410	
		GEF	3
		17	14

Fourth Year			
Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
MUSC 426		2 MUSC 426	3
MUSC Major Ensemble		1 MUSC Major Ensemble	1
MUSC 404		1 MUSC 404	1
Language		3 MUSC 434	2
MUSC 493 ^{Language Related Topic}		MUSC 478	1
MUSC 478		1 MUSC 488 (Capstone)	0
MUSC 433		2 Upper-Division Academic Music Elective	3
GEF		3 Unrestricted Music Elective	3
		13	14

Total credit hours: 120

Major Learning Outcomes

MUSIC PERFORMANCE

Upon Completion of the BM in Music Performance, students will be able to:

1. Perform with facility, self-expression, and concert success on their primary instrument or voice. For voice students, this includes appropriate use of foreign languages and diction.
2. Demonstrate artistic proficiency and flexibility as a performer and collaborator in varied settings, including chamber ensembles and large conducted ensembles.

3. Demonstrate ability to apply knowledge of compositional form, historical context, performance practices, extended techniques, nontraditional notation, and current issues to the performance of Western classical music.
4. Practice the necessary skills for professional success.
5. Apply the necessary skills to maintain their physical and mental health while creating a career of sustainability and longevity.