

Music
Bachelor of Music
2025-2026

General Areas of Service: The BMus degree is a single music degree that includes a common music major core with a performance concentration and two music education certification concentration tracks (BEd and MIT -see BMus, Music Education). A concentration is not required for this major. The BMus can be used as an entry-level credential in various music and music-related fields, as well as in certain careers outside of music. The broad nature of the Bachelor of Music degree is often used as a basis for entry into many types of professional schools and graduate programs. It can be taken by students who are planning to continue in medical, dental, veterinary, optometry, chiropractic, or law schools after graduation. The degree has flexibility in that it allows for a large number of credits outside of the major area. Minors and elective hours taken in science can enable the student to satisfy all entrance requirements for post-graduate professional schools. Other specific areas of service are mentioned below.

Professional Training: Candidates for the degree concentration of performance must demonstrate the potential for development to a professional level of ability, and must be confirmed by the departmental committee after the first year of study. In addition to the main coursework common to the BMus degree, performance students will take additional credits of applied lessons to focus performance skills. Graduate training in music beyond the B.Mus. is recommended for performance to ensure further preparation for a professional career and is essential if teaching at the college or university level is the goal. The B.Mus. degree also provides a foundation for musicians who desire to teach privately.

Job Outlook: The BMus is employable in so many possible ways that no list is complete. As in many fields, much depends on the initiative and perseverance of the individual. Private studio teaching is often an option pursued by music graduates. For those with exceptional skills, possible career choices include composing, arranging, performance as a soloist, and performance in professional ensembles. Arts management, music journalism, music and musical instrument sales are other possible careers. The BMus can also serve as a necessary credential for entry into careers outside of music, such as business or governmental service.

Earnings: Much will depend on the chosen career path and the dedication of the individual. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) in May 2021, the median annual wage for music directors and composers was \$49,130. Depending on the form of employment, the median annual wage will vary, as the following examples show: Those employed by religious organizations earned a median annual wage of \$48,420, and those employed by elementary and secondary schools \$61,950. (See www.bls.gov)

Note: Majors must complete piano proficiency requirements before being advanced to upper-division performance standing in their major applied area. Keyboard majors are exempt from this requirement.

Electives should be chosen in consultation with an advisor of the WWU Music Department.

Before graduation, all students must take an exit exam.

Office of Academic Advisement

Canaday Technology Center, Room 311 • (800) 558-2132 • (509) 527-2132

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Melvin K. West Fine Arts Center
(509) 527-2561

Websites

[Walla Walla University](#)
[University Bulletin](#)

[Music Department](#)

Faculty

Chair
[Karlyn Bond](#)

Advisors

[Flor Smith](#)
[Brandon Beck](#)
[Christine Janis](#)
[Kraig Scott](#)

Professional Organizations

[National Association for Music Education](#)

[Washington State Music Teachers Association](#)

Additional Sources

[U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics](#)
[Occupations in Music](#)

Suggested Degree Path

TOTAL CREDITS REQUIRED: 192 cr. GENERAL STUDIES REQUIREMENTS: 64-69cr. [See the Undergraduate Bulletin for details](#)

The chart below details one suggested path a student may take to complete a bachelor's degree in Music. Cognates are listed in *italics*.

Freshman Year

Fall Courses	Hours
Theory I (MUCT 121)	3
Ear Training I (MUCT 131)	1
*Lessons (MUPF 127)	1-2
Intro to Analytical Writing (ENGL 121)	3
Music Notation Lab (MUCT 124)	1
Ensemble	1
General Studies	5-6
Total	16

Winter Courses	Hours
Theory I (MUCT 122)	3
Ear Training I (MUCT 132)	1
*Lessons (MUPF 127/227)	1-2
Intro to Research Writing (ENGL 122)	3
Ensemble	1
General Studies	6-7
Total	16

Spring Courses	Hours
Theory I (MUCT 123)	3
Ear Training I (MUCT 133)	1
*Lessons (MUPF 127/227)	1-2
Ensemble	1
General Studies	9-10
Total	16

Sophomore Year

Fall Courses	Hours
Theory II (MUCT 221)	3
Ear Training II (MUCT 231)	1
*Lessons (MUPF 227)	1
Research Writing (ENGL 223)	3
Ensemble	1
**General Studies	7
Total	16

Winter Courses	Hours
Theory II (MUCT 222)	3
Ear Training II (MUCT 232)	1
*Lessons (MUPF 227)	1
Ensemble	1
**General Studies	10
Total	16

Spring Courses	Hours
Theory II (MUCT 223)	3
Ear Training II (MUCT 233)	1
*Lessons (MUPF 227)	1
Ensemble	1
**General Studies	6
Total	16

Junior Year

Fall Courses	Hours
+ History of Music (MUHL 321)	4
*Lessons (MUPF 227/427)	1
Ensemble	1
Basic Conducting (MUPF 361)	2
General Studies/Electives	8
Total	16

Winter Courses	Hours
+ History of Music (MUHL 322)	4
*Lessons (MUPF 227/427)	1
Ensemble	1
Form and Analysis (MUCT 424)	3
General Studies/Electives	7
Total	16

Spring Courses	Hours
+ History of Music (MUHL 323)	4
*Lessons (MUPF 227/427)	1
Ensemble	1
Orchestration (MUCT 425)	3
Junior Recital (performance) (MUPF 387)	0
General Studies/Electives	7
Total	16

Senior Year

Fall Courses	Hours
*Lessons (MUPF 427)	1
Ensemble	1
General Studies/Electives	14
Total	16

Winter Courses	Hours
*Lessons (MUPF 427)	1
Ensemble	0-1
Counterpoint (MUCT 426)	3
General Studies/Electives	11-12
Total	16

Spring Courses	Hours
*Lessons (MUPF 427)	1
Senior Recital (MUPF 487)	0
Ensemble	0-1
General Studies/Electives	14-15
Total	16

+ Offered even years only

- Offered odd years only

*Music Lessons: 15 hours minimum in one area, eight must be upper division.

**Suggested courses to prepare for Music History: HIST 121, HIST 122.