

# MUSIC COMPOSITION (BM)



This program was approved for students entering the university in the Summer 2025-Spring 2026 catalog year. For more information about catalog year, go to Catalog Year Information (<https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/university-wide-unit-specific-policies/catalog-year/>).

## Bachelor of Music with Emphasis in Composition

Unit: Music (<http://www.louisville.edu/music/>)  
Academic Plan Code(s): MUSIBM\_COM

## Program Information

The Bachelor of Music Composition (BM) degree at UofL is a four-year program of study designed to develop a high level of expertise in music composition and related skills. In addition, the program encourages and promotes the development of each student's individual compositional "voice" or personality.

## Degree Summary

Code	Title	Hours
	General Education Requirements ( <a href="https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/">https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/</a> ) <sup>1</sup>	31
	College/School Requirements	47
	Program/Major Requirements	35
	Supporting Courses	9
	<b>Minimum Total Hours</b>	<b>122</b>

<sup>1</sup> While not included in the School or Program coursework requirements, students are expected to take MUH 214 and MUH 205 to satisfy some of the General Education requirements.

Specific coursework information can be found on the Degree Requirements tab.

## Departmental Admission Requirements

Students in this unit are admitted directly into their degree program.

## General Education Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
	General Education Requirements ( <a href="https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/">https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/</a> ) <sup>1,2</sup>	31

The following courses are required by this program and should be used to fulfill the respective General Education Requirement:

MUH 214 African-American Music - AH (<https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/>), D1 (<https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/>)

MUH 205 Music in World Cultures - D2 (<https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/>), SB (<https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/>)

All degrees require the completion of the University-wide General Education Program (link provided above). Some General Education requirements may be met in the requirements for the major or supporting coursework, in which case additional electives may be required to complete the minimum hours for the degree.

## College/School Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
<b>School of Music Requirements</b>		
MUS 141	Theory I <sup>3</sup>	4
MUS 142	Theory II <sup>3</sup>	4
MUS 241	Musicianship III	2
MUS 242	Musicianship IV	2
MUS 248	Theory Modules I <sup>11</sup>	2
MUS 249	Theory Modules II <sup>12</sup>	2
MUS 361	Introduction to Musicologies	3
MUS 362	Applying Musicologies	3
MUS 363	Engaging Musicologies	3
MUS 109	Major Ensembles (eight 1-hour courses) <sup>4</sup>	8
MUS 97	Recital Attendance (four semesters of "S")	0
MUS 131	Piano Class <sup>5</sup>	1
MUS 132	Piano Class <sup>5</sup>	1
MUS 231	Piano Class III <sup>5,6</sup>	1
MUS 347	Analysis I	2
MUSA 111	Principal Applied Study <sup>7</sup>	2
or MUSA 105	Jazz Applied	
MUSA 112	Principal Applied Study <sup>7</sup>	2
or MUSA 106	Jazz Applied	
MUSA 211	Principal Applied Study <sup>7</sup>	2
or MUSA 205	Jazz Applied	
MUSA 212	Principal Applied Study <sup>7</sup>	2
or MUSA 206	Jazz Applied	
MUS 100	Introduction to Music Study	1
MUS 297	Piano Proficiency	0
	<b>Minimum Total Hours</b>	<b>47</b>

## Program/Major Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
<b>Music Composition Requirements</b>		
MUSA 143	Composition and Orchestration <sup>8</sup>	2
MUSA 144	Composition and Orchestration <sup>8</sup>	2
MUSA 243	Composition and Orchestration <sup>8</sup>	2
MUSA 244	Composition and Orchestration <sup>8</sup>	2

MUSA 343	Composition and Orchestration <sup>8</sup>	2
MUSA 344	Composition and Orchestration <sup>8</sup>	2
MUSA 443	Composition and Orchestration <sup>8</sup>	2
MUSA 444	Composition and Orchestration - CUE ( <a href="https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/">https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/</a> ) <sup>8</sup>	2
MUS 441	Composition Seminar (eight semesters)	0
MUS 353	Contemporary Composition Techniques I	2
MUS 354	Contemporary Composition Techniques II	2
MUS 348	Analysis II	2
MUS 270	Creative Audio Recording and Production Techniques	2
MUS 547	Chromatic Harmony and Analysis	2
MUS 548	Post-Tonal Theory and Analysis	2
MUS 549	Renaissance Counterpoint	2
MUS 550	Baroque Counterpoint	2
MUS 567	Introduction to Electronic and Computer Music	3
MUSA 497	Senior Recital - CUE ( <a href="https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/">https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/</a> ) <sup>9</sup>	0

**Minimum Total Hours 35**

Code	Title	Hours
<b>Supporting Courses</b>		
MUS 359	Conducting I	2
MUSA 325	Arts Instrument	1
MUSA 326	Arts Instrument	1
MUSA 425	Arts Instrument	1
MUSA 426	Arts Instrument	1
MUS 551	Studies in Improvisation	2
Electives <sup>10</sup>		1

**Minimum Total Hours 9**

## Upper Division Assessment

All students enrolled in a music degree program will be reviewed at the approximate midpoint of the selected program in order for students to achieve Upper Division status. Students must meet the standards of this review to register for 400-level courses in music. Both the elements and standards of the review are established by the faculty and include credit for MUS 242 Musicianship IV or Analysis (MUS 347 for BA General; MUS 349 for BA Jazz Studies; MUS 350 for BA Music & New Media); MUS 361 Music Literature I; 4 semesters of Applied Instrument at the course numbers required for the degree; Piano Proficiency Examination; MUS 97 Recital Attendance, with a grade S for 4 semesters; Ensemble participation; cumulative 2.5 GPA (good standing); minimum of 48 credit hours completed; pass ENGL 101 or ENGL 105; and 3 additional General Education/Cardinal Core courses.

Additional specific elements and standards appropriate to specific degree programs in jazz studies (including jazz performance, music education and music therapy with tracks in jazz studies, and the BA in jazz studies), music composition, music education, music history, instrumental and vocal performance, pedagogy, music theory, and music therapy are required of students in order to achieve Upper Division status and to continue in the degree program. Specific degree requirements are determined by the concentration and area faculties and are outlined in the *Undergraduate Student Handbook*.

Code	Title	Hours
<b>Culminating Undergraduate Experience (Graduation requirement)</b>		

Requirement fulfilled by completing:		
MUSA 497	Senior Recital - CUE ( <a href="https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/">https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/</a> )	

- Students are required to take MUH 214 African-American Music - AH (<https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/>), D1 (<https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/>) and MUH 205 Music in World Cultures - D2 (<https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/>), SB (<https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/>).
- Students majoring in music may take MUH courses as music electives with the exception of the cardinal core courses MUH 205 / MUH 214 and MUH 204.
- Students who do not pass the computer-based Fundamentals Test prior to the beginning of the fall semester are required to enroll in MUS 91 Fundamentals of Music I for 0 credit concurrently with MUS 141 Theory I. Students who do not pass MUS 141, and students who enter the School of Music in January and do not place into MUS 142 Theory II, must enroll in MUS 92 for the spring semester. Credits for MUS 92 do not count toward the degree.
- Strings take section 01, others solely dependent on the ensemble audition.
- If applied principal is piano, Piano Class is replaced with 3 hours of electives. For students with a piano background, three semesters of MUSA 121-MUSA 221 (Secondary Piano) may be substituted.
- Students will take the Piano Proficiency Examination at the end of MUS 231. Any student not completing the Piano Proficiency Examination will be required to take MUS 232 until the proficiency exam requirement is complete. Students must be enrolled continuously in Piano Class until their requirement has been completed. Those who pass the Piano Proficiency Examination before the end of the third semester of Piano Class may replace the requirement with electives or with secondary piano if faculty load permits. Entering students who have a background in piano may register for Piano Proficiency MUS 297 for one semester with approval of the Keyboard Area.
- Students may choose either the applied principal (non-jazz) lesson sequence (MUSA 111, MUSA 112, MUSA 211, MUSA 212, MUSA 325, MUSA 326, MUSA 425, MUSA 426) or applied jazz lesson sequence (MUSA 105, MUSA 106, MUSA 205, MUSA 206, MUSA 325, MUSA 326, MUSA 425, MUSA 426). Except upon petition and approval, students will be locked in to the entire sequence of either applied principal (non-jazz) or applied jazz lessons. Only instrumentalists with corresponding jazz instructors at UofL may opt for the applied jazz lesson sequence.
- Undergraduate composition majors enrolled in MUSA 243–MUSA 444 are required to present public performances of their original works to average at least eight minutes of music per semester. The senior recital does not count toward these averages, but does fulfill the requirement for the semester in which it is given.
- Students must present a recital of original works.
- Music electives in any Bachelor of Music degree should be chosen from courses in Music History, Music Theory/Composition, Music Education, Music Literature, Music Pedagogy, Music Therapy, Jazz, a secondary applied area, or a non-required ensemble. Courses beyond the degree requirement in the student's major applied area or in the required major ensemble(s) are not appropriate. MUH courses will not be accepted as music electives. School of Music students may count

up to two one-hour Physical Education courses toward the general elective requirement.

<sup>11</sup> Students must complete a 1-credit hour module in Term 1 and a 1-credit hour module in Term 2 the same semester that they are registered for MUS 241 Musicianship 3.

<sup>12</sup> Students must complete a 1-credit hour module in Term 1 and a 1-credit hour module in Term 2 the same semester that they are registered for MUS 242 Musicianship 4.

### Flight Plan

Year 1		Hours
<b>Fall</b>		
MUS 100	Introduction to Music Study	1
MUS 109	Major Ensembles	1
MUSA 111 or MUSA 105	Principal Applied Study or Jazz Applied	2
MUS 141	Theory I	4
MUS 97	Recital Attendance	0
MUS 131	Piano Class (or Music Elective)	1
MUSA 143	Composition and Orchestration	2
MUS 441	Composition Seminar	0
ENGL 101	Introduction to College Writing - WC ( <a href="https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/">https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/</a> )	3
<b>Hours</b>		<b>14</b>
<b>Spring</b>		
MUSA 112 or MUSA 106	Principal Applied Study or Jazz Applied	2
MUS 109	Major Ensembles	1
MUS 142	Theory II	4
MUS 97	Recital Attendance	0
MUS 132	Piano Class (or Music Elective)	1
MUSA 144	Composition and Orchestration	2
MUS 441	Composition Seminar	0
ENGL 102	Intermediate College Writing - WC ( <a href="https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/">https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/</a> )	3
General Education: Cardinal Core Quantitative Reasoning - QR		3
<b>Hours</b>		<b>16</b>
<b>Year 2</b>		
<b>Fall</b>		
MUSA 211 or MUSA 205	Principal Applied Study or Jazz Applied	2
MUS 109	Major Ensembles	1
MUS 241	Musicianship III	2
MUS 248	Theory Modules I	2
MUS 97	Recital Attendance	0
MUS 231	Piano Class III	1
MUS 297	Piano Proficiency	0
MUSA 243	Composition and Orchestration	2
MUS 353	Contemporary Composition Techniques I	2
MUS 441	Composition Seminar	0
General Education: Cardinal Core Oral Communication - OC		3
<b>Hours</b>		<b>15</b>
<b>Spring</b>		
MUSA 212 or MUSA 206	Principal Applied Study or Jazz Applied	2
MUS 109	Major Ensembles	1
MUS 242	Musicianship IV	2
MUS 249	Theory Modules II	2
MUS 361	Introduction to Musicologies	3
MUS 97	Recital Attendance	0

MUSA 244	Composition and Orchestration	2
MUS 441	Composition Seminar	0
MUS 354	Contemporary Composition Techniques II	2
MUS 270	Creative Audio Recording and Production Techniques	2
<b>Hours</b>		<b>16</b>
<b>Year 3</b>		
<b>Fall</b>		
MUSA 325	Arts Instrument	1
MUS 109	Major Ensembles	1
MUS 362	Applying Musicologies	3
MUSA 343	Composition and Orchestration	2
MUS 441	Composition Seminar	0
MUS 347	Analysis I	2
MUS 567	Introduction to Electronic and Computer Music	3
General Education: Cardinal Core Natural Sciences with Lab - B		4
<b>Hours</b>		<b>16</b>
<b>Spring</b>		
MUSA 326	Arts Instrument	1
MUS 109	Major Ensembles	1
MUS 363	Engaging Musicologies	3
MUSA 344	Composition and Orchestration	2
MUS 441	Composition Seminar	0
MUS 359	Conducting I	2
MUS 348	Analysis II	2
MUH 214	African-American Music - AH ( <a href="https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/">https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/</a> ), D1 ( <a href="https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/">https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/</a> )	3
MUH 205	Music in World Cultures - D2 ( <a href="https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/">https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/</a> ), SB ( <a href="https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/">https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/</a> )	3
<b>Hours</b>		<b>17</b>
<b>Year 4</b>		
<b>Fall</b>		
MUSA 425	Arts Instrument	1
MUS 109	Major Ensembles	1
MUSA 443	Composition and Orchestration	2
MUS 441	Composition Seminar	0
MUS 549	Renaissance Counterpoint	2
MUS 548	Post-Tonal Theory and Analysis	2
Music Electives		2
General Education: Cardinal Core Arts & Humanities - AH		3
General Education: Cardinal Core Social & Behavioral Sciences Historical Perspective - SBH		3
<b>Hours</b>		<b>16</b>
<b>Spring</b>		
MUSA 426	Arts Instrument	1
MUS 109	Major Ensembles	1
MUS 550	Baroque Counterpoint	2
MUS 551	Studies in Improvisation	2
MUSA 444	Composition and Orchestration - CUE ( <a href="https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/">https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/</a> )	2
MUS 441	Composition Seminar	0
MUS 547	Chromatic Harmony and Analysis	2
MUSA 497	Senior Recital - CUE ( <a href="https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/">https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/</a> )	0
General Education: Cardinal Core Natural Sciences - S		3
<b>Hours</b>		<b>13</b>
<b>Minimum Total Hours</b>		<b>123</b>

The Flight Plan outlined above is intended to demonstrate one possible path to completing the degree within four years. Course selection and placement within the program may vary depending on course offerings and schedule, elective preferences, and other factors (study abroad, internship availability, etc.). Please consult your advisor for additional information about building a flight plan that works for you.

**Degree Audit Report**

Degree Audit reports illustrate how your completed courses fulfill the requirements of your academic plan, and which requirements are still outstanding. Degree audits also take transfer credits and test credits into account. "What-if" reports allow you to compare the courses you have completed in your current academic plan to the courses required in another academic plan. Should you have questions about either report, please consult with your academic advisor.

**Flight Planner**

The Flight Planner tool is available for you to create a personalized Flight Plan to graduation. Advisors have access to review your Flight Planner and can help you adjust it to ensure you remain on track to graduate in a timely manner.

**To create these reports:**

1. Log into your ULink account.
2. Click on the Academic Progress tile.
3. Select the appropriate report.
  - a. To run a Degree Audit report, click on "View my Degree Audit."
  - b. To create a What-if report, click on "What-if Advisement Report."
  - c. To run a Flight Planner report, click on "Use My Flight Planner."

Click here to run a Degree Audit report, create a What-if report, or run a Flight Planner report. (<https://ulink.louisville.edu>)