

MUSIC INSTRUMENTAL PERFORMANCE (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 Instrumental Performance

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

Program Information

The Bachelor of Music in Instrumental Performance degree is appropriate for students who wish to prepare for a career in music performance and related fields. Among the particular career emphases for which the BM in Instrumental Performance is an appropriate preparation are professional performer, university teacher, private music studio teacher, or pre-professional preparation for music teacher certification study. Since it is unlikely that graduates of the program will have developed all the requisite skills to enter the professional ranks of performers or university teachers, most graduates will continue to develop their skills through further study. Students who have completed the BM in Instrumental Performance at UofL typically do very well in gaining admission to strong graduate programs nationwide.

Degree Summary

Code	Title	Hours
	General Education Requirements (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/) ¹	31
	College/School Requirements	47
	Program/Major Requirements	30
	Supporting Courses	12
	Minimum Total Hours	120

¹ 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 (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/) ^{1,2}	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
School of Music Requirements		
MUS 141	Theory I ³	4
MUS 142	Theory II ³	4
MUS 241	Musicianship III	2
MUS 242	Musicianship IV	2
MUS 248	Theory Modules I ¹¹	2
MUS 249	Theory Modules II ¹²	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) ⁴	8
MUS 97	Recital Attendance (four semesters of "S")	0
MUS 131	Piano Class ^{5,6}	1
MUS 132	Piano Class ^{5,6}	1
MUS 231	Piano Class III ^{5,6}	1
MUS 347	Analysis I	2
MUSA 103	Major Applied Study	4
MUSA 104	Major Applied Study	4
MUS 100	Introduction to Music Study	1
MUS 297	Piano Proficiency	0
	Minimum Total Hours	47

Program/Major Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
Instrumental Performance Requirements		
MUSA 203	Major Applied Study ⁷	4

MUSA 204	Major Applied Study ⁷	4
MUSA 303	Major Applied Study ⁷	4
MUSA 304	Major Applied Study ⁷	4
MUSA 403	Major Applied Study ⁷	4
MUSA 404	Major Applied Study ⁷	4
MUS 119	Minor Ensembles (eight 1/2-hour courses) ⁸	4
MUS 538	Studies in Pedagogy (Instrument Specific)	1
MUS 563	Literature (Instrument Specific)	1
MUSA 397	Junior Recital ⁹	0
MUSA 497	Senior Recital - CUE (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/) ⁹	0

Minimum Total Hours 30

Code	Title	Hours
Supporting Courses		
<i>Advanced Theory</i>		
Select one of the following:		2
MUS 348	Analysis II	
MUSA 145	Secondary Composition	
MUSA 146	Secondary Composition	
MUS 345	Orchestral Scoring	
MUS 346	Band/Choral Scoring	
MUS 547	Chromatic Harmony and Analysis	
MUS 548	Post-Tonal Theory and Analysis	
MUS 549	Renaissance Counterpoint	
MUS 550	Baroque Counterpoint	
MUS 359	Conducting I	2
Music Electives ¹⁰		3
General Electives ¹⁰		3
General or Music Electives ¹⁰		2

Minimum Total Hours 12

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; 4 semesters of Applied Instrument at the course numbers required for the degree; Piano Proficiency Examination; MUS 97 Recital Attendance, with a grade of 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
Culminating Undergraduate Experience (Graduation requirement)		

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

- ¹ Students are required to take MUH 214 and MUH 205.
- ² 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.
- ³ 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. Students who do not pass MUS 141, and students who enter the School of Music in January and do not place into MUS 142, must enroll in MUS 92 for the spring semester. Credits for MUS 92 do not count toward the degree.
- ⁴ Strings take section 01, others solely dependent on the ensemble audition.
- ⁵ For students with a piano background, three semesters of Secondary Piano (MUSA 121-MUSA 122) may be substituted.
- ⁶ Students must be enrolled continuously in Piano Class until their piano requirement has been completed. Those students 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 MUS 297 Piano Proficiency for one semester with approval of the Keyboard Area.
- ⁷ Woodwind option: Students with a major in flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, or saxophone may devote as many as 14 of the 32 hours required in the major instrument to the study of other woodwind instruments. After completing one semester of study in the major instrument with a grade of A or B, the student may elect the above option with the approval of the woodwind faculty. Continued enrollment in the option will be dependent upon satisfactory progress in the major instrument studied. An outline of the applied music study must be approved by the teacher of the major instrument. One-half of the senior recital may consist of solo or ensemble performance of one or more secondary instruments.
- ⁸ Students must be enrolled in Minor Ensemble for a minimum of six semesters. The applied teacher must approve the choice of Minor Ensembles that will count towards the degree.
- ⁹ Junior and senior recitals for all performance degrees are public recitals.
- ¹⁰ 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.
- ¹¹ 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.
- ¹² 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
Fall		
MUS 100	Introduction to Music Study	1
MUSA 103	Major Applied Study	4
MUS 109	Major Ensembles	1
MUS 141	Theory I	4
MUS 97	Recital Attendance	0
MUS 131	Piano Class	1
MUS 119	Minor Ensembles	0.5
ENGL 101	Introduction to College Writing - WC (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	3
Hours		14.5
Spring		
MUSA 104	Major Applied Study	4
MUS 109	Major Ensembles	1
MUS 142	Theory II	4
MUS 97	Recital Attendance	0
MUS 132	Piano Class	1
MUS 119	Minor Ensembles	0.5
ENGL 102	Intermediate College Writing - WC (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	3
General Education: Cardinal Core Quantitative Reasoning - QR		3
Hours		16.5
Year 2		
Fall		
MUSA 203	Major Applied Study	4
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
MUS 119	Minor Ensembles	0.5
General Education: Cardinal Core Oral Communication - OC		3
General Education: Cardinal Core Historical Perspective - SBH		3
Hours		16.5
Spring		
MUSA 204	Major Applied Study	4
MUS 109	Major Ensembles	1
MUS 242	Musicianship IV	2
MUS 249	Theory Modules II	2
MUS 361	Introduction to Musicologies	3
MUS 359	Conducting I	2
MUS 97	Recital Attendance	0
MUS 119	Minor Ensembles	0.5
Hours		14.5
Year 3		
Fall		
MUSA 303	Major Applied Study	4
MUS 109	Major Ensembles	1
MUS 347	Analysis I	2
MUS 362	Applying Musicologies	3
MUS 119	Minor Ensembles	0.5
General Education: Cardinal Core Natural Sciences - S		3
General Education: Cardinal Core Natural Sciences Lab - SL		1
Hours		14.5
Spring		
MUSA 304	Major Applied Study	4

MUS 109	Major Ensembles	1
MUS 363	Engaging Musicologies	3
MUS 119	Minor Ensembles	0.5
MUH 214	African-American Music - AH (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/), D1 (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	3
MUSA 397	Junior Recital	0
Music Elective		1
General Education: Cardinal Core Natural Sciences - S		3
Hours		15.5
Year 4		
Fall		
MUSA 403	Major Applied Study	4
MUS 109	Major Ensembles	1
Advanced Theory course from specific list		2
MUS 538	Studies in Pedagogy	1
MUS 563	Literature	1
MUS 119	Minor Ensembles	0.5
General Electives		3
General Education: Cardinal Core Arts & Humanities - AH		3
Hours		15.5
Spring		
MUSA 404	Major Applied Study	4
MUS 109	Major Ensembles	1
MUS 119	Minor Ensembles	0.5
MUSA 497	Senior Recital - CUE (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	0
Music Elective		1
MUH 205	Music in World Cultures - D2 (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/), SB (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	3
General or Music Electives		2
Music Elective		1
Hours		12.5
Minimum Total Hours		120

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>)