

MUSIC, PIANO 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 Piano Performance

Unit: Music (<http://www.louisville.edu/music/>)

Academic Plan Code(s): MUSIBM_PNO, MUSIBM_PDG

Program Information

The Bachelor of Music in 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 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.

The School of Music building contains two recital halls, a 15,000 square foot music library, forty-four teaching studios, and seventy-six practice rooms, many of them with Steinway grand pianos reserved exclusively for piano majors.

Degree Summary

Emphasis in Piano Performance

Code	Title	Hours
	General Education Requirements (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/) ¹	31
	College/School Requirements	44
	Program/Major Requirements	37
	Supporting Courses	10
	Minimum Total Hours	122

Emphasis in Piano Performance, Track in Piano Pedagogy

Code	Title	Hours
	General Education Requirements (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/) ¹	31

College/School Requirements	44
Program/Major Requirements	30
Supporting Courses	15
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.

Program Requirements

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
<i>School of Music Program Courses</i>		
Music Theory ³		16
MUS 141	Theory I	
MUS 142	Theory II	
MUS 241	Musicianship III	
MUS 242	Musicianship IV	
MUS 248	Theory Modules I ⁹	
MUS 249	Theory Modules II ¹⁰	
Music Literature		9
MUS 361	Introduction to Musicologies	
MUS 362	Applying Musicologies	
MUS 363	Engaging Musicologies	
Principal Ensemble (eight 1-hour courses) ⁴		8
MUS 109	Major Ensembles	

Applied Lessons⁵**8**

Applied Lessons, Piano Performance (two 4-hour courses)	
MUSA 103 & MUSA 104	Major Applied Study
-or-	
Applied Lessons, Piano Pedagogy track (four 2-hour courses)	
MUSA 101 & MUSA 102 & MUSA 201 & MUSA 202	Major Applied Study
MUS 347	Analysis I
MUS 100	Introduction to Music Study
MUS 297	Piano Proficiency
MUS 97	Recital Attendance (four semesters of "S")

2

1

0

0

Minimum Total Hours**44**

Program/Major Requirements

Piano Performance

Code	Title	Hours
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Plan Courses: Piano Performance

Applied Lessons (six courses)		24
MUSA 203	Major Applied Study	
MUSA 204	Major Applied Study	
MUSA 303	Major Applied Study	
MUSA 304	Major Applied Study	
MUSA 403	Major Applied Study	
MUSA 404	Major Applied Study	
MUS 561	Literature (Piano Literature I)	2
MUS 562	Literature (Piano Literature II)	2
MUS 119	Minor Ensembles (Piano Ensemble; six half-hour courses)	3
MUS 371	Piano Pedagogy I	3
MUS 372	Piano Pedagogy II	3
MUSA 397	Junior Recital ⁵	0
MUSA 497	Senior Recital - CUE (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/) ⁵	0

Minimum Total Hours**37**

Code	Title	Hours
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Supporting Courses: Piano Performance

Advanced Theory		4
Select two 2-hour courses from the following:		
MUS 348	Analysis II	
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
Electives (General or Music) ⁶		4

Minimum Total Hours**10****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 or Analysis (MUS 347 for BA, General; MUS 349 for BA General, 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, 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
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Culminating Undergraduate Experience (Graduation requirement)

Requirement fulfilled by completing:

MUSA 497	Senior Recital - CUE (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)
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Program/Major Requirements

Piano Performance, Track in Piano Pedagogy

Code	Title	Hours
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Plan Courses: Piano Pedagogy Track

Applied Lessons (four courses)		12
MUSA 301	Major Applied Study	
MUSA 302	Major Applied Study	
MUSA 413	Principal Applied Study	
MUSA 414	Principal Applied Study	
MUS 561	Literature (Piano Literature I)	2
MUS 562	Literature (Piano Literature II)	2
MUS 371	Piano Pedagogy I	3
MUS 372	Piano Pedagogy II	3
MUS 471	Piano Pedagogy III	3
MUS 472	Piano Pedagogy IV	3
MUS 475	Pedagogy Practicum I	1
MUS 476	Pedagogy Practicum II	1
MUSA 497	Senior Recital - CUE (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/) ^{5, 7}	0

Minimum Total Hours**30**

Code	Title	Hours
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Supporting Courses: Piano Pedagogy Track

Advanced Theory		4
Two 2-hour courses chosen from:		

MUS 348	Analysis II	
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
MUS 119	Minor Ensembles (Piano Ensemble; six 1/2-hour courses)	3
Electives (General or Music) ^{6, 8}		6
Minimum Total Hours		15

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 or Analysis (MUS 347 for BA, General; MUS 349 for BA General, 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, 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 courses.

Additional specific elements and standards appropriate to specific degree programs 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 division and area faculties and are outlined in the Music Student Handbook and the various Division handbooks.

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 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/>).

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 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 Solely dependent on the ensemble audition.

⁵ Junior and Senior Recitals for all performance degrees are public recitals.

⁶ 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.

⁷ For the Track in Piano Pedagogy, the Senior Recital may be presented before the area faculty. A Junior Recital is strongly recommended for Pedagogy Majors.

⁸ Piano Pedagogy students are strongly encouraged to take a course in Educational Psychology or Child Development and to include one course in Music Entrepreneurship, Orff Schulwerk, or study on a secondary or functional instrument.

⁹ 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.

¹⁰ 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

Piano Performance

Year 1			
Fall			Hours
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 (MUS 97-01A)		0
MUS 119	Minor Ensembles (Piano Ensemble)		0.5
ENGL 101	Introduction to College Writing - WC (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)		3
General Education: Cardinal Core Quantitative Reasoning - QR			3
Hours			16.5
Spring			
MUSA 104	Major Applied Study		4
MUS 109	Major Ensembles		1
MUS 142	Theory II		4
MUS 97	Recital Attendance (MUS 97-01A)		0
MUS 119	Minor Ensembles (Piano Ensemble)		0.5
ENGL 102	Intermediate College Writing - WC (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)		3
General Education: Cardinal Core Natural Sciences - S			3
General Education: Cardinal Core Natural Sciences Lab - SL			1
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 (MUS 97-01A)		0
MUS 119	Minor Ensembles (Piano Ensemble)		0.5
General or Music Elective			1

General Education: Cardinal Core Oral Communication - OC	3
General Education: Cardinal Core Social & Behavioral Sciences Historical Perspective - SBH	3

Hours		16.5
Spring		
MUSA 204	Major Applied Study	4
MUS 297	Piano Proficiency	0
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 (MUS 97-01A)	0
MUS 119	Minor Ensembles (Piano Ensemble)	0.5
General Elective		1

Hours		15.5
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 371	Piano Pedagogy I	3
MUS 119	Minor Ensembles (Piano Ensemble)	0.5
General or Music Elective		1

Hours		14.5
Spring		
MUSA 304	Major Applied Study	4
MUS 109	Major Ensembles	1
MUS 363	Engaging Musicologies	3
MUS 372	Piano Pedagogy II	3
MUS 119	Minor Ensembles (Piano Ensemble)	0.5
MUSA 397	Junior Recital	0
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

Hours		14.5
Year 4		
Fall		
MUSA 403	Major Applied Study	4
MUS 109	Major Ensembles	1
Advanced Theory Course from specified list		2
MUS 561	Literature (Piano Literature I)	2
General Education: Cardinal Core Arts & Humanities - AH		3
General Education: Cardinal Core Natural Sciences - S		3
General or Music Elective		1

Hours		16
Spring		
MUSA 404	Major Applied Study	4
MUS 109	Major Ensembles	1
MUS 562	Literature	2
Advanced Theory Course from specified list		2
MUSA 497	Senior Recital - CUE (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	0
MUH 214	African-American Music - AH (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/), D1 (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	3

Hours		12
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Minimum Total Hours 122

Piano Performance with a Track in Piano Pedagogy

Year 1		
Fall		Hours
MUS 100	Introduction to Music Study	1
MUSA 101	Major Applied Study	2
MUS 109	Major Ensembles	1
MUS 141	Theory I	4
MUS 97	Recital Attendance (MUS 97-01)	0
MUS 119	Minor Ensembles (Piano Ensemble)	0.5
ENGL 101	Introduction to College Writing - WC (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	3

General Education: Cardinal Core Quantitative Reasoning - QR		3
General Education: Cardinal Core Social & Behavioral Sciences Historical Perspective - SBH		3

Hours		17.5
Spring		
MUSA 102	Major Applied Study	2
MUS 109	Major Ensembles	1
MUS 142	Theory II	4
MUS 97	Recital Attendance (MUS 97-01)	0
MUS 119	Minor Ensembles (Piano Ensemble)	0.5
ENGL 102	Intermediate College Writing - WC (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	3
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 Education: Cardinal Core Natural Sciences - S		3
General Education: Cardinal Core Natural Sciences Lab - SL		1

Hours		17.5
Year 2		
Fall		
MUSA 201	Major Applied Study	2
MUS 109	Major Ensembles	1
MUS 241	Musicianship III	2
MUS 248	Theory Modules I	2
MUS 97	Recital Attendance (MUS 97-01)	0
MUS 119	Minor Ensembles (Piano Ensemble)	0.5
General Education: Cardinal Core Oral Communication - OC		3
General Education: Cardinal Core Arts & Humanities - AH		3
General or Music Electives		3

Hours		16.5
Spring		
MUSA 202	Major Applied Study	2
MUS 297	Piano Proficiency	0
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 (MUS 97-01)	0
MUS 119	Minor Ensembles (Piano Ensemble)	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

Hours		15.5
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Year 3		
Fall		
MUSA 301	Major Applied Study	2

MUS 109	Major Ensembles	1
MUS 362	Applying Musicologies	3
MUS 347	Analysis I	2
MUS 119	Minor Ensembles (Piano Ensemble)	0.5
MUS 371	Piano Pedagogy I	3
General or Music Electives		3
Hours		14.5
Spring		
MUSA 302	Major Applied Study	2
MUS 109	Major Ensembles	1
MUS 363	Engaging Musicologies	3
MUS 119	Minor Ensembles (Piano Ensemble)	0.5
MUS 372	Piano Pedagogy II	3
General Education: Cardinal Core Natural Sciences - S		3
Hours		12.5
Year 4		
Fall		
MUSA 413	Principal Applied Study	4
MUS 109	Major Ensembles	1
Advanced Theory Course from specified list		2
MUS 471	Piano Pedagogy III	3
MUS 561	Literature (Piano Literature I)	2
MUS 475	Pedagogy Practicum I	1
Hours		13
Spring		
MUSA 414	Principal Applied Study	4
MUS 109	Major Ensembles	1
MUS 472	Piano Pedagogy IV	3
MUS 562	Literature (Piano Literature II)	2
MUS 476	Pedagogy Practicum II	1
Advanced Theory Course from specified list		2
MUSA 497	Senior Recital - CUE (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	0
Hours		13
Minimum Total Hours		120

- To run a Degree Audit report, click on "View my Degree Audit."
- To create a What-if report, click on "What-if Advisement Report."
- 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>)

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:

- Log into your ULink account.
- Click on the Academic Progress tile.
- Select the appropriate report.