

MUSIC THEORY (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 Music Theory

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

Academic Plan Code(s): MUSIBM_MUT

Program Information

The Bachelor of Music in Theory degree is designed for students interested in understanding and eventually teaching music theory. Many of the graduates of this degree will pursue graduate studies in music theory. In addition to those goals common to all professional baccalaureate degrees in music, students in music theory develop an advanced capability for music analysis, including sophisticated communication skills about analysis and the ability to analyze a musical work from multiple perspectives. Students also develop a sophisticated knowledge of the relationship between music theory and music composition, including the ability to compose music with acoustic and digital sources, and with a degree of technical mastery of music notation, arranging, and computer notation. Theory majors use the tools of music analysis and theoretical research, including keyboard, knowledge of foreign languages, and bibliographic tools. Research techniques and effective written and oral communication skills must be demonstrated by the development and presentation of a senior paper.

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	27
	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.

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 205	Music in World Cultures - D2 (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/), SB (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)
MUH 214	African-American Music - AH (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/), D1 (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 ⁹	2
MUS 249	Theory Modules II ¹⁰	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 111	Principal Applied Study	2
MUSA 112	Principal Applied Study	2
MUSA 211	Principal Applied Study	2
MUSA 212	Principal Applied Study	2
MUS 100	Introduction to Music Study	1
MUS 297	Piano Proficiency	0
Minimum Total Hours		47

Program/Major Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
Music Theory Requirements		
MUSA 145	Secondary Composition	2
& MUSA 146	Secondary Composition	
MUS 267	Music Theory Seminar (six 1/2 hour courses)	3
MUS 552	Pedagogy of Theory	2
One course chosen from the following in consultation with the advisor and private instructor:		2
MUS 345	Orchestral Scoring	
MUS 346	Band/Choral Scoring	
MUS 545	Advanced Instrumental Scoring	
MUS 348	Analysis II	2
MUS 547	Chromatic Harmony and Analysis	4
& MUS 548	Post-Tonal Theory and Analysis	
MUS 549	Renaissance Counterpoint	4
& MUS 550	Baroque Counterpoint	
MUS 270	Creative Audio Recording and Production Techniques	2
MUS 498	Thesis Guidance - CUE (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/) (CUE)	4
Minimum Total Hours		25
Code	Title	Hours
Supporting Courses		
MUS 359	Conducting I	2
MUSA 325	Arts Instrument	1
& MUSA 326	Arts Instrument (&)	
MUSA 425	Arts Instrument	1
& MUSA 426	Arts Instrument (&)	
MUS 129	Cardinal Singers	0.5
or MUS 119	Minor Ensembles	
Electives ⁸		4.5
GER 121	German Language and Culture I	4
Minimum Total Hours		13

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:		
MUS 498	Thesis Guidance - 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 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 Musicianship I 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 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.
- ⁶ 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 MUS 297 Piano Proficiency for one semester with approval of the Keyboard Area.
- ⁷ Theory majors are strongly advised to take a second semester of German.
- ⁸ 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.
- 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

Year 1		
Fall		
MUS 100	Introduction to Music Study	1
MUSA 111	Principal Applied Study	2
MUS 109	Major Ensembles	1
MUS 141	Theory I	4
MUS 97	Recital Attendance	0
MUS 131	Piano Class (or Music Elective)	1
MUSA 145	Secondary Composition	2
ENGL 101	Introduction to College Writing - WC (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	3
General Education: Cardinal Core Natural Sciences - S		3
Hours		17
Spring		
MUSA 112	Principal Applied Study	2
MUS 109	Major Ensembles	1
MUS 142	Theory II	4
MUS 97	Recital Attendance	0
MUS 132	Piano Class	1
MUSA 146	Secondary Composition	2
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
Year 2		
Fall		
MUSA 211	Principal Applied Study	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 (or Music Elective)	1
MUS 297	Piano Proficiency	0
MUS 267	Music Theory Seminar	0.5
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 Oral Communication - OC		3
Hours		14.5
Spring		
MUSA 212	Principal Applied Study	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
MUS 267	Music Theory Seminar	0.5
MUS 359	Conducting I	2
MUS 270	Creative Audio Recording and Production Techniques	2
Hours		14.5
Year 3		
Fall		
MUSA 325	Arts Instrument	1
MUS 109	Major Ensembles	1

MUS 362	Applying Musicologies	3
MUS 267	Music Theory Seminar	0.5
MUS 345	Orchestral Scoring	2
or MUS 346	or Band/Choral Scoring	
or MUS 545	or Advanced Instrumental Scoring	
MUS 347	Analysis I	2
MUS 119	Minor Ensembles	0.5
or MUS 129	or Cardinal Singers	
General Education: Cardinal Core Natural Sciences - S		3
General Education: Cardinal Core Natural Sciences Lab - SL		1
Music or General Elective		1
Hours		15
Spring		
MUSA 326	Arts Instrument	1
MUS 109	Major Ensembles	1
MUS 363	Engaging Musicologies	3
MUS 267	Music Theory Seminar	0.5
MUS 346	Band/Choral Scoring (Only if student did not take MUS 345 or MUS 545)	
MUS 348	Analysis II	2
General Education: Cardinal Core Social & Behavioral Sciences Historical Perspective - SBH		3
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		13.5
Year 4		
Fall		
MUSA 425	Arts Instrument	1
MUS 109	Major Ensembles	1
MUS 549	Renaissance Counterpoint	2
MUS 548	Post-Tonal Theory and Analysis	2
MUS 267	Music Theory Seminar	0.5
Music or General Electives		2
GER 121	German Language and Culture I	4
General Education: Cardinal Core Arts & Humanities - AH		3
Hours		15.5
Spring		
MUSA 426	Arts Instrument	1
MUS 109	Major Ensembles	1
MUS 550	Baroque Counterpoint	2
MUS 547	Chromatic Harmony and Analysis	2
MUS 267	Music Theory Seminar	0.5
MUS 552 Pedagogy of Theory		2
Music or General Electives		1.5
MUS 498	Thesis Guidance - CUE (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/) (CUE)	4
Hours		14
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>)