

Music

Faculty: Christopher Quinn (Director), Karlyn Bond, Brandon Derfler (Chair), Chris Puckett

Music Courses

Program Goals

- A solid understanding of music theory from the common practice period to the present, including tonal theory (i.e., harmony, the rules of voice leading, and four-part writing), and post-tonal theory
- Aural skills sufficient for competent melodic/harmonic/rhythmic dictation and sight-singing—collectively necessary for a balanced understanding of music theory, the ability to learn music accurately and efficiently, and to perform it capably and artistically
- Knowledge of the basic history of Western classical music—its forms and styles, and its connections to Western culture; and more in-depth knowledge of a few special topics within this overarching history
- Excellence on a particular instrument or voice in solo and ensemble performance
- The ability to write clearly and meaningfully about music and subjects relating to it

Objectives

The Florence J. Gillmor School of Music at Westminster offers a Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in music and also offers a music minor. Music majors must select an emphasis in vocal performance, piano performance, or music studies. The BA degree in music is an excellent choice for talented students who plan to pursue graduate work in music, for liberal arts students pursuing two majors in preparation for graduate school, and for musical pre-law or pre-med students. It is also a degree that would qualify students for any number of music-related jobs following college. Among musicians with sufficient talent and training for careers in the field, those with degrees in music are at an advantage over those without.

The School of Music also offers opportunities for anyone on campus interested in making music, regardless of backgrounds or areas of formal study. School performing ensembles—open to capable and committed students and, in some cases, members of the community—include the Westminster Community Choir, Westminster Chamber Singers, SugarTown, Westminster Chamber Orchestra, Westminster Jazz Ensemble, Westminster Chamber Players, and Westminster Opera Studio. (All of the above require at least an informal audition.) Private lessons and WCore courses in music are also available to students.

Program Requirements

An audition is required for status as a major or minor in music. Students must choose a primary instrument and audition on that particular instrument (e.g., piano, voice, guitar, violin, etc.). Live auditions are held each year

on specific dates as announced on the School of Music web page. Music major aspirants auditioning before the end of March who are planning to enroll as first-year students the following fall semester will automatically be considered for music scholarships. All auditions taking place after March 31 will be for major or minor status only. Due to strict course sequencing, students wishing to graduate with a music major within a four-year course of study must begin their required course work fall semester of their freshman year, and audition for status no later than the end of their first semester. Students seeking a music minor must audition before their sophomore year and begin their required course work no later than fall semester of that same year. In order to maintain music major or minor status, each student must maintain a minimum 2.5 cumulative GPA in music courses, and additionally pass each required music course with a minimum grade of C-. All students must additionally meet the college-wide graduation requirements in addition to those of the music major: 1) 124 total hours, 2) 30 upper-division hours, and 3) W-Core requirements. Transfer students wishing to complete a music major at Westminster must complete at least half their total number of required music credits at Westminster, and be enrolled in a performing ensemble each semester while at Westminster. Transfer students wishing to complete a music minor must complete a minimum of nine credits of music—including two semesters of ensemble credit—at Westminster College. For more information, email the Music Department Chair, currently Dr. Brandon Derfler, at bderfler@westminstercollege.edu

For course prerequisites, please refer to the course descriptions.

Students must meet the college-wide graduation requirements in addition to the Music major:

- 124 total hours
- 30 upper division hours
- WCore requirements

Music Studies Major

Requirement Description	Credit Hours	Prerequisites
I. World Language Requirement Music majors must complete eight credit hours in a single world language.	8	
II. Performance-Based Coursework Piano Proficiency Requirement Students must demonstrate reasonable piano proficiency, either through successful completion of a diagnostic test or alternately by taking a group piano course or private piano lessons at the discretion of the student's music advisor. Private Lessons (primary instrument) (8)	16	

Four consecutive semesters are required.

MUSC 191, 192, 291, 292 (2 credits each)

Performing Ensembles (8)

One of the following must be taken eight different semesters:

MUSC 315 Westminster Community Choir (1)	placement audition required
MUSC 325 Westminster Jazz Ensemble (1)	audition required
MUSC 335 Westminster Chamber Orchestra (1)	audition required
MUSC 345 Westminster Chamber Singers (1)	audition required
MUSC 365 Westminster Opera Studio (1)	audition required
MUSC 375 Westminster Percussion Ensemble (1)	placement audition required
MUSC 385 Westminster Chamber Players (1)	audition required
MUSC 395 SugarTown Acappella (1)	audition required

III. Academic Coursework	16	
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MUSC 171 Music Theory I (3)	Piano Proficiency Requirement
MUSC 181 Aural Skills I (2)	
MUSC 271 Music Theory II (3)	MUSC 171
MUSC 281 Aural Skills II (2)	MUSC 181
<i>Choose two of the following:</i>	
MUSC 351 History of Western Classical Music I (3)	MUSC 171
MUSC 352 History of Western Classical Music II (3)	MUSC 271
MUSC 353 History of Western Classical Music III (3)	MUSC 271
MUSC 354 History of Western Classical Music IV (3)	MUSC 271

IV. Elective Courses	15	
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Fifteen hours of music coursework and music-related WCFAH courses (any 100-level or higher music courses). A minimum of 9 elective credit hours must be upper-division academic music courses.

V. Senior Project	2	
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MUSC 421 Senior Project (2)	MUSC 292
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TOTAL HOURS FOR MUSIC STUDIES MAJOR	57	
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Four Year Plan – BA Music Studies

Fall

Spring

First Year	WRIT 110 or Writing Emphasis WCore Course (take MUSC 104 instead if recommended from diagnostic test) MUSC 191 Ensemble Learning Community	MUSC 171 MUSC 181 MUSC 192 Ensemble Music Elective Elective
Sophomore Year	MUSC 271 MUSC 281 MUSC 291 Ensemble Music Elective WCSAM	MUSC 292 Ensemble MUSC 352 or 354 WCFAH 219 Music Elective Elective
Junior Year	World Language I Ensemble WCFAH 132 Music Elective WCSBS	World Language II Ensemble MUSC 207 Music Elective Elective
Senior Year	Ensemble WCSAM MUSC 351 or 353 Music Elective Elective	MUSC 421 WCSBS Ensemble Elective

Music Major–Performance Emphasis (Piano)

Requirement Description	Credit Hours	Prerequisites
I. World Language Requirement	8	
Music majors must complete eight credit hours in a single world language.		
II. Performance-Based Coursework	24	
Private Music Lessons (16)		
<i>Two credits must be taken every semester except the eighth.</i>		
MUSC 191, 192, 291, 292, 391, 392, 491 (14)		
MUSC 420 Senior Recital (2) (<i>final year</i>)		MUSC 491
Performing Ensembles (4)		
<i>Must be repeated for four semesters.</i>		
MUSC 385 Westminster Chamber Players (1)		audition required
Collaborative Piano Performance (4)		
MUSC 331 Collaborative Piano I (2)		

MUSC 332 Collaborative Piano II (2)

III. Academic Coursework	38	
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MUSC 171 Music Theory I (3)	
MUSC 181 Aural Skills I (2)	
MUSC 271 Music Theory II (3)	MUSC 171
MUSC 281 Aural Skills II (2)	MUSC 181
MUSC 351 History of Western Classical Music I (3)	MUSC 171
MUSC 352 History of Western Classical Music II (3)	MUSC 271
MUSC 353 History of Western Classical Music III (3)	MUSC 271
MUSC 354 History of Western Classical Music IV (3)	MUSC 271
MUSC 371 Music Theory III (3)	MUSC 271
MUSC 381 Aural Skills III (2)	MUSC 281
MUSC 471 Music Theory IV (3)	MUSC 371
MUSC 481 Aural Skills IV (2)	MUSC 381
MUSC 341 Piano Literature I (2)	
MUSC 342 Piano Literature II (2)	
MUSC 343 Piano Pedagogy (2)	

IV. Elective Courses	4	
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Four hours of music coursework and music-related WCFAH courses (any 100-level or higher music courses).

TOTAL HOURS FOR PIANO PERFORMANCE MAJOR	74	
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Recommended Plan of Study for Piano Performance Major

	Fall Semester	Spring Semester
First Year	MUSC 331 or 341 WCSBS MUSC 191 MUSC 385 Learning Community	MUSC 171 MUSC 181 MUSC 192 MUSC 385 WCSAM MUSC 332 or 342 Elective
Sophomore Year	MUSC 271 MUSC 281 MUSC 291 WCFAH 132 MUSC 331 or 341 Elective MUSC 385	MUSC 292 MUSC 352 or 354 MUSC 385 WCFAH 219 MUSC 371 MUSC 381
Junior Year	World Language MUSC 471 MUSC 481 WCSAM MUSC 391	MUSC 352 or 354 World Language MUSC 392 MUSC 207 or other Music Elective MUSC 343

Senior Year	Music Elective WCSBS MUSC 351 or 353 MUSC 491 Elective MUSC 331 or 341	MUSC 420 MUSC 332 or 342 MUSC 352 or 354 MUSC 343 Elective
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Music Major–Performance Emphasis (Vocal)

Requirement Description	Credit Hours	Prerequisites
I. World Language Requirement	8	
Music majors must complete eight credit hours in a single world language.		
II. Performance-Based Coursework	28	
Piano Proficiency Requirement Students must demonstrate reasonable piano proficiency, either through successful completion of a diagnostic test or alternately by taking a group piano course or private piano lessons at the discretion of the student’s music advisor.		
Private Music Lessons (voice) (16) <i>Two credits must be taken every semester except the eighth.</i> MUSC 191, 192, 291, 292, 391, 392, 491 (14) MUSC 420 (Senior Recital – final year) (2)		MUSC 491
Performing Ensembles (10) <i>At least one of the following must be taken every semester.</i> MUSC 345 Westminster Chamber Singers (1) [x6] MUSC 365 Westminster Opera Studio (1) [x4]		audition required audition required
Conducting Courses (2) MUSC 301 Choral Conducting (2)		
III. Academic Coursework	37	
MUSC 171 Music Theory I (3) MUSC 181 Aural Skills I (2) MUSC 311 English & Italian Diction for Singers (2) MUSC 312 French & German Diction for Singers (2)		Piano Proficiency Requirement

MUSC 271 Music Theory II (3)	MUSC 171
MUSC 281 Aural Skills II (2)	MUSC 181
MUSC 371 Music Theory III (3)	MUSC 271
MUSC 381 Aural Skills III (2)	MUSC 281
MUSC 471 Music Theory IV (3)	MUSC 371
MUSC 481 Aural Skills IV (2)	MUSC 381

Choose **three** of the following:

- MUSC 351 History of Western Classical Music I (3) MUSC 171
MUSC 271
- MUSC 352 History of Western Classical Music II (3) MUSC 271
MUSC 271
- MUSC 353 History of Western Classical Music III (3)
- MUSC 354 History of Western Classical Music IV (3)

Choose **two** of the following:

- MUSC 303 Vocal Pedagogy (2)
- MUSC 318 Art Song Literature Survey (2)
- MUSC 319 Opera Literature Survey (2)

TOTAL HOURS FOR VOCAL PERFORMANCE MAJOR

73

Four Year Plan – BA Music – Vocal Performance

	Fall Semester	Spring Semester
First Year	WRIT 110 or WCore Writing Emphasis Course MUSC 191 MUSC 311 MUSC 345 Learning Community	MUSC 171 MUSC 181 MUSC 192 MUSC 345 WCSBS MUSC 312 or 305
Sophomore Year	MUSC 271 MUSC 281 MUSC 291 WCFAH 345 MUSC 132 MUSC 303 or 304 Elective	MUSC 292 MUSC 345 WCFAH 219 MUSC 352 or 354 MUSC 371 MUSC 381
Junior Year	World Language I MUSC 345 MUSC 471 MUSC 481 WCSAM MUSC 391 MUSC 365	World Language II MUSC 352 or 354 MUSC 365 MUSC 392 Elective MUSC 207 MUSC 345
Senior Year	MUSC 365 WCSAM MUSC 351 or 353 MUSC 491 Elective MUSC 301 MUSC 303 or 304	MUSC 420 MUSC 365 MUSC 312 or 305 WCSBS Elective

Music Minor

Requirement Description	Credit Hours	Prerequisites
I. Piano Proficiency Requirement	0-2	
Students must demonstrate reasonable piano proficiency, either through successful completion of a diagnostic test or alternately by taking a group piano course or private piano lessons at the discretion of the student's music advisor.		
II. Performance-Based Coursework	4-6	
Private Lessons (primary instrument) (2-4)		
<i>Two consecutive semesters are required.</i>		
MUSC 191, 192, (1-2 credits each)		
Performing Ensembles (2)		
<i>One of the following must be taken two different semesters.</i>		
MUSC 315 Westminster Community Choir (1)		placement audition required
MUSC 325 Westminster Jazz Ensemble (1)		audition required
MUSC 335 Westminster Chamber Orchestra (1)		audition required
MUSC 345 Westminster Chamber Singers (1)		audition required
MUSC 365 Westminster Opera Studio (1)		audition required
MUSC 375 Westminster Percussion Ensemble (1)		
MUSC 385 Westminster Chamber Players (1)		audition required
MUSC 395 SugarTown Acappella (1)		audition required
III. Academic Coursework	16	
MUSC 171 Music Theory I (3)		Piano Proficiency Requirement
MUSC 181 Aural Skills I (2)		
MUSC 271 Music Theory II (3)		MUSC 171
MUSC 281 Aural Skills II (2)		MUSC 181
<i>Choose two of the following:</i>		
• MUSC 351 History of Western Classical Music I (3)		MUSC 171 MUSC 271
• MUSC 352 History of Western Classical Music II (3)		MUSC 271 MUSC 271
• MUSC 353 History of Western Classical Music III (3)		
• MUSC 354 History of Western Classical Music IV (3)		
IV. Elective Courses	4	

Four hours of music coursework and music-related WCFAH courses (any 100-level or higher music courses).

TOTAL HOURS FOR MUSIC MINOR	24–28	
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Recommended Plan of Study for Music Minor

	Fall Semester	Spring Semester
Freshman Year	Piano Proficiency Requirement MUSC 191 Music Ensemble	MUSC 171 MUSC 181 MUSC 192 Music Ensemble
Sophomore Year	MUSC 271 MUSC 281	Music Elective(s)
Junior Year	MUSC 351 or 353	MUSC 352 or 354
Senior Year	Music Elective(s)	Music Elective(s)

Note: Ensemble and elective scheduling are flexible within the four-year plan of study, but the Department of Music strongly encourages every music minor to participate in a music ensemble whenever his/her schedule allows.