

# MAJOR IN MUSIC (B.M.), COMPOSITION CONCENTRATION

The Bachelor of Music (B.M.), Composition Concentration is a professional undergraduate degree program designed to prepare students to compose original music for various genres, including symphonic works, chamber music, electronic music, and media music. Coursework emphasizes comprehensive musicianship throughout the curriculum with emphasis on individualized study in music composition.

Students receive six semesters of applied composition lessons and specialized training in arranging, orchestration, electronic music production, and music analysis. The degree culminates with a student composition recital and the completion of a senior thesis in the form of a major work for orchestra or another large ensemble.

## Concentration-Level Learning Objectives

1. Compose original music in a style consistent with current trends in contemporary art music and related fields, including music for visual media.
2. Score music that is effective for the performing media employed in the student's compositions, including but not limited to solo and chamber music, music for standard large ensembles such as orchestra, chorus, and wind ensemble, and electronic/electroacoustic works.
3. Produce musical scores in keeping with current professional standards and demonstrate an understanding of traditional and contemporary notation practice.
4. Produce fully realized performances and/or recordings of original compositions for various media and/or performers.
5. Demonstrated competency using music technology including digital audio workstations, music notation software, MIDI applications, and recording/live audio hardware.

6. Demonstrate an understanding of the rights and responsibilities a composer has in the performance, publication, and distribution of his/her works including intellectual property rights for musicians.

Please review the common B.M. Program-Level Learning Objectives.

## Music Auditions

**Prospective CSU Students:** In addition to applying to CSU through the Office of Admissions, a successful audition with CSU Music faculty is required for entrance into the B.M. concentrations. Please visit the music website for Music Audition Information (<https://music.colostate.edu/admissions/undergrad-apply/>).

**Current CSU Students:** To change your major to music, you may call the School of Music, Theatre, and Dance at (970) 491-5891 or email [smttd@colostate.edu](mailto:smttd@colostate.edu) ([cla\\_advising@colostate.edu](mailto:cla_advising@colostate.edu)). Current CSU students need to complete the audition process and be accepted to the School of Music, Theatre, and Dance before contacting the College of Liberal Arts Academic Advising Center. Please visit the music website for Music Audition Information (<https://music.colostate.edu/admissions/undergrad-apply/>).

**Join an Ensemble:** Bands, Orchestras, and Choirs are open to all CSU students. Ensemble audition excerpts and instructions are available at Ensemble Audition Information (<https://music.colostate.edu/auditions/>) (some ensembles do not require an audition).

## Music Program Fee

A music program fee is assessed with Undergraduate and graduate music and musical theatre majors and music minors, per semester. Does not apply to the following students: online degree students and summers-only master's degree students. [Please visit the Office of the Provost and Executive Vice President for special course fees.](https://provost.colostate.edu/students/Office_of_the_Provost_and_Executive_Vice_President_for_special_course_fees) ([https://provost.colostate.edu/students/Office\\_of\\_the\\_Provost\\_and\\_Executive\\_Vice\\_President\\_for\\_special\\_course\\_fees.](https://provost.colostate.edu/students/Office_of_the_Provost_and_Executive_Vice_President_for_special_course_fees))

## Requirements

### Effective Fall 2022

A minimum grade of C is required in all music courses used to satisfy the requirements of the BM in Music, Composition Concentration.

#### Freshman

		AUCC	Credits
CO 150	College Composition (GT-CO2)	1A	3
MU 117	Music Theory I		3
MU 118	Music Theory II		3
MU 127	Aural Skills I		1
MU 128	Aural Skills II		1
MU 131	Introduction to Music History and Literature (GT-AH1)	3B	3
MU 150 <sup>1</sup>	Piano Class I		1
MU 151B <sup>1</sup>	Piano Class II: Performance, Composition, and General Studies		1
Select one group from the following: <sup>2</sup>			2
Group A:			
MU 173	Freshman Voice Studio		
MU 272Q	Applied Music Instruction: Voice		
Group B:			
Applied Music Instruction - Lower-Division (see list below) <sup>2</sup>			

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Ensemble (see list below) <sup>3</sup>		2
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion ( <a href="http://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/all-university-core-curriculum/aucc/#diversity-equity-inclusion">http://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/all-university-core-curriculum/aucc/#diversity-equity-inclusion</a> )	1C	3
Quantitative Reasoning ( <a href="http://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/all-university-core-curriculum/aucc/#quantitative-reasoning">http://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/all-university-core-curriculum/aucc/#quantitative-reasoning</a> )	1B	3
Electives <sup>4</sup>		4
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>30</b>
<b>Sophomore</b>		
MU 217	Music Theory III	3
MU 218	Music Theory IV	3
MU 227	Aural Skills III	1
MU 228	Aural Skills IV	1
MU 273	Composition Instruction	2
Applied Music Instruction - Lower-Division (see list below) <sup>2</sup>		2
Ensemble (see list below) <sup>3</sup>		2
Advanced Writing ( <a href="http://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/all-university-core-curriculum/aucc/#advanced-writing">http://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/all-university-core-curriculum/aucc/#advanced-writing</a> )	2	3
Social and Behavioral Sciences ( <a href="http://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/all-university-core-curriculum/aucc/#social-behavioral-sciences">http://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/all-university-core-curriculum/aucc/#social-behavioral-sciences</a> )	3C	3
Music Electives		6
Electives		5
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>31</b>
<b>Junior</b>		
MU 254	Beginning Conducting	2
MU 318	Arranging and Orchestration	2
MU 325	Jazz Composition/Arranging	2
MU 473	Applied Composition Instruction	6
MU 499	Thesis	1
Select one from the following:		2
MU 355	Choral Conducting and Literature	
MU 356	Instrumental Conducting and Literature	
Upper-Division Music History (see list below)	4A,4B	6
Ensemble (see list below) <sup>3</sup>		2
Arts and Humanities ( <a href="http://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/all-university-core-curriculum/aucc/#arts-humanities">http://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/all-university-core-curriculum/aucc/#arts-humanities</a> )	3B	3
Music Electives		3
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>29</b>
<b>Senior</b>		
MU 417	Counterpoint	3
MU 418	Advanced Orchestration	2
MU 419	Electronic Music Composition	2
MU 471	Recital	4C
MU 473	Applied Composition Instruction	6
Ensemble (see list below) <sup>3</sup>		2
Biological and Physical Sciences ( <a href="http://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/all-university-core-curriculum/aucc/#biological-physical-sciences">http://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/all-university-core-curriculum/aucc/#biological-physical-sciences</a> )	3A	7
Historical Perspectives ( <a href="http://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/all-university-core-curriculum/aucc/#historical-perspectives">http://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/all-university-core-curriculum/aucc/#historical-perspectives</a> )	3D	3

Electives<sup>4</sup>

4

**Total Credits****30****Program Total Credits:****120****Applied Music Instruction - Lower-Division**

Code	Title	Credits
MU 272A	Applied Music Instruction: Euphonium	1-2
MU 272B	Applied Music Instruction: French Horn	1-2
MU 272C	Applied Music Instruction: Trombone	1-2
MU 272D	Applied Music Instruction: Trumpet	1-2
MU 272E	Applied Music Instruction: Tuba	1-2
MU 272G	Applied Music Instruction: Harpsichord	1-2
MU 272H	Applied Music Instruction: Organ	1-2
MU 272I	Applied Music Instruction: Piano	1-2
MU 272J	Applied Music Instruction: Percussion	1-2
MU 272K	Applied Music Instruction: Guitar	1-2
MU 272L	Applied Music Instruction: Harp	1-2
MU 272M	Applied Music Instruction: String Bass	1-2
MU 272N	Applied Music Instruction: Viola	1-2
MU 272O	Applied Music Instruction: Violin	1-2
MU 272P	Applied Music Instruction: Violoncello	1-2
MU 272Q	Applied Music Instruction: Voice	1-2
MU 272R	Applied Music Instruction: Bassoon	1-2
MU 272S	Applied Music Instruction: Clarinet	1-2
MU 272T	Applied Music Instruction: Flute	1-2
MU 272U	Applied Music Instruction: Oboe	1-2
MU 272V	Applied Music Instruction: Saxophone (Alto)	1-2

**Ensemble Courses**

Code	Title	Credits
MU 201	Men's Chorus	1
MU 202	University Chorus	1
MU 204	Marching Band	1
MU 205	Concert Band	1
MU 206	Colorado State University Concert Orchestra	1
MU 300	Women's Chorus	1
MU 302	University Orchestra	1
MU 304	Symphonic Band	1
MU 305	Colorado State University Concert Choir	1
MU 309	Jazz Ensemble	1
MU 310	Jazz Combo	1
MU 400	Colorado State University Chamber Choir	1
MU 401	Opera Theater	1-2
MU 402	Theater/Chamber Orchestra	1
MU 404	Symphonic Wind Ensemble	1
MU 406	New Music Ensemble	1
MU 407	Accompanying	1
MU 408	Chamber Music	1

**Upper-Division Music History - 4A/4B**

Code	Title	AUCC	Credits
MU 332	History of Jazz	4A,4B	3
MU 334	Perspectives in Early Music History	4A,4B	3
MU 335	Music of the Common Practice Era	4A,4B	3
MU 430	20th and 21st Century Music	4A,4B	3
MU 431	American Music	4A,4B	3

<sup>1</sup> Students with previous keyboard experience may test out of MU 150 and/or MU 151B and replace with the same number of elective credit(s).

<sup>2</sup> First-year voice students take 1 semester each of MU 173 and MU 272Q and two semesters of MU 272Q in year 2. Instrumentalists take MU 272A-MU 272P or MU 272R-MU 272V on a major instrument for 2 semesters each of the first 2 years.

<sup>3</sup> Students must participate in an ensemble during each semester in which they are enrolled in MU 172A-MU 172B or MU 272A-MU 272V. An additional four credits of ensembles are to be completed in semesters of the student's choosing for a total of eight credits. At least one

semester during the program of study, this must be achieved by taking MU 408 or another small ensemble.

<sup>4</sup> Select enough elective credits to bring the program total to a minimum of 120 credits, of which at least 42 must be upper-division (300- to 400-level).

**Major Completion Map****Distinctive Requirements for Degree Program:**

A grade of C or better is required in all music courses used to satisfy the requirements of the BM in Music, Composition Concentration.

**To Declare this Major:** Audition with department.

**Freshman**

Semester 1		Critical	Recommended	AUCC	Credits
MU 117	Music Theory I	X			3
MU 127	Aural Skills I	X			1

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MU 131	Introduction to Music History and Literature (GT-AH1)	X		3B	3
MU 150	Piano Class I		X		1
Select one from the following:		X			1
MU 173	Freshman Voice Studio				
Applied Music Instruction - Lower-Division (See list on Concentration Requirements Tab)					
Ensemble (See Ensemble List on Concentration Requirements Tab)		X			1
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion ( <a href="http://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/all-university-core-curriculum/aucc/#diversity-equity-inclusion">http://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/all-university-core-curriculum/aucc/#diversity-equity-inclusion</a> )		X		1C	3
Elective					2
<b>Total Credits</b>					<b>15</b>
<b>Semester 2</b>		<b>Critical</b>	<b>Recommended</b>	<b>AUCC</b>	<b>Credits</b>
CO 150	College Composition (GT-CO2)	X		1A	3
MU 118	Music Theory II	X			3
MU 128	Aural Skills II	X			1
MU 151B	Piano Class II: Performance, Composition, and General Studies	X			1
Select one from the following:		X			1
MU 272Q	Applied Music Instruction: Voice				
Applied Music Instruction - Lower-Division (See list on Concentration Requirements Tab)					
Ensemble (See List on Concentration Requirements Tab)		X			1
Quantitative Reasoning ( <a href="http://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/all-university-core-curriculum/aucc/#quantitativereasoning">http://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/all-university-core-curriculum/aucc/#quantitativereasoning</a> )		X		1B	3
Elective					2
<b>Total Credits</b>					<b>15</b>
<b>Sophomore</b>					
<b>Semester 3</b>		<b>Critical</b>	<b>Recommended</b>	<b>AUCC</b>	<b>Credits</b>
MU 217	Music Theory III	X			3
MU 227	Aural Skills III	X			1
MU 273	Composition Instruction	X			1
Applied Music Instruction Lower-Division (See List on Concentration Requirements Tab)		X			1
Ensemble (See List on Concentration Requirements Tab)		X			1
Advanced Writing ( <a href="http://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/all-university-core-curriculum/aucc/#advanced-writing">http://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/all-university-core-curriculum/aucc/#advanced-writing</a> )			X	2	3
Music Electives					3
Electives					3
<b>Total Credits</b>					<b>16</b>
<b>Semester 4</b>		<b>Critical</b>	<b>Recommended</b>	<b>AUCC</b>	<b>Credits</b>
MU 218	Music Theory IV	X			3
MU 228	Aural Skills IV	X			1
MU 273	Composition Instruction	X			1
Applied Music Instruction Lower-Division (See List on Concentration Requirements Tab)		X			1
Ensemble (See List on Concentration Requirements Tab)		X			1
Social and Behavioral Sciences ( <a href="http://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/all-university-core-curriculum/aucc/#social-behavioral-sciences">http://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/all-university-core-curriculum/aucc/#social-behavioral-sciences</a> )		X		3C	3
Music Electives					3
Electives					2
<b>Total Credits</b>					<b>15</b>

**Junior**

<b>Semester 5</b>		<b>Critical</b>	<b>Recommended</b>	<b>AUCC</b>	<b>Credits</b>
MU 254	Beginning Conducting		X		2
MU 325	Jazz Composition/Arranging				2
MU 473	Applied Composition Instruction	X			3
MU 499	Thesis		X		1
Upper-Division Music History I (see list on Concentration Requirements Tab)			X	4A,4B	3
Ensemble (See List on Concentration Requirements Tab)		X			1
Music Electives					3

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<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>15</b>
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<b>Semester 6</b>		<b>Critical</b>	<b>Recommended</b>	<b>AUCC</b>	<b>Credits</b>
MU 318	Arranging and Orchestration	X			2
MU 473	Applied Composition Instruction	X			3
Select one course from the following:					2
MU 355	Choral Conducting and Literature	X			
MU 356	Instrumental Conducting and Literature	X			
Upper-Division Music History I (see list on Concentration Requirements Tab)			X	4A,4B	3
Ensemble (See List on Concentration Requirements Tab)		X			1
Arts and Humanities ( <a href="http://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/all-university-core-curriculum/aucc/#arts-humanities">http://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/all-university-core-curriculum/aucc/#arts-humanities</a> )			X	3B	3

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<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>14</b>
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**Senior**

<b>Semester 7</b>		<b>Critical</b>	<b>Recommended</b>	<b>AUCC</b>	<b>Credits</b>
MU 417	Counterpoint	X			3
MU 473	Applied Composition Instruction	X			3
Ensemble (See List on Concentration Requirements Tab)		X			1
Biological and Physical Sciences ( <a href="http://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/all-university-core-curriculum/aucc/#biological-physical-sciences">http://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/all-university-core-curriculum/aucc/#biological-physical-sciences</a> )		X		3A	7
Elective					2

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<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>16</b>
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<b>Semester 8</b>		<b>Critical</b>	<b>Recommended</b>	<b>AUCC</b>	<b>Credits</b>
MU 418	Advanced Orchestration	X			2
MU 419	Electronic Music Composition	X			2
MU 471	Recital	X		4C	1
MU 473	Applied Composition Instruction	X			3
Ensemble (See List on Concentration Requirements Tab)		X			1
Historical Perspectives ( <a href="http://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/all-university-core-curriculum/aucc/#historical-perspectives">http://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/all-university-core-curriculum/aucc/#historical-perspectives</a> )		X		3D	3
Elective		X			2
The benchmark courses for the 8th semester are the remaining courses in the entire program of study.		X			

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<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>14</b>
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<b>Program Total Credits:</b>	<b>120</b>
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