



MUSIC MAJOR GUIDELINES

PREPARING TO BECOME A MUSIC MAJOR

Prospective music majors should take MUSC 103, 201, 202 or 210 as early as possible in their academic careers. One of these entry level courses must be taken before the student will be admitted to the major.

Students may apply to be exempt from MUSC 103 by taking a proficiency exam given by the instructor during the first week of classes in September. A highly prepared student may request an individual examination to exempt MUSC 201. A student will still be required to complete 4 theory/composition credits if that student is exempt from MUSC103 and/or MUSC201. Only an AP Theory credit on the Wesleyan transcript reduces the number of required Theory/Composition credits to 3.

The prerequisites for the major therefore include one course in the Theory/Composition capability (103, 201 202 or 210) and one course in the History/Culture capability (102, 106, 109, 110, 111, or 115). Students are also required to take any course in the performance of music with the exception of private lessons. Students may take higher-numbered courses before declaring the major. In order to be accepted as a music major, the student's performance in these classes should demonstrate the ability to succeed in the program.

Students are also encouraged to develop their musicianship by taking private lessons, performing in ensembles, and taking Music Department courses. Over a four-year period, it is possible for active musicians to accumulate nearly two dozen credits in Music Department courses. There are limits, however, on the number of such courses that can be applied toward graduation. No more than 16 Music credits may count towards the 32 required for a Wesleyan degree.

All music majors must anticipate taking at least 16 credits outside the Music Department in order to graduate. For music majors, cross-listed courses count in music. It is therefore imperative that students contemplating a major in music complete an average of 4 non-music credits every academic year. Failure to maintain this pace may make it impossible to graduate within the standard four-year period; it may also necessitate taking summer courses at some other institution.

Music majors should complete their General Education expectation of at least three SBS and three NSM courses. Prospective majors who have not made substantial progress towards meeting these expectations or who have not taken enough courses outside of the Music Department may be refused entry into the major. Students who fail to fulfill the General Education expectations are generally not considered for departmental prizes and honors.

DECLARING A MAJOR IN MUSIC

A student who wishes to become a Music Major should:

- 1) Go to Music Studios 109. An advisor will be assigned to you and you can receive the required In-House Concentration Form.
- 2) Meet with your Music Advisor to design your own program of courses and to fill out the In-House Concentration Form. As each student designs her/his own major (within the guidelines outlined below), subject to departmental approval, this is a crucial first step. Have the music advisor sign your In-House Concentration Form.
- 3) Make a copy of the signed In-House Concentration Form for your records. Take the original to the Administrative Assistant in Music Studios 109. Request the Music Major in the Major Declaration section of your student portfolio. The assembled music faculty must approve the program of study before the student can be accepted as a major. When it has been approved, your declaration request will be accepted via portfolio. The student then receives an official letter of acceptance to the program.

A MUSIC MAJOR PROGRAM

A Music Major program consists of four courses in each of the three capabilities (Theory/Composition, History/Culture, and Performance), two seminars for majors, and a capstone project taking the form of a senior project or honors thesis.

I. REQUIRED COURSES

- 1) **Music Theory - MUSC 103, 201 202 or 210** - Must be completed before acceptance to the major. Students should attempt to complete these courses as soon as possible in order to be able to take other Theory/Composition classes.
- 2) **Music History/Culture - one of MUSC 102, 106, 109, 110, 111, or 115.**
- 3) **Music Major Seminar – MUSC 300** This course must be taken twice, normally once in the Junior year and once in the Senior year. Generally, at least one seminar is offered every semester. Exceptionally well-prepared seniors may apply to take graduate-level seminars in lieu of MUSC 300

II. ELECTIVES (General considerations in selecting additional courses)

Music majors take four courses in each of three major capabilities: Theory/Composition, History/Culture, and Performance. Students design their own course of study in consultation with their music advisor. **Diversity of musical experience is expected**; all students must gain familiarity with at least two different musical traditions. Within each capability students must take courses with at least two different faculty members.

A student may depart from this balance only in exceptional circumstances. Such an exceptional program (in which, for example, a fifth Theory/Composition course is taken in place of a fourth History/Culture course) must be justified in a written explanatory petition submitted by the student BEFORE registering for the proposed course. The assembled Music Department faculty must approve such programs.

The required credits may be summarized in two ways:

1. Credits by Capabilities Distribution

4 credits in Theory/Composition: 103, 201, 202, or 210, plus 3 electives (only an AP credit on the Wesleyan Transcript reduces this number to 3)

4 credits in History/Culture: 102, 106, 109, 110, 111, or 115 plus any two courses numbered 241-299.

The fourth course may be a Freshman Year Seminar (F suffix on the course number) or another 100 or 200 numbered course

4 credits in Performance: 4 electives (numbered 406-499) (at least 2 semesters of performance credits should be in performance ensembles)

2 credits of MUSC 300: Seminar for Music Majors

14 TOTAL (A senior project or Honors Thesis is also required)

2. Credits by Prerequisites and Electives Distribution

Prerequisites: 3

Theory/Composition: MUSC 103, 201, 202, or 210

History/Culture: MUSC 102, 106, 109, 110, 111, or 115

Performance: any course in the performance of music with the exception of private lessons

Major required courses: 2

Seminar for Music Majors: MUSC 300 (taken two times)

Major electives: 9

Theory/Composition: 3 (numbered 201-240)

History/Culture: 3 (at least 2 numbered 241-299 and the last elective may be a Freshman Year Seminar (F suffix on the course number) or another 100 or 200 numbered course

Performance: 3 (numbered 406, 413-499)

14 TOTAL: A senior project or Honors Thesis is also required

Although only a limited number of courses in each category are required, students frequently take more--even all--of a sequence depending upon their interests and future plans. A student contemplating graduate studies in music composition or musicology, for example, will want to take as many courses in western Theory and History as possible.

Details of individual programs (for example which area[s] of World Music will be emphasized, which of the theory and history courses are appropriate, etc.) are worked out by the individual student and his/her advisor, with the approval of the appropriate Director of Undergraduate Studies and ratified by the entire faculty. This is the essence of the Music Major at Wesleyan. The program allows enormous flexibility; however, once a student commits to a proposed major program and it is approved, significant changes must be proposed and approved in advance, in consultation with a Director of Undergraduate Studies (see below under "Maintaining a Music Major Program").

The Department expects its Majors to continue to refine and extend their performance skills throughout their undergraduate careers, but no more than four performance courses taken in the Junior and Senior years may be applied to a major program as recorded on the In-House Major Concentration Form. At least 2 semesters of performance credits should be in performance ensembles. It is assumed, however, that students will take additional performance courses. These practices may mean that students end up with more than 32 courses required to graduate, and, correspondingly, substantially more than 16 courses that may be applied to the Major. Students are reminded that a load of 6 or more courses in one semester requires the permission of the Dean.

The proposed program of a student who plans to be a Double Major is judged exactly as if the student proposed to be a Music Major only. There is no "Minor" in music at Wesleyan.

The Music Department will accept a maximum of five music credits for an incoming transfer student. We will accept a maximum of four music credits for music majors who spend a year at another institution. For one semester away, we will accept a maximum of two music credits. These maximum numbers can be adjusted up to ONE credit more, depending upon the decision of the Director of Undergraduate Affairs, in conjunction with the advocacy of the students' advisor.

III. THE SENIOR PROJECT

All majors must complete a senior project by the end of the senior year. This project may take many forms, including a concert, a written thesis, or a substantial musical composition. The nature of the senior project is determined jointly by the student and the student's project advisor (who may or may not be the student's major advisor).

Work on the senior project entails enrolling in MUSC 403 and/or 404 (Senior Project Tutorial). If a student wishes to be a candidate for Honors, she/he must register for both MUSC 409 and 410 (Senior Honors Thesis). Details on the Senior Project can be found in "Information for Senior Music Majors," available from Music Studios 109.

MAINTAINING A MUSIC MAJOR PROGRAM

Students should use the program detailed in their In-House Concentration Form as a guide when making course selections. Failure to make progress through the program--particularly its academic component--may result in the suspension of fee waivers for private lessons and other Departmental preferences.

Majors considering significant changes in their approved programs should consult with their advisor, and then obtain the approval of the appropriate Director of Undergraduate Studies, before substituting for a course listed on their In-House Concentration Form. The Director of Undergraduate Studies has the right to approve or disapprove such proposed changes. A "significant change" includes (1) a change in the content of the Theory/Composition capability; (2) a petition to change the ratio of Theory/Composition and History/Culture from 4:4 to 5:3; or (3) a change affecting the diversity of the student's musical experience.

This last type of change typically involves the balance of courses outside the student's area of concentration. For example, a student concentrating in Jazz studies, and whose approved program contains a semester of Gamelan as the only non-Jazz performance group, should not substitute another Jazz-related ensemble for this Gamelan course; such a change significantly alters the diversity of the student's musical experience. On the other hand, substituting a course in Indian music would not significantly alter the balance of Jazz and non-Jazz courses, and does not require the approval of the Director of Undergraduate Studies.

Any alterations to the Program of study listed on the In-House Concentration Form must be registered with the Administrative Assistant in Music Studios 109, who can also help identify "significant" changes to the Major program. This registration must be done in the first week of classes.

Music Majors must complete the Major Certification Form in their student portfolio in the spring of the senior year. The Registrar's office will notify students of the deadline for completion of this form.

Details on the requirements for Seniors can be found in the sheets entitled "Information for Senior Music Majors," available from Music Studios 109.

PRIVATE LESSONS WAIVERS FOR MUSIC MAJORS

Music Majors in their Junior and Senior years are eligible for a partial waiver of the fees of one full academic credit of private lessons per semester with a Private Lessons Teacher. To qualify for this benefit the student must have been informed that he or she has been approved as a major by the end of the previous semester. All applicable rules and regulations of the Private Lessons Program must be followed in order to continue to be eligible for the waiver. Students whose ability to complete the Music Major is in doubt (i.e., students that do not complete the classroom component of their programs in a timely fashion) will not be eligible for the waiver.

HONORS IN MUSIC

Full details on the requirements for Honors can be found in "Information for Senior Music Majors," available from Music Studios 109. Students wishing to be a candidate for Departmental Honors in Music must notify the Honors Program before October 15 of their senior year.

Honors only will be awarded to students who have demonstrated compliance with Stage I and II University General Education Expectations. Compliance is necessary for honors, Phi Beta Kappa nominations, and prizes awarded by the Department. The assembled Music Department faculty must approve any exception to this policy. Students who hope to be considered for Phi Beta Kappa must give attention both to their major and non-major programs, as this organization requires evidence of education in a broad range of subjects.

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