

BACHELOR OF ARTS (BA) DEGREE WITH A MAJOR IN MUSIC

Program Learning Outcomes for the BA Degree with a Major in Music

Upon completing the BA degree with a major in Music, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate an intermediate level of technical and musical competence in performance.
2. Possess rudimentary skills in music theory and an understanding of how those skills are related to music performance.
3. Acquire a fundamental understanding and appreciation of the various historical periods of music literature.

Requirements for the BA Degree with a Major in Music

For general university requirements, see [Graduation Requirements \(https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/graduation-requirements/\)](https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/graduation-requirements/). Students pursuing the BA degree with a major in Music must complete:

- A minimum of 19 courses (43-51 credit hours, depending on course selection) to satisfy major requirements.
- A minimum of 120 credit hours to satisfy degree requirements.
- A minimum of 14 courses (30 credit hours) taken at the 300-level or above.

The courses listed below satisfy the requirements for this major. In certain instances, courses not on this official list may be substituted upon approval of the major's academic advisor, or where applicable, the department's Director of Undergraduate Studies. (Course substitutions must be formally applied and entered into Degree Works by the major's Official Certifier (<https://registrar.rice.edu/facstaff/degreeworks/officialcertifier/>)). Students and their academic advisors should identify and clearly document the courses to be taken.

Summary

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Total Credits Hours Required for the Major in Music		43-51
Total Credit Hours Required for the BA Degree with a Major in Music		120

Degree Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Music Theory		
MUSI 211	THEORY I	3
MUSI 212	THEORY II	3
MUSI 311	THEORETICAL STUDIES III	3
MUSI 312	THEORETICAL STUDIES IV	3
Select 1 course from the following:		3

MUSI 315	MULTI-MEDIA COMPOSITION
MUSI 378 / ASIA 378	CLASSICAL, CONTEMPORARY, AND CROSS-CULTURAL ASIAN MUSIC
MUSI 403	BASIC ELECTRONIC MUSIC
MUSI 404	ELECTRONIC MUSIC COMPOSITION
MUSI 405	MUSIC BUSINESS AND LAW
MUSI 416	ORCHESTRATION
MUSI 417	MUSIC FOR MEDIA
MUSI 512	ANALYTICAL SYSTEMS
MUSI 513	MODAL COUNTERPOINT
MUSI 514	SCORE READING AND THEORY AT THE KEYBOARD
MUSI 517	EARLY MODERN MASTERS
MUSI 613	TONAL COUNTERPOINT
MUSI 617	MUSIC SINCE 1950

Aural Skills and Performance Techniques

MUSI 231	AURAL SKILLS AND PERFORMANCE TECHNIQUE I	2
MUSI 232	AURAL SKILLS AND PERFORMANCE TECHNIQUE II	2

Music History

MUSI 222 / MDEM 222	MEDIEVAL AND RENAISSANCE ERAS	3
MUSI 321	BAROQUE AND EARLY CLASSICAL ERAS	3
MUSI 322	CLASSICAL AND ROMANTIC ERAS	3
MUSI 421	THE MODERN ERA	3

Individual and Ensemble Study

Select a minimum of 4 semesters from the following: ¹ 8-12

Any 300-level individual instrumental or vocal study course (see course list below)

Any 400-level individual instrumental or vocal study course (see course list below)

Select a minimum of 4 semesters from the following: 4-8

MUSI 335	UNDERGRADUATE CHORUS
MUSI 337	UNDERGRADUATE ORCHESTRA

Total Credit Hours Required for the Major in Music 43-51

Additional Credit Hours to Complete Degree Requirements * 38-46

University Graduation Requirements (<https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/graduation-requirements/>) * 31

Total Credit Hours 120

Footnotes and Additional Information

* **Note:** [University Graduation Requirements](https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/graduation-requirements/) include 31 credit hours, comprised of Distribution Requirements (Groups I, II, and III), FWIS, and LPAP coursework. In some instances, courses satisfying FWIS or distribution requirements may additionally meet other requirements, such as the Analyzing Diversity (AD) requirement, or some of the student's declared major, minor, or certificate requirements. [Additional Credit Hours to Complete Degree Requirements](https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/graduation-requirements/) include general electives, coursework completed as upper-level, residency (hours taken at Rice), and/or any other additional academic program requirements.

¹ Students in the BA degree program who wish to continue taking private lessons beyond the required four (4) semesters of individual instrumental and/or vocal study must obtain permission from the dean of the Shepherd School of Music.

Course List to Satisfy Requirements
Individual Instrumental or Vocal Study

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Individual Instrumental or Vocal Study Courses (300-level) ¹		
MUSI 351	CONCENTRATION FLUTE	
MUSI 353	CONCENTRATION OBOE	
MUSI 355	CONCENTRATION CLARINET	
MUSI 357	CONCENTRATION BASSOON	
MUSI 361	CONCENTRATION HORN	
MUSI 363	CONCENTRATION TRUMPET	
MUSI 365	CONCENTRATION TROMBONE	
MUSI 367	CONCENTRATION TUBA	
MUSI 371	CONCENTRATION PERCUSSION	
MUSI 373	CONCENTRATION VOICE	
MUSI 381	CONCENTRATION PIANO	
MUSI 383	CONCENTRATION ORGAN	
MUSI 387	CONCENTRATION HARP	
MUSI 391	CONCENTRATION VIOLIN	
MUSI 393	CONCENTRATION VIOLA	
MUSI 395	CONCENTRATION VIOLONCELLO	
MUSI 397	CONCENTRATION DOUBLE BASS	
Individual Instrumental or Vocal Study Courses (400-level) ¹		
MUSI 451	FLUTE FOR MAJORS	
MUSI 453	OBOE FOR MAJORS	
MUSI 455	CLARINET FOR MAJORS	
MUSI 457	BASSOON FOR MAJORS	
MUSI 461	HORN FOR MAJORS	
MUSI 463	TRUMPET FOR MAJORS	
MUSI 465	TROMBONE FOR MAJORS	
MUSI 467	TUBA FOR MAJORS	
MUSI 471	PERCUSSION FOR MAJORS	
MUSI 473	VOICE FOR MAJORS	
MUSI 481	PIANO FOR MAJORS	
MUSI 483	ORGAN FOR MAJORS	
MUSI 487	HARP FOR MAJORS	
MUSI 491	VIOLIN FOR MAJORS	
MUSI 493	VIOLA FOR MAJORS	
MUSI 495	VIOLONCELLO FOR MAJORS	
MUSI 497	DOUBLE BASS FOR MAJORS	

Footnotes and Additional Information

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Policies for the BA Degree with a Major in Music

Admission

The Shepherd School does not admit students to the BA degree with a major in Music. It is provided as an option for those BMus performance majors who no longer wish to pursue the performance degree.

Academic Standards

Curriculum and Degree Requirements

Further information on curricular requirements for all majors and degree programs is available from the Shepherd School of Music.

Grading Policy

A minimum grade of B- (2.67 grade points) per course is expected of all music students in their major applied area. A grade of C+ (2.33 grade points) or lower in a course in the student's major applied area is considered unsatisfactory and will be evaluated in the following manner:

- A music major who receives a grade of C+ (2.33 grade points) or lower in a course in their major applied area will be placed on music probation. Music probation signifies that the student's work has been sufficiently unsatisfactory to preclude graduation unless marked improvement is achieved promptly. A student on music probation may be absent from class only for extraordinary reasons and may not represent the school in any public function not directly a part of a degree program.
- If a student receives a second semester of C+ (2.33 grade points) or lower in a course in their major applied area, whether for consecutive semesters or not, the student will be discontinued as a BMus degree seeking student and merit scholarship from the Shepherd School will be discontinued.

Please Note: For music history and musicology majors, a grade of C+ (2.33 grade points) or lower in any music history course is considered unsatisfactory and will be evaluated as noted above. For music theory majors, a grade of C+ (2.33 grade points) or lower in any advanced music theory course is considered unsatisfactory and will be evaluated as noted above.

Leaves of Absence and Voluntary Withdrawal

Music majors must obtain permission in writing from the dean of the Shepherd School before requesting a leave of absence from the university. Requests must be in the dean's office before the first day of classes in the semester for which leave is requested.

Music majors taking voluntary withdrawal from the university are not guaranteed readmission into the Shepherd School and may be asked to reapply/reaudition. Students should explain the reasons for their withdrawal to the dean before leaving campus.

Examination

At the end of each semester, a jury examination in applied music may be given over the material studied during the semester.

Performance

Students are expected to perform frequently during their residence at Rice. Students are expected to attend both faculty and student recitals. In addition, all music majors must participate in the school's conducted ensembles as assigned.

Transfer Credit

For Rice University's policy regarding transfer credit, see [Transfer Credit \(https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/transfer-credit/\)](https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/transfer-credit/). Some departments and programs have additional restrictions on transfer credit. The Office of Academic Advising maintains the university's official list of [transfer credit advisors \(https://oaa.rice.edu/advising-network/transfer-credit-advisors/\)](https://oaa.rice.edu/advising-network/transfer-credit-advisors/) on their website: <https://oaa.rice.edu>. Students are encouraged to meet with their academic program's transfer credit advisor when considering transfer credit possibilities.

Departmental Transfer Credit Guidelines

Students pursuing the BA degree with a major in Music should be aware of the following departmental transfer credit guidelines:

- Requests for transfer credit will be considered by the program director (and/or the program's official transfer credit advisor) on an individual case-by-case basis.

Additional Information

For additional information, please see the Shepherd School of Music website: <https://music.rice.edu/>.

Opportunities for the BA Degree with a Major in Music

Academic Honors

The university recognizes academic excellence achieved over an undergraduate's academic history at Rice. For information on university honors, please see [Latin Honors \(https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/honors-distinctions/university/\)](https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/honors-distinctions/university/) (*summa cum laude*, *magna cum laude*, and *cum laude*) and [Distinction in Research and Creative Work \(https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/honors-distinctions/university/\)](https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/honors-distinctions/university/). Some departments have department-specific Honors awards or designations.

Other Musical Opportunities

Lectures and Performances

A visiting lecturer series, a professional concert series, and numerous distinguished visiting musicians contribute to the Shepherd School environment. The Houston Symphony Orchestra, Symphony Chorus, Houston Grand Opera, Houston Ballet, Houston Masterworks Chorus, Da Camera, Context, and Chamber Music Houston, as well as the activities of other institutions of higher learning in the area, also provide exceptional opportunities for students to enjoy a wide spectrum of music.

Additional Information

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