

MUSIC COMPOSITION, B.M.

Overview

Degree Program

The Bachelor of Music degrees are offered upon completion of the University baccalaureate and major requirements. The major requirements include completing a basic core of 30 credits of music and specific degree requirements of an additional 48-50 credits for Composition. Total credits: 78-80.

Students interested in pursuing this degree must demonstrate a high level of potential in terms of performance and/or composition, along with a strong commitment to music as a profession.

Special Programs/Opportunities

Ensembles

The Conservatory provides opportunities for experience in several types of vocal and instrumental ensembles, including the Biola Chorale, Symphony Orchestra, Symphonic Winds, Jazz Ensemble, Women's Chorus, Men's Chorus, University Chorus, Vocal Jazz Ensemble and Chamber Music Ensembles. All are open to non-music majors as well as music majors by audition.

Concert Series

The Conservatory concert series features outstanding guest artists and student ensembles.

Masterclasses and Artist-in-Residence Program

Opportunities for participating in masterclasses with guest artists are available annually. Of special note is the ongoing series of masterclasses and recitals by world-renowned artists, including Menahem Pressler, pianist, Artist-in-Residence.

Local Opportunities

The Southern California area provides exceptional opportunities for hearing the world's leading artists, as well as outstanding college and church music performances.

Service Opportunities

The Los Angeles metropolitan area offers many opportunities for remunerative service in music. There are frequent openings for competent church choir directors, soloists, accompanists, instrumentalists, and organists.

Scholarships

Music awards in varying amounts are available to qualified students. Complete information is available by emailing music@biola.edu or by writing:

Director, Conservatory of Music
Biola University
13800 Biola Avenue
La Mirada, CA 90639-0001

Learning Outcomes

Program Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the Bachelor of Music in Composition (<https://www.biola.edu/degrees/u/music-composition-bm/>), students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate competence in the foundation of musical knowledge related to musical theory, analysis, and history (ULO 1).
2. Demonstrate integration of faith in the musical disciplines and anticipated future professional activities (ULO 2).
3. Demonstrate synthesis of all degree-specific coursework and development of musicianship, knowledge, and skill expected in the professional field through expertise displayed in the degree capstone experience (ULO 3).

Each Program Learning Outcome (PLO) listed above references at least one of the University Learning Outcomes (ULO 1, 2, 3), which may be found in the General Information section (<https://catalog.biola.edu/general-information/#UniversityLearningOutcomes>) of this catalog.

Admission Requirements

Admission Requirements

All students seeking admission must demonstrate musical background and the strengths in performance and/or composition necessary for successful completion of the stated curriculum. Admission into Biola University does not guarantee admission into the Conservatory as a music major. A student will be admitted to the Conservatory of Music after:

1. Meeting requirements for University admission.
2. Completing a Conservatory application with the required number of references.
3. Completing a Conservatory audition, including a basic musicianship examination designed to demonstrate university level music study readiness.

After acceptance and upon entrance, students will be given placement examinations and auditions in music dictation, keyboard skills and performance. These examinations are given for the purpose of validating prior study and determining proper placement in music courses. Specific information concerning the content of these examinations and suggestions for preparation are available by contacting the Conservatory Office.

Program Requirements

Transfer of Credits

Most courses taken at other regionally accredited colleges and universities in the United States will be accepted on a comparable course basis. The following core courses will transfer directly:

- Theory I and II (MUSC 154 and MUSC 164)
- Musicianship I, II, III, and IV (MUSC 153, MUSC 163, MUSC 353, and MUSC 363)
- Introduction to Piano and Keyboard Skills I (MUSC 100 and MUSC 118)

In order to pass out of Theory III (MUSC 354) or Keyboard Skills II (MUSC 119), the student must display proficiency by achieving favorable scores on the Theory and Keyboard placement surveys.

No credit(s) will be given for waived courses. Waiver of courses on the basis of placement surveys without comparable prior course credit will increase elective credits required.

Credit for courses taken at a non-accredited college or university will be granted only through placement or challenge surveys.

Applied Music

In order to graduate, music students must reach primary applied proficiency level standards designated for each degree program. Applied Music lessons are guided by faculty or studio artists who have expertise and professional experience in either the voice or instrument under study, or in composition. Studio artists are affiliated with Biola via "special employee" contracts and thus do not undergo the same process for hire as do faculty. The studio artists are all highly competent individuals who appreciate Biola and endorse the goals of the Conservatory. For more information, see the Conservatory Office.

GPA Requirements

Students in the degree program must maintain a 2.0 GPA in the major and receive a minimum grade of C in each required course.

Curriculum Requirements

Integration Seminar Requirement

All students enrolled in the Bachelor of Music degree program are required to take a Biblical Studies Integration Seminar. This requirement must be fulfilled by taking BBST 4658 Integration Seminar: Redeeming Culture Through Music.

Code	Title	Credits
Candidates for the Bachelor of Music degree meet the Core Curriculum requirement of 3 credits in integration seminar within the major and are exempt from the Core Curriculum requirement in foreign language, literature, and fine arts.		
Program Courses		
MUSC 118	Keyboard Skills I ¹	1
MUSC 119	Keyboard Skills II ¹	1
MUSC 1401-1433	Applied Music (Primary Instrument) ²	4
MUSC 1407	Applied Music: Composition ³	6
MUSC 153	Musicianship I ⁴	1
MUSC 154	Theory I ⁵	3
MUSC 160	Essential Technologies for Musicians I	1
MUSC 163	Musicianship II ⁴	1
MUSC 164	Theory II ⁵	3
MUSC 170	Essential Technologies for Musicians II	1
MUSC 181	Introduction to Composition ⁶	2
MUSC 200	Performing Arts Forum ⁷	2
MUSC 275	Music Area Seminar ⁸	0
MUSC 315	History of Western Art Music I: Medieval through Baroque	3

MUSC 316	History of Western Art Music II: Classical through Romantic	3
MUSC 323	Basic Conducting	2
MUSC 341	Modal and Tonal Counterpoint	2
MUSC 342	Orchestration	2
MUSC 343	Form and Analysis	2
MUSC 344	Analysis of Post-Tonal Music	2
MUSC 353	Musicianship III ⁴	1
MUSC 354	Theory III ⁵	3
MUSC 363	Musicianship IV ⁴	1
MUSC 365	History and Analysis of 20th Century Music	3
MUSC 410	Music Cultures of the World	2
MUSC 435	Career Skills for the Entrepreneurial Musician	2
MUSC 490	Senior Recital	0
MUSC 4407	Applied Music: Composition ⁹	8
BBST 4658	Integration Seminar: Redeeming Culture Through Music ¹⁰	3

Ensemble Courses		
Select 6 credits from the following:		6
MUSC 001	Biola Choral	
MUSC 003	Symphony Orchestra	
MUSC 007	Jazz Ensemble	
MUSC 008	Symphonic Winds	
MUSC 009	Handbell Choir	
MUSC 010	Vocal Jazz Ensemble	
MUSC 011	University Chorus	
MUSC 012	Women's Chorus	
MUSC 014	Men's Chorus	
MUSC 390	Opera and Musical Production	
MUSC 1201	Biola String Quartet	
MUSC 1202	Brass Ensemble	
MUSC 1203	Brass Quintet	
MUSC 1204	Chamber Music	
MUSC 1205	Secondary Chamber Music	
MUSC 1206	Guitar Ensemble	
MUSC 1208	Jazz Combo	
MUSC 1212	New Music Ensemble	
MUSC 1213	Percussion Ensemble	
MUSC 1304	Opera/Musical Scenes	

Elective Courses		7
Select 3 credits from the following:		
MUSC 371	Composing for New Media: Film, TV, and Audio Production	
MUSC 372	Composing for New Media: Sound Design, Recording Techniques	
MUSC 373	Composing for New Media: Advanced Orchestration, Score Preparation	
MUSC 374	Composing for New Media: Scoring for Film and Video Games, Audio Production	

Select 4 credits from the following:

CNMA 101	Introduction to Writing for Visual Storytelling
CNMA 103	Introduction to Digital Media Production
CNMA 204	Entertainment Business
CNMA 308	Digital 3D Modeling
CNMA 325	Designing Game Narratives
MUSC 102	Voice Class
MUSC 126	Introduction to Music Technology
MUSC 127	Music Production I
MUSC 324	Advanced Studies in Conducting
MUSC 347	Music Production II
MUSC 356	Music Education: Brass
MUSC 357	Music Education: Percussion
MUSC 358	Music Education: Strings
MUSC 359	Music Education: Woodwinds
MUSC 367	Pop Theory for Worship and Commercial Music
MUSC 368	Pop Theory II for Worship and Commercial Music
MUSC 371	Composing for New Media: Film, TV, and Audio Production
MUSC 372	Composing for New Media: Sound Design, Recording Techniques
MUSC 373	Composing for New Media: Advanced Orchestration, Score Preparation
MUSC 374	Composing for New Media: Scoring for Film and Video Games, Audio Production
MUSC 405	Special Studies in Music (Special Studies in Ethnomusicology; Performance Health; Music History; or Preparation for Graduate Studies)
MUSC 1401-1433 or MUSC 4401-4433	Applied Music (Voice/Instrumental) ¹¹
MUSC 1407 or MUSC 4407	Applied Music: Composition
Program Course Requirements: 78 credits	
Core Curriculum Requirements¹²	57
Total Credits	135

¹ Students may take the Keyboard Placement Survey to potentially pass out of some or all of the Keyboard requirements. Students who do not take the survey will automatically be placed in MUSC 100 Introduction to Piano.

² Must be taken for a total of 4 credits through proficiency: level 224.

³ Must be taken for a total of 6 credits through proficiency: level 234.

⁴ Students may take the Musicianship Placement Survey to potentially pass out of some or all of the Musicianship requirements. Students who do not take the survey will automatically be placed in MUSC 153 Musicianship I. Musicianship courses already taken at the college/university level will directly transfer for credit.

⁵ Students may take the Theory Placement Survey to potentially pass out of some or all of their Theory requirements. Students who do not take the survey will automatically be placed in MUSC 154 Theory I.

The first two semesters of Written Theory courses already taken at the college/university level will directly transfer for credit.

⁶ MUSC 181 covers proficiency: level 131.

⁷ 7 semesters of MUSC 200 are required for graduation; at least 2 semesters must be taken for 1 credit.

Transfer students, who are transferring in 24 credits or more, are only required to complete 3 semesters of MUSC 200.

⁸ Taken every semester in conjunction with Applied Music.

⁹ Must be taken for a total of 8 credits through proficiency: level 438.

¹⁰ Fulfills the BBST 465 Biblical and Theological Studies Integration Seminar requirement.

¹¹ Excludes MUSC 1407 and MUSC 4407.

¹² See Core Curriculum Program section (<https://catalog.biola.edu/academic-policies/undergraduate-core-curriculum-program/>) for details.

Concentration New Media

Code	Title	Credits
Candidates for the Bachelor of Music degree meet the Core Curriculum requirement of 3 credits in integration seminar within the major and are exempt from the Core Curriculum requirement in foreign language, literature, and fine arts.		

Program Courses		
Select two of the following courses:		6
CNMA 101	Introduction to Writing for Visual Storytelling	
CNMA 103	Introduction to Digital Media Production	
CNMA 204	Entertainment Business	
CNMA 308	Digital 3D Modeling	
CNMA 325	Designing Game Narratives	
MUSC 118	Keyboard Skills I ¹	1
MUSC 119	Keyboard Skills II ¹	1
MUSC 1407	Applied Music: Composition ²	6
MUSC 153	Musicianship I ³	1
MUSC 154	Theory I ⁴	3
MUSC 160	Essential Technologies for Musicians I	1
MUSC 163	Musicianship II ³	1
MUSC 164	Theory II ⁴	3
MUSC 170	Essential Technologies for Musicians II	1
MUSC 181	Introduction to Composition ⁵	2
MUSC 200	Performing Arts Forum ⁶	2
MUSC 275	Music Area Seminar ⁷	0
MUSC 314	History of Film Music	3
MUSC 315	History of Western Art Music I: Medieval through Baroque	3
MUSC 316	History of Western Art Music II: Classical through Romantic	3
MUSC 323	Basic Conducting	2
MUSC 341	Modal and Tonal Counterpoint	2
MUSC 342	Orchestration	2
MUSC 343	Form and Analysis	2

MUSC 344	Analysis of Post-Tonal Music	2
MUSC 353	Musicianship III ³	1
MUSC 354	Theory III ⁴	3
MUSC 363	Musicianship IV ³	1
MUSC 365	History and Analysis of 20th Century Music	3
MUSC 371	Composing for New Media: Film, TV, and Audio Production	1
MUSC 372	Composing for New Media: Sound Design, Recording Techniques	1
MUSC 373	Composing for New Media: Advanced Orchestration, Score Preparation	1
MUSC 374	Composing for New Media: Scoring for Film and Video Games, Audio Production	1
MUSC 410	Music Cultures of the World	2
MUSC 435	Career Skills for the Entrepreneurial Musician	2
MUSC 490	Senior Recital	0
MUSC 4407	Applied Music: Composition ⁸	8
BBST 4658	Integration Seminar: Redeeming Culture Through Music ⁹	3

Ensemble Courses

Select 6 credits from the following:		6
MUSC 001	Biola Choral	
MUSC 003	Symphony Orchestra	
MUSC 007	Jazz Ensemble	
MUSC 008	Symphonic Winds	
MUSC 009	Handbell Choir	
MUSC 010	Vocal Jazz Ensemble	
MUSC 011	University Chorus	
MUSC 012	Women's Chorus	
MUSC 014	Men's Chorus	
MUSC 1201	Biola String Quartet	
MUSC 1202	Brass Ensemble	
MUSC 1203	Brass Quintet	
MUSC 1204	Chamber Music	
MUSC 1205	Secondary Chamber Music	
MUSC 1206	Guitar Ensemble	
MUSC 1208	Jazz Combo	
MUSC 1212	New Music Ensemble	
MUSC 1213	Percussion Ensemble	
MUSC 1304	Opera/Musical Scenes	
MUSC 390	Opera and Musical Production	

Program Course Requirements: 80 credits

Core Curriculum Requirements¹⁰	57
Total Credits	137

¹ Students may take the Keyboard Placement Survey to potentially pass out of some or all of the Keyboard requirements. Students who do not take the survey will automatically be placed in MUSC 100 Introduction to Piano.

² Must be taken for a total of 6 credits through proficiency: level 234.

³ Students may take the Musicianship Placement Survey to potentially pass out of some or all of the Musicianship requirements. Students who do not take the survey will automatically be placed in MUSC 153 Musicianship I. Musicianship courses already taken at the college/university level will directly transfer for credit.

⁴ Students may take the Theory Placement Survey to potentially pass out of some or all of their Theory requirements. Students who do not take the survey will automatically be placed in MUSC 154 Theory I. The first two semesters of Written Theory courses already taken at the college/university level will directly transfer for credit.

⁵ MUSC 181 covers proficiency: level 131.

⁶ 7 semesters of Performing Arts Forum required for graduation; at least 2 semesters must be taken for 1 credit. Transfer students: 3 semesters of MUSC 200 are required if an incoming student has completed at least 24 college-level credits. If a student has completed less than 24 credits, the student must enroll in MUSC 200 for 7 semesters.

⁷ Taken every semester in conjunction with Applied Music.

⁸ Must be taken for a total of 8 credits through proficiency: level 438.

⁹ Fulfills the BBST 465 Biblical and Theological Studies Integration Seminar requirement.

¹⁰ See Core Curriculum Program section (<https://catalog.biola.edu/academic-policies/undergraduate-core-curriculum-program/>) for details.

Course Sequence

NOTE: The course sequence table is designed by the major department and is one way that the classes will work out properly in sequence for your major. However, there are alternative or flexible ways to rotate some of the classes within the same year/level and sometimes between year levels. Please contact your major department advisor to discuss flexible alternatives in scheduling the sequence of your classes.

Taking coursework during the summer session may also be an option to accelerate your degree path.

See Core Curriculum Program section (<https://catalog.biola.edu/academic-policies/undergraduate-core-curriculum-program/>) for a list of approved Core Curriculum courses.

- Music Composition, B.M. (p. 4)
- New Media (p. 5)

Music Composition, B.M. (MUCO)

First Year		
Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
BBST 103 or 165	3 BBST 103 or 165	3
ENGL 100 or 112	3 KNES 107	1
GNST 102	1 Music	10
Music	10 Science (see Core Curriculum)	3
	17	17
Second Year		
Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
BBST 209 or 210	3 BBST 209 or 210	3
Music	7 BBST 251	3
Communication (see Core Curriculum)	3 Music	10
Philosophy (see Core Curriculum)	3	
	16	16

Third Year		
Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
BBST 354	3 BBST 365	3
HIST 200, 201, or POSC 225	3 HIST 100 or 101	3
Music	12 Music	9
	Behavioral Science (see Core Curriculum)	3
	Graduation Application due in Registrar's Office	
	18	18

Fourth Year		
Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
BBST 300/400 Bible Elective	3 BBST 300/400 Bible Elective	3
ENGL 313	3 BBST 4658 (fulfills BBST 465 Integration Seminar requirement)	3
Music	8 Music	9
Math (see Core Curriculum)	3 KNES Activity (see Core Curriculum)	1
	17	16

Total Credits 135

Music Composition, B.M. New Media (MUNM)

First Year		
Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
BBST 103 or 165	3 BBST 103 or 165	3
ENGL 100 or 112	3 Music	9
GNST 102	1 Science (see Core Curriculum)	3
Music	10	
	17	15

Second Year		
Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
BBST 209 or 210	3 BBST 209 or 210	3
Music	9 BBST 251	3
Communication (see Core Curriculum)	3 Music	9
	Philosophy (see Core Curriculum)	3
	15	18

Third Year		
Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
BBST 354	3 BBST 365	3
HIST 200, 201, or POSC 225	3 HIST 100 or 101	3
KNES 107	1 Music	9
Music	11 Behavioral Science (see Core Curriculum)	3
	Graduation Application due in Registrar's Office	
	18	18

Fourth Year		
Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
BBST 300/400 Bible Elective	3 BBST 300/400 Bible Elective	3
ENGL 313	3 BBST 4658 (fulfills BBST 465 Integration Seminar requirement)	3
Music	9 Music	11
Math (see Core Curriculum)	3 KNES Activity (see Core Curriculum)	1
	18	18

Total Credits 137

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NOTE: The course sequence table is designed by the major department and is one way that the classes will work out properly in sequence for your major. However, there are alternative or flexible ways to rotate some of the classes within the same year/level and sometimes between year levels. Please contact your major department advisor to discuss flexible alternatives in scheduling the sequence of your classes.

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- Music Composition, B.M. (p. 5)
- New Media (p. 6)

Music Composition, B.M. (MUCO)

First Year		
Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
HNRS 101	4 HNRS 105	4
HNRS 102	4 HNRS 106	4
GNST 102	1 KNES 107	1
Music	9 Music	9
	18	18

Second Year		
Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
HNRS 210	4 HNRS 230	4
HNRS 215	4 HNRS 231	4
Music	7 Music	10
Science (see Core Curriculum)	3	
	18	18

Third Year		
Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
HNRS 324	4 HNRS 337	4
HNRS 326	2 HNRS 339	2
Music	11 Music	9
KNES Activity (see Core Curriculum)	1	
	18	15

Fourth Year		
Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
HNRS 443	4 HNRS 458	4
Music	11 BBST 4658 (fulfills BBST 465 Integration Seminar requirement)	3
Math (see Core Curriculum)	3 Music	9
	18	16

Total Credits 139

Note: Certain Music courses are not offered every semester. Please check with the Music department for the most up-to-date schedule of required courses.

Music Composition, B.M. New Media (MUNM)

First Year

Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
HNRS 101	4	HNRS 105	4
HNRS 102	4	HNRS 106	4
GNST 102	1	Music	7
Music	9	Math (see Core Curriculum)	3
		18	18

Second Year

Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
HNRS 210	4	HNRS 230	4
HNRS 215	4	HNRS 231	4
KNES 107	1	Music	10
Music	9		
		18	18

Third Year

Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
HNRS 324	4	HNRS 337	4
HNRS 326	2	HNRS 339	2
Music	11	Music	9
KNES Activity (see Core Curriculum)	1	Science (see Core Curriculum)	3
		18	18

Fourth Year

Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
HNRS 443	4	HNRS 458	4
Music	11	BBST 4658 (fulfills BBST 465 Integration Seminar requirement)	3
		Music	11
		15	18

Total Credits 141

Note: Certain Music courses are not offered every semester. Please check with the Music department for the most up-to-date schedule of required courses.