

MUSIC (BA)

Department Website (<http://as.nyu.edu/music/>)

NYSED: 08060 **HEGIS:** 1005.00 **CIP:** 50.0901

Program Description

The Department of Music offers both a major and a minor in music. Both programs give students the opportunity to gain proficiency in the theory, history, and interpretation of music throughout the world, and help them build a solid set of applied critical and listening abilities demanded of musicians and listeners today. The major offers students opportunities for independent research during their final year.

The department teaches a wide range of innovative courses in ethnomusicology, popular music, the cultural study of music, and sound studies. Many of these courses are open to non-majors. Some recent courses include: Music in the Post-9/11 World; Introduction to World Music; Music in New York; Music, Global Hip-Hop, and the Politics of Culture; and Music, Sound, and Technology.

The department's Waverly Labs provide digital resources for composition and research. The department hosts the Washington Square Contemporary Music Society and a number of other performing ensembles and initiatives. Our majors and minors may also take private instrumental instruction with department support, and are eligible to join performance ensembles at the Steinhardt School. Our students take advantage of our location in one of the world's major cultural centers by attending concerts and pursuing internships with New York recording companies, music magazines, or major performing arts organizations.

Departmental Objectives

The breadth and depth of knowledge offered by the major provide an excellent foundation for academic, creative, and performance work, offering a solid set of applied critical and listening abilities. The major is equally ideal for students seeking careers requiring a solid liberal arts background and strong analytical and critical skills, and for students interested in humanistic fields in which sonic culture is a central element. The music major cultivates the ability to interpret and analyze music as both text and performance. It gives students a broad understanding of the various issues currently being discussed in musical thinking and research, as well as a grounding in theory and the opportunity to engage in creative work. Qualified students can undertake advanced supervised research or composition in their senior year, leading to a thesis and the award of honors in the major.

The major program of study and our faculty's specializations offer superb foundations for further advanced studies in music as well as disciplines such as American studies, comparative literature, linguistic and cultural anthropology, Native American studies, popular culture, gender studies, Western and Central European culture and history, Slavic studies, Latin American and Latino studies, media studies, performance studies, theatre, environmental humanities, and sound studies.

Performance

Students pursuing a major or minor in music, and indeed all students in the College of Arts and Science, are encouraged to participate in musical performance, lessons, and ensembles. We believe that the joys of making music, the dedication and study necessary to perform music, and the collective effort required of ensemble participants constitute an inimitable experience that should have a central place in a liberal arts

education. Students are encouraged to participate in the performance ensembles regularly offered (for credit) by our clinical faculty. They can also participate in the NYU Orchestra, and many of the lessons, programs, and ensembles associated with the Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development's Department of Music and Performing Arts Professions. Students are also invited to attend the numerous concerts that the department sponsors each year, as well as concerts of the Washington Square Contemporary Music Society. We encourage students to patronize the large collection of independent music venues located throughout Greenwich Village, and, more broadly, to participate in the vibrant music cultures found in all five boroughs of the city. Exploration of music in the city is a central component of the music major, and the Department's faculty and graduate students regularly organize concert trips for our undergraduates.

In addition to participation in the various performance ensembles, the department encourages students to partake vigorously of the cultural life of New York City. Students are entitled to discounted tickets to the Metropolitan Opera, the New York Philharmonic, concerts of the World Music Institute, concerts of the Kalavant Center for Indian Music and Dance, and many other music-presenting organizations.

Honors Program

Highly motivated students may take part in the department's honors program, which culminates during the senior year with an independent study supervised by a faculty member. Students must have a 3.65 GPA both in the major and overall to pursue honors. Honors students register for a semester or more of Independent Study (MUSIC-UA 997 Independent Study or MUSIC-UA 998) in which they complete a capstone project in musicology or music history, ethnomusicology, analysis, or composition. This might take the form of an analytical or historiographical study of a major work or group of works, the writing of a musical composition of substantial dimensions, or a biographical study of a composer, all under the guidance of a faculty member. A student wishing to pursue departmental honors should apply to the director of undergraduate studies. There are also three departmental prizes that the department awards to exceptional students (listed in the awards and prizes section of this Bulletin).

Admissions

New York University's Office of Undergraduate Admissions supports the application process for all undergraduate programs at NYU. For additional information about undergraduate admissions, including application requirements, see How to Apply (<https://www.nyu.edu/admissions/undergraduate-admissions/how-to-apply.html>).

Program Requirements

The major requirements (40 credits) must be completed with a grade of C or better.

Course	Title	Credits
General Education Requirements		
First-Year Seminar		4
EXPOS-UA 1	Writing The Essay:	4
Foreign Language ¹		16
Quantitative Reasoning		4
Physical Science		4
Life Science		4
Texts and Ideas		4

Cultures and Contexts	4
Societies and the Social Sciences	4
Major Requirements	
MUSIC-UA 193	4
MUSIC-UA 201 Music Theory I	4
MUSIC-UA 202 Music Theory II	4
Select two courses in the area of music, history, and cultures	8
Select two courses in the area of sonic art	8
Electives	
Select three electives ²	12
Other Elective Credits	40
Total Credits	128

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The foreign language requirement is satisfied upon successful completion through the Intermediate level of a language. This may be accomplished in fewer than 16 credits, but those credits must then be completed as elective credit.

2

One of which must be designated as an advanced course. The advanced course is taken in fall of senior year.

Students may count up to four credits of performance coursework in this department or in the Steinhardt School's Department of Music and Performing Arts Professions toward the music major.

Sample Plan of Study

Course	Title	Credits
1st Semester/Term		
MUSIC-UA 193		4
Foreign Language		4
Texts and Ideas		4
First-Year Seminar		4
Credits		16
2nd Semester/Term		
MUSIC-UA 201	Music Theory I	4
EXPOS-UA 1	Writing The Essay:	4
Foreign Language		4
Cultures and Contexts		4
Credits		16
3rd Semester/Term		
MUSIC-UA 202	Music Theory II	4
MUSIC-UA XXX	Music, History, and Cultures Electives 1 of 2	4
Foreign Language		4
Quantitative Reasoning		4
Credits		16
4th Semester/Term		
MUSIC-UA XXX	Music, History, and Cultures Elective 2 of 2	4
MUSIC-UA XXX	Sonic Art Elective 1 of 2	4
Foreign Language		4
Societies and the Social Sciences		4
Credits		16
5th Semester/Term		
MUSIC-UA XXX	Major Elective 1 of 3	4
MUSIC-UA XXX	Sonic Art Elective 2 of 2	4
Physical Science		4
Elective		4
Credits		16

6th Semester/Term		
MUSIC-UA XXX	Major Elective 2 of 3	4
Life Science		4
Elective		4
Elective		4
Credits		16
7th Semester/Term		
MUSIC-UA XXX	Major Elective 3 of 3 ¹	4
Elective		4
Elective		4
Elective		4
Credits		16
8th Semester/Term		
Elective		4
Elective		4
Elective		4
Elective		4
Credits		16
Total Credits		128

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Must be an advanced course.

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of program requirements, students are expected to have acquired:

1. The ability to listen attentively to music and sound and to reformulate their aural experiences in precise terms.
2. The ability to interpret music and sound as historical and cultural artifacts in a world of meanings, media, interactions, and power.
3. Experience working creatively in music and sound, whether through performance, composition, or the creation of other sonic artifacts.
4. The ability to conduct research, including the use of ethnography, archives, library research, and relevant technologies.
5. Skills for effective written and oral presentation.

Policies

Grading Policy

A grade of C or higher is required for a course to count toward the major or minor; courses graded Pass/Fail do not count.

Advanced Placement Policy

The College awards 4 credits for a score of 4 or 5 on the Advanced Placement examination in Music Theory and counts this as elective credit toward the baccalaureate degree, but the credits do not count toward the music major or minor. CAS does not award any credit for International Baccalaureate or any other advanced standing examinations in music.

NYU Policies

University-wide policies can be found on the New York University Policy pages (<https://bulletins.nyu.edu/nyu/policies/>).

College of Arts and Science Policies

A full list of relevant academic policies can be found on the CAS Academic Policies page (<https://bulletins.nyu.edu/undergraduate/arts-science/academic-policies/>).