Music

General Information

Degrees and Areas of Concentration

The Department of Music offers programs of study leading to the B.M. degrees in Jazz Studies; Music Education (and state teaching certification in grades K-12); Music Performance; Music Composition; Music Theory; Music with Elective Studies in business; and the B.A. degree in Music.

Music Minors

Minors in music and jazz studies are available.

Faculty

Music faculty members have received recognition for distinguished achievements in conducting, composition, performance, and teaching. The faculty is also recognized for high-profile research in musicology, music theory, and music education.

Applied instruction in piano, organ, voice, and all band and orchestral instruments is provided by full-time and adjunct faculty, all of whom are actively performing and/or recording musicians in the St. Louis region and beyond. Faculty recitals are regularly scheduled and are free for students to attend.

Facilities

The Department has teaching, rehearsal, classroom, practice, and study spaces in the Music Building, the Arts Administration Building, and the nationally-renowned Touhill Performing Arts Center.

Ensembles

Membership in Music Department performing ensembles (choral, orchestral, concert band, pep band, jazz, chamber) is open to UMSL students in all majors and minors. Admission to most ensembles is by audition (contact the individual ensemble’s director for more information about participation guidelines).

- EN PER 1410: The University Singers (MOTR PERF 102C)
- EN PER 1500: University Orchestra (MOTR PERF 102O)
- EN PER 1520: University Symphonic Band (MOTR PERF 102B)
- EN PER 1530: University Wind Ensemble
- EN PER 1541: Chamber Ensemble Brass
- EN PER 1542: Jazz Combo
- EN PER 1543: Chamber Ensemble Percussion
- EN PER 1544: Chamber Ensemble Strings
- EN PER 1545: Chamber Ensemble Voice
- EN PER 1546: Chamber Ensemble Woodwinds
- EN PER 1550: Jazz Orchestra
- EN PER 1560: Opera Workshop

Career Outlook

A degree in music prepares students for careers in a wide range of specialties such as professional performance, teaching in public schools, holding positions in the music industry (e.g. recording, publishing, radio programming, manufacturing), or working as a musical entrepreneur carving out your own niche in the field. Additionally, employers in many fields outside of music take notice of applicants with music degrees because they understand that self-discipline, collaboration, creativity, and adaptability to new and unfamiliar scenarios are central to the work of musicians, and these skills transfer to non-musical areas in beneficial ways.

UMSL music graduates are highly sought-after in the job market, particularly in K-12 school music programs in Missouri and Illinois. Many others develop busy careers as professional performers and composers. Those graduates who choose to seek further study in music have been readily accepted into many of the nation’s top graduate programs. Others still are applying what they learned in their musical studies at UMSL in careers outside of music.

Additional information may be obtained by contacting the Department of Music: (314) 516-5980.

The Department of Music is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music.

Degrees

Music BA

Music BM

- Elective Studies in Business Emphasis
- Jazz Studies Emphasis
- Performance Emphasis
- Music Education Emphasis
- Music Theory
- Music Composition Emphasis

Music Education MME

Minors

Jazz Studies Minor

Music Minor

Courses

Courses offered by the department can be found at the links below:

- Applied Music (AP MUS)
- Ensemble Performance (EN PER)
- Music Education (MUS ED)
- Music History (M H L T)
- Pedagogy (PDGOGY)
- Practicum (PRACTM)
- Theory and Composition (THRY COM)