

MUSIC, BFA: PIANO

Overview

Our BFA in Music is a comprehensive, four-year program perfect for students seeking intensive study to develop those skills needed for a professional career and/or preparation for graduate school across many voice or primary instrument paths.

Our piano program prepares you for multifaceted professional careers. You'll work in individual and group settings receiving in-depth instruction in solo piano, chamber music, collaborative piano and piano pedagogy.

Request Info (<https://uwm.edu/arts/request-information/>) | Visit (<https://uwm.edu/arts/visit/>) | Apply (<https://uwm.edu/arts/apply/>)

Faculty and Staff

Our inspirational faculty and staff make sure students feel welcome and empowered to think outside the box and explore all possibilities of making art at UWM. Visit the Peck School of the Arts directory (<https://uwm.edu/arts/directory/>) to meet these artists, explore their biographies and engage with recent work.

Scholarships and Aid

Financial constraints shouldn't hinder your artistic dreams. Our comprehensive range of scholarships and aid programs (<https://uwm.edu/arts/students/scholarships-aid/>) is designed to empower and support artists like you.

Study Abroad

We believe that a complete education in the arts should take you beyond the classroom and the local community. By studying abroad, you'll gain more than a change of scenery. You'll embark on a transformative educational experience and bring a global perspective to your field of study. Explore upcoming trips (<https://uwmilwaukee.studioabroad.com/?FuseAction=Programs.AdvancedSearch>) offered in partnership with the Center for International Education.

Requirements

Admission Requirements

Undergraduate applicants must meet general University admission requirements (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/admission-costs/undergraduate-admission/>) in addition to specific program requirements found on the Peck School of the Arts apply page (<https://uwm.edu/arts/apply/>).

Undergraduate Advising

Academic advising is a collaborative process that empowers students to realize their maximum educational potential. Students are encouraged to visit the Peck School of the Arts Advising & Student Services page (<https://uwm.edu/arts/students/advising/>) to meet with your advisor prior to each semester's registration period. Advisors provide students with individualized appointments to assist with degree requirements, course selection, campus resources, college success strategies, graduation assessment, academic policies and more.

Laptop Requirement

Preparing for a future defined by digital technology is an important step in developing artists. Our digitally integrated curriculum helps you achieve a professional level with leading art-related software and practices.

Laptop ownership is strongly recommended for *all* students. However, it's required for most majors. For more information, please visit the Peck School of the Arts admission page (<https://uwm.edu/arts/apply/>).

Degree Requirements

Music Theory and History Requirements

The Music Theory core comprises a four-semester sequence of Materials of Theory concurrently with three semesters of Aural Theory. The Music History core comprises a three-semester sequence of the General History of Western Music. See individual programs for details.

Lessons, Studio Class, Convocation

Music performance instruction on the primary instrument consists of three components each week: a private lesson with the studio instructor (scheduled independently), a studio class with other students on the instrument, and a department-wide recital on Friday (Convocation) with a rotating selection of student performers.

Students are required to participate in an approved performing organization in each semester in which the student is registered for music performance instruction in the major instrument.

Performance Ensembles

Students pursuing a music degree are required to participate in performing organizations during their course of study. Students must be registered in an approved ensemble concurrent with each semester of private study in lessons. Directors make ensemble assignments at the beginning of each semester. Only one approved ensemble credit per semester may apply toward degree requirements. The Department of Music recognizes the following approved ensembles: *Alta Voce*, *Bella Voce*, *Concert Chorale*, *Kameraden Chorus*, *Symphony Band*, *Symphony Orchestra* and *Wind Ensemble*. Other performance ensembles may be approved for music minors, students with provisional admission or in certain degree programs.

Credits from an accredited college/university for performing organizations may be granted for undergraduate students as follows:

- All transfer students to UWM, regardless of entry level, must take at least two semesters of an approved major performing organization. The performing organization must conform to the individual degree requirements: instrumentalists take band or orchestra; vocalists take choral ensembles.
- Entering sophomores with 30 or more earned credits may only transfer up to two completed semesters of an approved performing organization from another university; and
- Entering juniors with 60 or more earned credits may only transfer up to four completed semesters of an approved performing organization from another university.

Advance to Major and Retention

Students declared provisional at the time of auditions can achieve Music major status based on a successful jury performance at the end of the first semester. Students not performing a successful first semester jury will not be allowed to continue as a Music major and will be dropped from

the Music Department. Provisional students must take all required first-semester Music courses during the provisional semester.

Students accepted through auditions who lack basic aural, theory, and/or keyboard skills must successfully complete MUSIC 1 (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/search/?P=MUSIC%201>) and/or MUSPERF 1 (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/search/?P=MUSPERF%201>) in their first year of study. A final grade of B or higher is required to enroll in the subsequent Music Theory and Piano courses.

A Music major who has a studio performance grade of C or lower for two consecutive semesters may be placed on probation. Students then have the opportunity to re-audition or attain a passing grade for the performance lessons. Final jury is attained during the probation semester along with a 2.0+ cumulative GPA.

Credits and Courses

University Core

Code	Title	Credits
General Education Requirements ¹		
<i>Competencies</i>		
Oral and Written Communication – Part A and Part B ^{2,3}		
Quantitative Literacy (QL) – Part A and Part B ^{2,3}		
Foreign Language ²		
<i>Distribution Requirements</i> ¹		
Humanities		6
Natural Sciences (Must include one lab)		6
Social Sciences		6
Cultural Diversity ²		
Electives		
Electives Outside Peck School of the Arts		12
Electives in Peck School of the Arts ⁴		12
Electives Outside Discipline		3
Total Credits		45

¹ See General Education Requirements (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/policies/undergraduate-policies/#bachelorsdegreegeneraleducation>) for more information.

² Credits may be utilized in required curriculum areas.

³ OWC Part A and QL Part A should be completed within the first two semesters of pursuing a Music program.

⁴ 9 credits are required in 3 of the 4 other departments in PSOA, outside of the student's discipline: Art and Design, Dance, Music, Theatre, or Film, Video, Animation, and New Genres.

Music BFA Requirements

The minimum number of credits required to complete the Bachelor of Fine Arts is 130. Students who need background preparation courses in math, English, foreign language, and chemistry may need additional credits.

Code	Title	Credits
Music Department Competencies		
MUSIC 1	Theory Fundamentals	
MUSPERF 1	Fundamentals of Piano:	
Music Theory		
MUSIC 123	Aural Theory I	1

MUSIC 124	Aural Theory II	1
MUSIC 127	Materials of Theory I	2
MUSIC 128	Materials of Theory II	3
MUSIC 225	Materials of Theory III	3
MUSIC 226	Aural Theory III	1
MUSIC 421	Materials of Theory IV	3
Music History		
MUSIC 106	Foundations of Music	3
MUSIC 211	General History of Western Music I	3
MUSIC 212	General History of Western Music II	3
Total Credits		23

Piano Requirements

Code	Title	Credits
Principal Instrument ⁵		24
MUSPERF 401	Lessons in Piano	
Performing Organizations ⁶		6
Accompanying ⁷		4
MUSIC 259	Accompanying	
Performance Repertoire ⁸		
MUSIC 275	Keyboard Performance Repertoire	2
MUSIC 276	Keyboard Performance Repertoire	2
Pedagogy		
MUSIC 448	Piano Pedagogy	2
Music Theory Electives		
<i>Complete one of the following:</i>		3
MUSIC 220	Introduction to Computers and Music	
MUSIC 327	Studio Techniques	
MUSIC 323	Instrumental and Choral Orchestration	
MUSIC 680	Special Studies in Music:	
Music History Electives		
<i>Complete one of the following:</i>		3
MUSIC 311	Music of the Baroque Era	
MUSIC 312	Music of the Classic Era	
MUSIC 313	Music of the Romantic Era	
MUSIC 314	Music since 1900	
Recital		2
MUSIC 659	Junior Recital	
MUSIC 660	Senior Recital:	
Music Electives		9
General Electives		5
May be taken from any area of the University (including Music) to fulfill requirements		
Total Credits		62

⁵ MusPerf 4XX Principal Instrument (8 semesters minimum; 3 credits each semester) includes Convocation and Masterclass.

⁶ Music XXX Choral Ensemble (2 semesters) and Music XXX (any ensemble with Piano faculty consent; complete 4 credits at 1 credit per semester).

⁷ Enroll in 2 credits of MUSIC 259 for 2 semesters.

⁸ Complete two credits of each: MUSIC 275 and MUSIC 276.

Plan of Study

Sample Plan of Study

Year 1		
Fall		
MUSIC 106	Foundations of Music	3
MUSIC 123	Aural Theory I	1
MUSIC 127	Materials of Theory I	2
MusPerf 4XX		3
Performance Ensemble		1
Electives or Core Curriculum		6
Credits		16
Spring		
MUSIC 124	Aural Theory II	1
MUSIC 128	Materials of Theory II	3
MusPerf 4XX		3
Performance Ensemble		1
Electives or Core Curriculum		8
Credits		16
Year 2		
Fall		
MUSIC 211	General History of Western Music I	3
MUSIC 225	Materials of Theory III	3
MUSIC 226	Aural Theory III	1
MusPerf 4XX		2
Performance Ensemble		1
Electives and Core Curriculum		6
Credits		16
Spring		
MUSIC 212	General History of Western Music II	3
MUSIC 421	Materials of Theory IV	3
MusPerf 4XX		2
Performance Ensemble		1
Electives or Core Curriculum		7
Credits		16
Year 3		
Fall		
MUSIC 259	Accompanying	2
MUSIC 275	Keyboard Performance Repertoire	1
MUSIC 353	Conducting	2
MusPerf 4XX		2
Performance Ensemble		1
Electives or Core Curriculum		9
Credits		17
Spring		
MUSIC 276	Keyboard Performance Repertoire	1
MUSIC 310	Introduction to World Musics	3
MUSIC 323	Instrumental and Choral Orchestration	3
MUSIC 659	Junior Recital	0
Performance Ensemble		1
MusPerf 4XX		2
Electives or Core Curriculum		7
Credits		17
Year 4		
Fall		
MUSIC 259	Accompanying	2
MusPerf 4XX		2
Choose one:		3
MUSIC 311	Music of the Baroque Era	
MUSIC 312	Music of the Classic Era	
MUSIC 313	Music of the Romantic Era	

MUSIC 314	Music since 1900	
Electives or Core Curriculum		9
Credits		16
Spring		
MusPerf 4XX		2
MUSIC 448	Piano Pedagogy	2
MUSIC 660	Senior Recital:	2
Electives or Core Curriculum		10
Credits		16
Total Credits		130

Performance Ensemble: Piano majors are required to enroll in a minimum of 6 semesters of ensemble with a minimum of 2 semesters in a choral ensemble and 4 semesters in any ensemble with iani or oragn instructor consent.

Performance Master Class: 8 semesters at 1 credit is required as part of your individual lesson obligation.

0 Credit Courses: A 1 credit fee will be assessed by the University if a student's course load is less than 12 or greater than 18 credits.

Music Learning Outcomes

Students graduating with this degree in Music will be able to:

- Recognize and distinguish music from all periods of European art music history, and from a variety of other world cultures and traditions, based on musical and stylistic features.
- Recognize assumptions, concepts, models, and various methods in musicological and ethnomusicological work and in their own thinking and will be able to choose the most appropriate analytical tools and concepts to examine specific music.
- Interpret, analyze, critique, and reflect on art music from different critical perspectives and aesthetic viewpoints.
- Express ideas about music in written form demonstrating a mastery of factual knowledge, bibliographic resources, analytical method, critical thinking, and the ability to construct a coherent and well-organized argument.
- Perform solo instrumental or vocal repertoire, chamber music, and large ensemble music in public, in a practical demonstration of their understanding of period or cultural aesthetic ideals.
- Apply pedagogical skills appropriate to their instrument/voice, choosing performance exercises that deal with technical issues found in the repertoire, and guiding beginning students in learning music.

Policies and Regulations

Academic Regulations

For information on University-wide Academic Action Policy and honors for scholarship, see Academic Policies (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/policies/undergraduate-policies/>).

Auditing Courses

No studio or performance courses may be audited.

Declaration of Submajor

In most instances, after two years of basic preparatory courses in the major, students choose an area of specialization within their respective departments, known as a submajor. Students must declare a submajor

after they have accumulated 45 to 75 credits to assure completion of the appropriate curriculum requirements for graduation.

Grievance and Appeal Procedures

If you have concerns about a class or a grade, or if you've been dropped from a program and would like to appeal, follow the grievance procedures found under the resources section on the Peck School of the Arts Advising & Student Services page (<https://uwm.edu/arts/students/advising/>).

Independent Study

Under special conditions, juniors and seniors are permitted to take courses in independent study. For regulations on independent study, see the departmental advisor.

Program Changes

All program changes must be signed by the instructor and the Peck School of the Arts Office of Student Services. Certain other courses may also require this approval indicated in the semester's *Schedule of Classes*.

Second Bachelor's Degree Candidates

Students with good scholastic records who wish to earn a second bachelor's degree in the Peck School of the Arts must obtain the recommendation of the Peck School of the Arts department in which they wish to major before they can be accepted. Upon acceptance, students must earn in residence a minimum of 30 credits beyond the studies for the first degree and must satisfy all curriculum requirements.

Semester Credit Load

A full-time Peck School of the Arts student is one who takes a minimum of 12 credits per semester. Typically, Peck School of the Arts students are not permitted to carry more than 18 credits per semester. Students who have a 3.0+ cumulative GPA may, with the permission of the Peck School of the Arts Office of Student Services, carry up to 21 credits per semester.

Transfer Students

Transfer students from other universities and colleges or UWM units are accepted by the Peck School of the Arts provided they meet the UWM admissions criteria and have a 2.0+ cumulative GPA.

Honors in the Major

- **Honors in the Major** is granted to students who have earned a GPA of 3.500 or greater in the major and the academic department's recommendation.
- **High Honors in the Major** is granted to students who have earned a cumulative GPA of 3.500 or greater and the academic department's recommendation.
- **Departmental Honors** are granted to students recommended by their academic department for Honors excellence in performance not reflected in the GPA.
- **Dean's Honors** are granted to students with major achievements in one or more of the arts.

College of the Arts and Architecture Dean's Honor List

GPA of 3.750 or above, earned on a full-time student's GPA on 12 or more graded credits in a given semester.

Honors College Degree and Honors College Degree with Distinction

Granted to graduating seniors who complete Honors College requirements, as listed in the Honors College (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/honors-college/>) section of this site.

Commencement Honors

Students with a cumulative GPA of 3.500 or above, based on a minimum of 40 graded UWM credits earned prior to the final semester, will receive all-university commencement honors and be awarded the traditional gold cord at the December or May Honors Convocation. Please note that for honors calculation, the GPA is **not** rounded and is truncated at the third decimal (e.g., 3.499).

Final Honors

Earned on a minimum of 60 graded UWM credits: Cum Laude - 3.500 or above; Magna Cum Laude - 3.650 or above; Summa Cum Laude - 3.800 or above.

Contact Information

Advising & Student Services

Theatre Building, Room 120

<https://uwm.edu/arts/contact/>