

# Theory and Composition (Composition), **BN**

FAMUSTCBM

Join our program and learn with renowned composers and theorists.


## Program description

Students pursuing the BMus in theory and composition must choose a concentration in either theory or composition.

Composition students focus on developing varied techniques for writing music for assorted genres and media, including chamber, orchestra, and electronic music, and film and video scoring. Students have multiple performance opportunities each year, including readings by the ASU Symphony Orchestra and visiting ensembles, year-long residencies with the ASU Wind Bands and the Philharmonia Orchestra, commissions for the PRISMS contemporary music festival, and collaborations with student performers and student animators, filmmakers and dancers.

This degree program provides extensive faculty interaction and professional development. Students have opportunities to broaden their skills in compositional techniques from a wide variety of styles and traditions, with emphasis on fostering their personal approach to composition. The opportunity to collaborate with music scholars, theorists, performers, educators and other composers provides students with a broad and well-rounded foundation for careers in music.

## At a glance

- **College/School:** [Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts](#)
- **Location:** [Tempe](#)
- **Second language requirement:** No
- **First required math course:** MAT 142 - College Mathematics Any math course that meets the MATH designation.
- **Math intensity:** General 

# Required courses (Major Map)

[2024 - 2025 Major Map](#)

[Major Map \(Archives\)](#)

## Concurrent program options

Students pursuing concurrent degrees (also known as a "double major") earn two distinct degrees and receive two diplomas. Working with their academic advisors, students can create their own concurrent degree combination. Some combinations are not possible due to high levels of overlap in curriculum.

## Admission requirements

### General university admission requirements:

All students are required to meet general university admission requirements.

[First-year](#) | [Transfer](#) | [International](#) | [Readmission](#)

### Additional requirements:

**Important:** Applicants must submit an ASU application for undergraduate admission in addition to a separate [School of Music, Dance and Theatre application](#). Admission to the School of Music, Dance and Theatre is based on a [composition interview](#). Interviews take place in November (spring admission) and February (fall admission) of each year.

Admission to the music program is highly selective and based on an interview process. Students are admitted as music audition students and must successfully complete the composition interview before enrolling in music major courses. Upon admission to both ASU and the School of Music, Dance and Theatre, the applicant's major will be changed to music. If a student is admitted to ASU but not to the School of Music, Dance and Theatre or misses the audition deadline, the student will remain a music audition major and must successfully pass the interview milestone in the first semester to gain admission into the program.

**Application deadlines:** Students should review the [complete music deadline](#) information.

**Spring admission:** The deadline to apply for admission to this program is October 1.

**Fall admission:** The deadline to apply for admission to this program is December 1.

### Transfer admission requirements:

**Transfer applicants:** Transfer of courses from other accredited institutions is subject to the existence of parallel and equal courses in the college's curriculum and to departmental or school evaluation of studio and class piano courses with respect to performance standards.

Every candidate for the bachelor's degree must earn a minimum of 30 hours in resident credit at ASU. Transfer students enrolled in the institute must complete a minimum of 15 resident credit hours in the major as approved by the faculty.

**Application deadlines:** Students should review the [complete music deadline](#) information.

**Spring admission:** The deadline to apply for admission to this program is October 1.

**Fall admission:** The deadline to apply for admission to this program is December 1.

## Tuition information

When it comes to paying for higher education, everyone's situation is different. Students can learn about [ASU tuition and financial aid](#) options to find out which will work best for them.

## Change of Major Requirements

An ASU student who would like to change majors to one offered by the Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.50.

Students should reference the Admission Requirements section above for audition and application information.

Students should visit the [Change of Major form](#) for information about how to change a major to this program.

## Transfer options

ASU is committed to helping students thrive by offering tools that allow personalization of the transfer path to ASU. Students may use [MyPath2ASU®](#) to outline a list of recommended courses to take prior to transfer.

ASU has [transfer partnerships](#) in Arizona and across the country to create a simplified transfer experience for students. These pathway programs include exclusive benefits, tools and resources, and they help students save time and money in their college journey.

## Program learning outcomes

Program learning outcomes identify what a student will learn or be able to do upon completion of their program. This program has the following program outcomes:

- Analyze key creative and artistic processes from at least two musical styles and historical periods.

- Critique specific musical products within the context of a specific historic or cultural tradition.
- Apply theoretical understanding of musical techniques to composing music in varied styles.

## Global opportunities

### Global experience

Music transcends language and cultural boundaries, and students deepen their understanding of composition through unique [study abroad](#) experiences. Students gain an enhanced understanding of how music affects culture and how they can communicate globally through their compositions.

With more than 300 programs around the world available to them, students can build the experience most suited to their personal goals and skill sets. More information on available programs can be found on the Global Education website.

## Career opportunities

Graduates are prepared to work in various professional or entrepreneurial capacities, including:

- arranging
- composing
- performing in community and professional ensembles in a variety of styles and traditions
- serving as an artist-in-residence in school programs
- teaching in a private studio and community program
- teaching theory and composition
- working in music-related fields such as media production, music business, publishing and marketing

Many graduates pursue a master's degree or a doctorate in music or another professional field.

Example job titles and salaries listed below are not necessarily entry level, and students should take into consideration how years of experience and geographical location may affect pay scales. Some jobs also may require advanced degrees, certifications or state-specific licensure.

Career	*Growth	*Median salary
<a href="#"><u>Music Producer</u></a>	1.1%	\$62,940
<a href="#"><u>Musician/Singer</u></a>	1.2%	\$0

\* Data obtained from the Occupational Information Network (O\*NET) under sponsorship of the U.S. Department of Labor/Employment and Training Administration (USDOL/ETA).



## Contact information

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