

# Theory and Composition (Theory), BMUS

FAMUSTTBM

Are you interested in gaining a deeper understanding of how music works? Study with our renowned theory faculty to explore the ways in which we engage with and respond to diverse styles of music.


## Program description

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

Theory students take courses that explore various facets of the discipline, including tonal harmony, music perception, formal analysis, counterpoint, topics in 20th- and 21st-century music, popular music and jazz analysis.

Students work with theory faculty whose research encompasses music cognition, tonal music, timbre, embodiment, popular music and computational analysis.

## 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 an audition. [Auditions](#) take place in November (spring admission) and in January and February (fall admission) of each year.

Admission to the music program is highly selective and based on an audition process. Students are admitted as music audition students and must successfully complete the audition 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 music audition 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 15.

**Fall admission:** The deadline to apply for admission to this program is January 5.

### 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 15.

**Fall admission:** The deadline to apply for admission to this program is January 5.

## 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.

An audition and music application are required. Students should reference the audition requirements listed in the Admission Requirements section above.

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.
- Conduct scholarly research on topics in music theory resulting in scholarly papers and/or presentations.

## Global opportunities

### Global experience

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

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.

## Career opportunities

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

- arranging
- arts administration
- composing
- performing in community and professional ensembles in a variety of styles and traditions
- teaching in a private studio or 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 in 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>Art Professor</u></a>	3.2%	\$77,280
<a href="#"><u>Music Producer</u></a>	1.1%	\$62,940
<a href="#"><u>Musical Instrument Repairers and Tuners</u></a>		\$38,150
<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).

 [Bright Outlook](#)

## Contact information

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