Explore all the opportunities you have in music theory or composition at ASU while you learn from renowned composers and theorists.

**Program Description**

Students pursuing the BMus in theory and composition must choose a concentration in either theory or composition. Completion of the requirements for the concentration in theory results in the awarding of one degree in either theory or composition.

Students who select the concentration in theory take courses focus that explore various facets of the discipline such as tonal harmony, formal analysis, counterpoint and topics in 20th and 21st century music, studies in music composition, jazz and popular music. Students work with faculty who specialize in theory and whose research areas range from tonal music to music cognition to innovative analytical approaches.

This program may be used as the first step toward a master's degree or doctorate in music theory or another graduate academic music degree.

**At a Glance**

- **College/School:** Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts
- **Location:** Tempe

- **Additional Program Fee:** Yes
- **Second Language Requirement:** No
- **First Required Math Course:** Any math course that meets the MA designation.
- **Math Intensity:** General
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. Students should visit [https://musicdancetheatre.asu.edu/admissions/music/undergraduate-steps-to-apply](https://musicdancetheatre.asu.edu/admissions/music/undergraduate-steps-to-apply) for details. 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. Applicants may review audition information at [https://musicdancetheatre.asu.edu/admissions/music/undergraduate-auditions](https://musicdancetheatre.asu.edu/admissions/music/undergraduate-auditions).

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. In the event 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 as a music audition major and will need to successfully pass the music audition milestone in the first semester in order to gain admission into the program.

Application Deadlines: Students should visit [https://musicdancetheatre.asu.edu/admissions/music/undergraduate-deadlines-fees](https://musicdancetheatre.asu.edu/admissions/music/undergraduate-deadlines-fees) for complete music deadlines.

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 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 visit [https://musicdancetheatre.asu.edu/admissions/music/undergraduate-deadlines-fees](https://musicdancetheatre.asu.edu/admissions/music/undergraduate-deadlines-fees) for complete music deadlines.

**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.

---

**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 (scale is 4.00 = "A").

Students should refer to [https://changemajor.apps.asu.edu](https://changemajor.apps.asu.edu) 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™](https://changeamajor.apps.asu.edu) 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. Students may learn more about these programs by visiting the admission site: [https://admission.asu.edu/transfer/MyPath2ASU](https://admission.asu.edu/transfer/MyPath2ASU).

---

**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. With over 250 programs around the world, students can build the experience most suited to their personal goals and skill sets. Students gain an enhanced understanding of how music affects culture and how they can communicate globally through music.

https://goglobal.asu.edu/

Career Opportunities

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

• arranging
• composing
• performing in community and professional ensembles in a variety of styles and traditions
• presenting school programs, or state or community arts councils as artist-in-residence
• 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.

Career examples include but are not limited to those shown in the following list. Advanced degrees or certifications may be required for academic or clinical positions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Career</th>
<th>*Growth</th>
<th>*Median Salary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Art Professor</td>
<td>5.6%</td>
<td>$69,690</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music Producer</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
<td>$52,250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Musical Instrument Repairers and Tuners</td>
<td></td>
<td>$36,810</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Musician/Singer</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* 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 🌿 Green Occupation
Contact Information

School of Music, Dance and Theatre | MUSIC E167
MDTAdmissions@asu.edu | 480-965-5069