

Welcome to USU's BA in Music program!

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What is the BA in Music? The essential difference between this degree and the other music degrees offered at USU is that the others are pre-professional degrees, geared towards specific careers (music education, music therapy, performance), while this is a liberal arts degree. The BA in music degree is designed around excellence in music within a well-rounded and flexible education.

There is a certain comfort in the pre-professional degrees, particularly those in music education and music therapy, since they prepare students for very specific jobs. In contrast, a graduate with a BA may not be sure where to start in applying for jobs right out of school, and some BA students have a period of uncertainty after graduating. The breadth of education one gets in a BA program is designed to give students a wide range of skills and knowledge, which can mean BA students are better prepared for future career changes or unusual careers than students who learn the specific jobs of today. But no one should enter the BA program unless they are comfortable with the fact that it is not designed to funnel you into a specific career path.

Who should be in the BA program? There are many different groups of people for whom the BA is the "right" degree. It allows flexibility for students who wish to double-major (though this is never easy) or to minor in another field. It is the standard degree of choice for those interested in an academic music career in musicology, music theory, or ethnomusicology or a career in arts administration. It is useful for customizing a course of study that may be useful in a career we don't have a pre-professional degree for such as audio engineering or music business. And it is the best degree for students who are not sure they want to pursue music as a career but know they want to study music in college and learn transferrable skills that may support them in any career path.

Components of the degree. The most important differences between the BA and our other music degrees can be summarized thus: the BA has less core requirements and more electives, requires facility in a language, and allows many more possibilities for its capstone project.

Components and associated credit hours are as follows: core (33 credits), music electives (12), arts elective (3), general education and university studies (40–53), language proficiency (16), general electives (14), capstone project (2).

Core: Music Theory 1–3, Aural Skills 1–2, Keyboard Harmony 1–2, World Music, two of the following: Music History 1, 2, and/or 3 (*note: students who wish to skip Music History 1 or 2 will need to be signed into the appropriate course. Students must also take these courses in order: e.g., you cannot take 3, then 2*), one of the following: History of Jazz or Rock and Roll: Catalyst for Social Change, 4 semesters of music major private instruction on a single

instrument (or voice), including one semester past the barrier jury, 4 semesters of large ensemble.

Music Electives: 12 credits of additional music courses at the 3000 level or higher. This can include up to 4 additional credits of private instruction and/or large ensemble. In addition, the following classes may count towards these 12 credits: music theory electives, Aural Skills 3, Conducting, Fingerboard Theory classes, and/or foreign language diction classes.

An Arts Elective: 3 credits in either the ART or the THEA department.

General Education and University Studies: as required for all USU students. See <http://catalog.usu.edu/content.php?catoid=12&navoid=3841>.

Language Proficiency, as required by the university for all BA students. See <http://catalog.usu.edu/content.php?catoid=12&navoid=6284>.

General Electives: 14 credits. Any course from outside the music department that is not part of your general studies. Courses that count towards other degrees or minors may also count as your general electives here.

A Capstone Project; see details on the BA Capstone Proposal form. You must submit a proposal for this project by week 12 of the semester two semesters before beginning the project (that is, for most students, by week 12 of the second semester, junior year). You are encouraged to meet with the program director even earlier than this, though, to come up with an effective plan.