

Popular Music (BA/BS)

A Bachelor of Arts or Science degree with a Popular Music provides students with a comprehensive course of study focused on songwriting, music production, music performance, music theory, and popular music history and culture. It can also include preparation for music entrepreneurship through coursework in marketing, business, and law. Students choose from a variety of performance ensembles, including gospel choirs, a hip hop ensemble, and popular music combos, among others.

Students can use elective requirements to deepen their engagement with a variety of subjects, including music production, jazz, electronic music, and the history and culture of popular music. A degree in Popular Music requires approximately two years of music coursework with no audition or portfolio needed. Students can elect to take more music coursework to complete general elective requirements, and can take music courses for four years should they choose to.

Program's Admission Requirements

Please visit the program's website (<https://musicanddance.uoregon.edu/apply>).

Popular Music majors may apply for admission to the Music Production concentration during their second year of study. Admission to the program is contingent upon a cumulative UO GPA of 2.7 or higher, completion of MUS 151 Popular Songwriting, MUS 131 Music Theory I, and MUS 134 Aural Skills I with grades of C- or better. Admission to the concentration is determined by the Popular Music faculty.

Program Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this program, students will be able to:

- Possess an understanding of, and skill with, musicianship, defined as the fundamental comprehension of and ability to work with the elements of music in the US and in global contexts.
- Develop broad knowledge of the history and cultural context of popular music and an understanding of the historical function of the music in relation to culture.
- Develop facility in songwriting and production techniques relevant to popular styles.
- Understand the financial and legal practices of the music industry.
- Develop proficiency in performing music with an instrument and/or voice and performing popular music genres in an ensemble.

Popular Music Major Requirements

Code	Title	Credits
Theory and Musicianship		
MUS 126	Music Theory Fundamentals ¹	3
MUS 131	Music Theory I	2
MUS 132	Music Theory II	2
MUS 134	Aural Skills I	2
MUS 135	Aural Skills II	2
MUS 249	Popular Music Analysis	3
Theory and Musicianship Elective		
Select one of the following:		2
MUS 133	Music Theory III	

MUS 138	Keyboard Skills II	
MUS 139	Keyboard Skills III	
History and Culture		
MUS 250	Popular Musics in Global Context	4
MUS 264	US Popular Music 1800 to 1945	4
MUS 265	US Popular Music 1945 to 2000	4
Songwriting and Music Production		
MUS 149	Elements of Popular Songwriting	3
MUS 276	Digital Audio Workstation Techniques I	3
Select two of the following:		6
MUS 477	Digital Audio Workstation Techniques II	
MUS 478	Digital Audio Workstation Techniques III	
MUS 480	Audio Production Techniques I	
MUS 481	Audio Recording Techniques II	
Music Industry		
Select two of the following:		8
MUS 346	Music, Money, and the Law	
CINE 230	Remix Cultures	
LAW 101	Introduction to United States law	
JCOM 201	Making Sense of Media	
MGMT 225	Introduction to Entrepreneurship	
PPPM 250	Arts and Human Values	
PPPM 280	Introduction to the Nonprofit Sector	
Music Performance		
MUS 137	Keyboard Skills I ¹	1
MUP 114	Fundamentals of Music Performance Studies I: [Topic] ^{1, 2}	2
Music Ensembles		
MUS 374	Campus Small Ensemble: [Topic] (Must take two terms)	4
Additional Ensemble (two terms)		2-4
MUS 374	Campus Jazz Ensemble: [Topic]	
MUS 374	Campus Small Ensemble: [Topic]	
MUS 377	Campus Chorus: [Topic]	
MUS 436	World Music Ensemble: [Topic]	
MUS 395	Small Jazz Ensemble: [Topic]	
DAN 436	Dema African Performance Ensemble: [Topic]	
Upper Division Music Coursework		
MUS 432	Tonal Analysis: Analysis of Popular Music	3
MUS 463	Popular Music Studies	4
Select two of the following:		8
MUS 358	Music in World Cultures	
MUS 359	Music of the Americas	
MUS 360	Hip-Hop History, Culture, Aesthetics	
MUS 363	The Beatles and Their Times	
MUS 380	Film Music	
MUS 428	Cultures of Musical Celebrity	
MUS 447	Digital Audio and Sound Design	
MUS 462	Popular Musics in the African Diaspora	
MUS 487	Music and Emotion	
MUS 350	History of Jazz, 1900 to 1950	

MUJ 351	History of Jazz, 1940 to Present	
Total Credits		72-74

¹ Placement test may waive the course requirement.

² Students must take MUP 114 in Guitar to count toward this requirement. Student may take a placement test to waive the course requirement.

Four-Year Degree Plan

The degree plan shown is only a sample of how students may complete their degrees in four years. There are alternative ways. Students should consult their advisor to determine the best path for them.

- Bachelor of Arts in Popular Music (https://catalog.uoregon.edu/music_dance/music/ug-popular-music/#ba_popm)
- Bachelor of Science in Popular Music (https://catalog.uoregon.edu/music_dance/music/ug-popular-music/#bs_popm)

Bachelor of Arts in Popular Music

Course	Title	Credits	Milestones
First Year			
Fall			
MUS 126	Music Theory Fundamentals	3	
MUS 137	Keyboard Skills I	1	
MUS 149	Elements of Popular Songwriting	3	
MUS 250	Popular Musics in Global Context	4	
Core Ed Course		4	
Credits		15	
Winter			
MUS 264	US Popular Music 1800 to 1945	4	
MUS 131	Music Theory I	2	
MUS 134	Aural Skills I	2	
MUS 137	Keyboard Skills I	1	
Core Ed course		4	
Upper Division Elective(s)		3	
Credits		16	
Spring			
MUS 132	Music Theory II	2	
MUS 135	Aural Skills II	2	
MUS 138	Keyboard Skills II	1	
MUP 114	Fundamentals of Music Performance Studies I: [Topic] (Guitar)	2	
MUS 265	US Popular Music 1945 to 2000	4	
Core Ed course		4	
Elective(s) any level		2	
Credits		17	
Second Year			
Fall			
MUS 249	Popular Music Analysis	3	
MUS 276	Digital Audio Workstation Techniques I	3	
MUS 133	Music Theory III	2	
MUS 374	Campus Small Ensemble: [Topic]	2	

BA 101 Language		4
Credits		14
Winter		
MUS 374	Campus Small Ensemble: [Topic]	2
Production Elective		3
Core Ed		4
___ 102 BA language		4
Upper division elective course		4
Credits		17
Spring		
Production Elective		3
MUS Ensemble		2
___ 103 BA Language		4
Core Ed		4
Credits		13
Third Year		
Fall		
Music Industry Elective		4
Upper Division Elective		4
Core Ed course		4
___ 201 BA language		4
Credits		16
Winter		
Music industry Elective		4
Upper Division Music Elective		4
Core Ed		4
___ 202 BA Language		4
Credits		16
Spring		
Upper Division Music Elective		4
MUS_Ensemble		2
Core Ed		4
___ 203 BA Language		4
Credits		14
Fourth Year		
Fall		
Music elective course		3
Core Ed		4
Upper Division Elective		4
Electives any level		4
Credits		15
Winter		
MUS 432	Tonal Analysis: Analysis of Popular Music	3
Upper Division Elective		4
Electives any level		2
Core Ed		4
Credits		13
Spring		
MUS 463	Popular Music Studies	4
Core Ed		4

Upper Division Elective course(s)	6
Credits	14
Total Credits	180

Bachelor of Science in Popular Music

Course	Title	Credits	Milestones
First Year			
Fall			
MUS 250	Popular Musics in Global Context	4	
MUS 149	Elements of Popular Songwriting	3	
MUS 137	Keyboard Skills I	1	
MUS 126	Music Theory Fundamentals	3	
Core Ed		4	
Credits		15	
Winter			
MUS 264	US Popular Music 1800 to 1945	4	
MUS 131	Music Theory I	2	
MUS 134	Aural Skills I	2	
MUS 138	Keyboard Skills II	1	
Core Ed		4	
Electives at any level		2	
Credits		15	
Spring			
MUS 265	US Popular Music 1945 to 2000	4	
MUS 132	Music Theory II	2	
MUS 135	Aural Skills II	2	
MUP 114	Fundamentals of Music Performance Studies I: [Topic] (Guitar)	2	
MUS 139	Keyboard Skills III	1	
Core Ed		4	
Credits		15	
Second Year			
Fall			
MUS 249	Popular Music Analysis	3	
MUS 133	Music Theory III	2	
MUS 374	Campus Small Ensemble: [Topic]	1-2	
MUS 276	Digital Audio Workstation Techniques I	3	
Bachelor of science MATH/CS course		4	
Credits		13-14	
Winter			
Production Elective		3	
MUS 374	Campus Small Ensemble: [Topic]	2	
Core Ed		4	
Bachelor of science MATH/CS course		4	
Upper Division Elective		4	
Credits		17	
Spring			
Production Elective		3	
MUS__Ensemble		2	
Bachelor of science MATH/CS course		4	
Core Ed		4	

Electives any level		1
Credits		14
Third Year		
Fall		
Core Ed		4
Upper Division Elective		4
Upper Division Elective		3
Electives any level		4
Credits		15
Winter		
Music Industry Elective		4
Core Ed		4
Upper Division Music Electives		4
Electives any level		4
Credits		16
Spring		
Core Ed		4
Upper Division Music Elective		4
MUS__Ensemble		2
Electives any level		6
Credits		16
Fourth Year		
Fall		
Upper Division Elective		4
Core Ed		4
Upper Division Elective		3
Electives any level		4
Credits		15
Winter		
MUS 432	Tonal Analysis: Analysis of Popular Music	3
Upper Division Elective		4
Core Ed		4
Electives any level		4
Credits		15
Spring		
MUS 463	Popular Music Studies	4
Core Ed		4
Upper Division Electives		6
Credits		14
Total Credits		180-181