Explore music theory and composition while learning from renowned composers and theorists.

Program Description

Students pursuing the BMus in theory and composition must choose a concentration in either theory or composition. The completion of the requirements for this concentration results in the award of one degree in either theory or composition.

Students who select the concentration in composition focus on developing a range of techniques for writing music for diverse genres and media including chamber, orchestra, electronic music, and film and video scoring. The School of Music, Dance and Theatre offers students the opportunity to study with composers who have established national and international reputations.

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

At a Glance

- **College/School:** [Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts](#)
- **Location:** [Tempe campus](#)
- **Additional Program Fee:** Yes
- **Second Language Requirement:** No
- **First Required Math Course:** MAT 142 - College Mathematics OR MAT 117 College Algebra OR MAT 119 Finite Mathematics
- **Math Intensity:** General
Required Courses (Major Map)

2021 - 2022 Major Map
Major Map (Archives)

Admission Requirements

General University Admission Requirements:
All students are required to meet general university admission requirements. 
Freshman | 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 for details. Admission to the School of Music, Dance and Theatre is based on a composition interview. Interviews take place in November (spring admission) and in February (fall admission) of each year. Applicants may review audition information at https://musicdancetheatre.asu.edu/admissions/music/undergraduate-auditions.

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. 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 interview 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.

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 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.
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.

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 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 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/pathway-programs.

Global Opportunities

Global Experience

Music transcends language and cultural boundaries; students deepen their understanding of composition 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 their compositions.

https://goglobal.asu.edu/

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 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>Music Producer</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
<td>$52,250</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

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MDTAdmissions@asu.edu | 480-965-5069