Are you interested in performing, songwriting, creating, recording or producing popular music? This flexible bachelor's degree program allows you to choose your pathway of study and includes four semesters of applied study with internships and a capstone project.

**Program Description**

The popular music concentration within the BA program in music at Arizona State University welcomes and accommodates 21st century musicians interested in popular music, music industry studies and entrepreneurship. This includes but is not limited to singers and songwriters, laptop performers or composers, guitarists, bassists, keyboardists, and other instrumentalists and vocalists whose musical practices and playing styles are representative of varied popular music idioms. Some classes for this program will be offered on the Downtown Phoenix campus.

Students in this concentration develop musicianship and expertise in creating, songwriting, performing and producing music. All students gain a working knowledge of the music industry and music business, and the entrepreneurial skills necessary to gain meaningful employment upon graduation. Students participate in individual applied study in a chosen specialization, as well as a variety of group performances and production opportunities. Internships associated with specialization courses provide opportunities for students to apply their learning in a real-life context. A capstone course allows students to develop original work in their chosen area of emphasis.

**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 117 - College Algebra or MAT 119 or MAT 142
• Math Intensity: General

Required Courses (Major Map)

2020 - 2021 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:

Audition Process for admittance to BA in Music (Popular Music) concentration:

Artist Statement:
All auditioning students must submit an artist statement explaining both their current work and vision of their future work in popular music. A minimum of 250 words is required.

Audition:
Live auditions or recorded auditions are required for admission to the BA program in popular music and for placement in MUP 111 Studio Instruction in popular music. A live audition consists of a 15-minute performance or presentation consisting of three to five selections of live or digital music performance. The selections may be original works or selections from popular music repertoire. The audition will also include scales, improvisation and aural skills. Students may also provide a recorded sample of their creative popular music work if they so choose.

For students seeking to pursue popular music performance, a live or recorded performance video is required for at least part of the audition. For other disciplines in which a video is not possible (studio recording, music creation and composition), students are required to submit a digital audio sound recording of three to five selections.

The audition also includes a live or remote interview. A live audition is preferred. Applicants who are unable to visit the campus for a live audition may upload a recorded audition to the School of Music application. These students will be contacted by faculty to arrange a remote interview.
Students interested in pursuing classical music lessons are required to follow the classical repertoire audition requirements for MUP 111 Studio Instruction in addition to auditioning for MUP 111 Studio Instruction in popular music.

**Transfer Admission Requirements:**

Students transferring from community colleges, other universities or other ASU programs engage in the same audition process as first-year students.

Transfer students are encouraged to audition during the semester before they wish to enroll at ASU. They will also take piano and music theory diagnostic exams at that time to ensure placement in appropriate coursework.

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 credit 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.

**Change of Major Requirements**

An ASU student who would like to change majors to one offered by the Herberger Institute or one of its programs must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.50 (scale is 4.00 = "A"), and may change their major to the BA in music with a concentration in popular music if they successfully complete the audition process required for admittance, and are accepted into the degree.

Students should refer to [https://changingmajors.asu.edu/request](https://changingmajors.asu.edu/request) 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 the [Transfer Map search](transfer_map_search) to outline a list of recommended courses to take prior to
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](https://admission.asu.edu/transfer/pathway-programs).

### Global Opportunities

#### Global Experience

With over 250 programs in more than 65 countries (ranging from one week to one year), study abroad is possible for all ASU students wishing to gain global skills and knowledge in preparation for a 21st century career. Students earn ASU credit for completed courses, while staying on track for graduation, and may apply financial aid and scholarships toward program costs. [https://mystudyabroad.asu.edu](https://mystudyabroad.asu.edu)

### Career Opportunities

The bachelor’s degree in music with a concentration in popular music prepares students for potential careers in the popular music industry that involve creativity and creating new work, being a flexible musician, collaborating with others in the community and having knowledge of music business and music marketing. Possible jobs include:

- concert management and promotion
- entrepreneurship
- music marketing
- music performance in the popular music sector
- music publishing
- nonprofit arts related work
- teaching a private studio
- work in music related fields

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>12.0%</td>
<td>$66,930</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Casting Director ▼</td>
<td>12.2%</td>
<td>$71,620</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music Composer</td>
<td>5.7%</td>
<td>$50,590</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music Director</td>
<td>5.7%</td>
<td>$50,590</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Musician</td>
<td>6.0%</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Singer</td>
<td>6.0%</td>
<td>*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sound Recording Engineer</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
<td>$55,810</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Talent Agent</td>
<td>4.7%</td>
<td>$64,940</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**

Schedule an advisor appointment
School of Music  |  MUSIC 169
musicadmissions@asu.edu  | 480-965-5069