

Academic Program for a Music Major with a Focus on Music Composition or Music Composition and Technology

Undergraduate music majors focusing on music composition or music/technology who intend to pursue graduate studies in music composition (MA, MFA, Phd, DMA), should consider several factors when choosing electives and when choosing subjects that satisfying the seven-course Letters and Science breadth requirement.

An intellectually well-rounded Liberal Arts education is an essential component in the development of a personal compositional voice. Nevertheless, the majority of graduate programs in music composition base admission primarily on the strength of the composition portfolio. That portfolio should include recent compositions and representative recordings. In general, students graduating from UC Berkeley should plan for at least one extra outside year of composition and music related studies.

Upon admission to a graduate level program, most schools will require diagnostic testing in the areas of musicianship, harmony and counterpoint. It is not uncommon for entering graduate students to be required to satisfy deficiencies in the areas mentioned.

YEAR 1

Required courses for the major: 49A, 49B, 49C, 50, 60, and one course from the series Music 74-77, Music 405A and B

Required university-wide: English 1A and 1B and one course in American History and Institutions (if not taken elsewhere or exempted by exam).

Note that besides the English department, English 1A and 1B courses are offered by departments such as Art History, Comparative Literature, History, German, History, etc. The list below may be of special interest to composers.

- Film Studies R1A-R1B (satisfies 1A or 1B)
- Theater R1A-R1B (satisfies 1A or 1B)
- History of Art R1B (satisfies 1B only)
- L&S R44 (Western Civilization) (satisfies 1A or 1B)

For a complete list of courses that will satisfy the English 1A and 1B requirement, visit: <http://ls-advise.berkeley.edu/requirements/rc.html>

Breadth courses: pick from the list below

If there is any space in the schedule, it would also be desirable to participate in one performing ensemble (from the series Music 140-45, 148, 149) (**required** eventually) and/or take private lessons on your instrument (Music 41/150).

We strongly recommend that students seek out a Freshman Seminar or a Sophomore Seminar in any topic/department. These are one-unit courses that provide the opportunity to work closely with a faculty member and a small group of students on a focused topic for one hour a week.

YEAR 2

Required courses for the major: 51, 61, a further two courses from the series Music 74-77, a large performing ensemble (Music 140-45, 148, 149) for both fall and spring semesters, Music 405C and D

The requirement to participate in a large ensemble for two consecutive semesters can be fulfilled at any time in the program. This is merely a suggestion that the second year might be a convenient time to do it, whether to leave room to explore other courses and ensembles later or because students often wish to continue for several years as members of the same performing ensemble. We recommend auditioning for ensembles immediately upon entering the music major.

Music of the 20th Century (Music 77)
(recommended for satisfying the music history requirement)

if room in the schedule:

Music Perception and Cognition (Music 108)
Jazz theory and musicianship (Music 116M)
Introduction to composition (Music 117M)
Musical Applications of Computers (Music 158)

breadth courses: pick from the list below

YEAR 3

Required courses for the major: an upper-level seminar in music history (= any course from the series Music 170-79 or Music 189)

Music Department course offerings vary from semester to semester. Ask ahead and plan accordingly to find a 170 series that fits your interests.

Debussy and Mahler (Music 174A)
Stravinsky (Music 174C)
Studies in African American Music (Music 174F)

recommended music electives:

20th century harmony (Music 151)
Advanced musicianship (Music 152)
Counterpoint (Music 154A-154B)
Music Composition (Music 155)
Studies in Musical Analysis (Music 156)
Orchestration (Music 157)
Musical Applications of Computers and Related Technologies (Music 158)
Intro to conducting (Music 160)
Instrumental conducting (Music 161)
Choral conducting (Music 162)
Jazz improvisation (Music 164A-164B)

Music perception and cognition (Music 108M)jazz Theory and musicianship
(Music 116M)
Introduction to composition (Music 117M)
Non-European music (from the Music 130-139 series)

Foreign language studies (German, French, or Italian are particularly useful for
composers)

breadth courses: pick from the list below

*This is the time to begin thinking about taking courses and cementing relationships
with professors that reflect your interests most closely, and to take some steps that will
smooth the way towards doing an honors project in music composition during the
senior year.*

YEAR 4

recommended music electives: anything from the courses listed under **year 3**, plus:

Honors project in music composition (Music 195)

SELECTED BREADTH COURSES

(for a complete list of breadth courses go to:

<http://ls-advise.berkeley.edu/requirements/lsreq.html#7breadth>)

American Cultures

(for a complete list of American Culture courses go to: <http://amercult.berkeley.edu/>)

Art, Technology and Culture (Art 160)
Contemporary Literature (English 134)
Film Seminar in American Cultures (Film 40)
Special Topics in Film Genre (Film 108)
American Art (1800-Present) (HISTART) 185A
Autobiography and American Individualism (Rhetoric 139AC)

Philosophy and Values

Challenge of Cognitive Science to Western Philosophy C108
The Mind and Language (COG SCI) C101
Metaphor -- Linguistics (LINGUIS) 106
Mathematical Logic -- Mathematics (MATH 125A)
Introduction to the Theory of Sets -- (MATH 135)
Buddhist Psychology -- Psychology (PSYCH)
Western Mysticism: Religion, Art, and Literature -- Religious Studies (RELIGST) C118
The Classic Myths (Classics 28, Greek Philosophy (Classics 36)
Literature and Philosophy (English 177)

Social and Behavioral Sciences

Basic Issues in Cognitive Science(COG SCI C100)
The Mind and Language (COG SCI C101)
Scientific Approaches to Consciousness (COG SCI C102)
The Mind and Mathematics(COG SCI C107)
General Psychology -- Psychology (PSYCH 1)
Principles of Psychology -- Psychology (PSYCH 2)
Western Civilization (L&S R44)

Historical Studies

Western Civilization (L&S R44)
History of Art (any, except R1B, N142)

Biological Science

Scientific Approaches to Consciousness(COG SCI C102)
Perception -- Cognitive Science (COG SCI C126)

Physical Science

The Physics of Music (Physics 21)