

# COMPOSITION, BFA

**Music composition is about creativity, imagination, communication and collaboration.** It requires highly developed multilinear critical analytical skills, excellent organizational skills and a great deal of attention to detail. Music brings people from different backgrounds and communities together, enhances creativity, develops imaginations and helps you to make emotional connections with people.

Several of our Music Composition program alumni have had highly successful and diverse careers as composers of abstract music and as faculty members and administrators at major institutions. Many others have successfully aligned their creative endeavors with interdisciplinary pursuits in areas such as multimedia, music for film, music therapy, music business, music and management, or entertainment law. Over the years, the Music Composition program has also graduated many alumni who have had highly successful careers in other diverse disciplines: from the sciences, to medicine, to finance, mathematics, and management.

**Our Music Composition majors are expected to take composition lessons for at least six semesters, study orchestration and take classes in music theory, music history, electronic music and computer music.** Graduating seniors are required to present a senior composition recital which involves 60 minutes of original music and demonstrates their ability to function as independent composers. Music Composition majors also participate in ensembles and are strongly encouraged to take instrument lessons. Piano proficiency, in particular, is generally considered as an invaluable tool for composition.

**Though it is not required, composition majors are encouraged to take Composition for Electronic Media and other electronic and computer music courses through the Music Science and Technology program.** Composition for Electronic Media examines theoretical and practical aspects of the study of computer and electro-acoustic music composition. Through individual composition projects, this course focuses on developing computer and electro-acoustic compositional techniques with projects in pre-recorded material manipulation, sound synthesis and analysis, music signal processing, algorithmic composition, and music performance systems design, to name a few. There are many other courses offered in the Music Science and Technology that we encourage composition majors to take in order to strengthen their foundations in composing with electronic media. These include Introduction to Computer Applications in Music, Music and Digital Signal Processing, and Algorithmic and Computer Music. For more information regarding these courses please see the Music, Science, & Technology program description.

Our music complex includes a 1,000-seat auditorium, Dixon Hall, a 200-seat recital hall, Dixon Recital Hall, a choral hall, a band room, two computer music labs, and practice rooms that are available 24/7 by student ID card access for students enrolled in music courses. At the end of Spring 2019, construction of a new state-of-the-art recording and electronic music studio will begin. This will be available for use after taking the required training for use of the studio. As the Newcomb Music Department is an All-Steinway School, all of our practice and performance spaces are equipped with Steinway pianos. The University also owns a wide range of other instruments which are available for students to borrow.

**Students admitted to the University as intended music majors are eligible for Musicianship Awards.** Musicianship Awards are partial scholarships offered to incoming freshmen who are selected by the Office of Undergraduate Admission based on recommendation from faculty and staff to students who have academic credentials and a history of talent and dedication to music, and is only granted to students intending to major in music.

## Requirements

Course ID	Title	Credits
<b>Musicology</b>		
MUSC 1410	Hist Euro Music To 1800	3
MUSC 1420	Hist European Music Since 1800	3
Select two of the following:		6
MUSC 1900	Music in New Orleans	
MUSC 2410	American Music <sup>1</sup>	
MUSC 2420	World Musics <sup>1</sup>	
MUSC 2450	Intro To Opera	
MUSC 3310	Topics: Musics Latin Amr	
MUSC 3320	Musical Theatre In Amer	
MUSC 3340	History of Jazz	
MUSC 3440	Black Music, Black Lives	
<b>Theory</b>		
MUSC 1510	Harmony	3
MUSC 1520	Advanced Harmony	3
Select two of the following:		6
MUSC 1530	Jazz Theory	
MUSC 2010	Tonal Analysis:18/19th C <sup>1</sup>	

MUSC 2020	Twentieth Century Theory <sup>1</sup>	
<b>Performance</b>		
APMS 1090	Musicianship Lab I	1
APMS 1100	Musicianship Lab II	1
<b>Performance Required Courses</b>		
Select one of the Following: (4 semesters) <sup>2</sup>		4
APMS 2171	Vocal Ensemble	
APMS 2173	Instrumental Ensemble	
APMS 2218	Composition (2 semesters) <sup>3</sup>	4
APMS 3213	Composition (2 semesters)	4
APMS 4233	Adv Composition	3
APMS 4300	Adv Comp/ Sr. Recital	3
APMS 2090	Musicianship Lab III	1
APMS 2100	Musicianship Lab IV	1
Select one of the following:		3
APMS 3020	Counterpoint (18th Cen)	
APMS 4040	Orchestration	
APMS 4950	Spec Top In Music Theory	
Total Credit Hours		49

<sup>1</sup> Pre-requisites and/or Co-requisites (see course descriptions)

<sup>2</sup> Students may elect to mature within an ensemble by taking the major ensemble for his/her instrument up to 8 times for credit.

<sup>3</sup> Students are encouraged to take applied lessons every semester; however, a course substitution, one semester of APMS 4910 Lect Rec Prep/ Lect Rec (2 c.h.), is available for students lacking one semester of lessons.

It is strongly recommended that B.F.A Musical Composition students take MUSC 2010 Tonal Analysis:18/19th C (3 c.h.) and MUSC 2020 Twentieth Century Theory (3,4 c.h.) which are offered as part of the CORE.