Major Map: Music Bachelor of Music (B.M.) Composition Concentration

School of Music Bulletin Year: 2025-2026

This course plan is a recommended sequence for this major. Courses designated as critical (!) may have a deadline for completion and/or affect time to graduation. Please see the Program Notes section for details regarding "critical courses" for this particular Program of Study.

		Credit	Min.	Major			
Critical	Course Subject and Title		Grade ¹			Prerequisites	Notes
	ter One (12-13 Credit Hours)						
	ENGL 101 Critical Reading and Composition	3	С		CC-CMW		
	Major Ensemble ³	1	C	*	MR		
	MUED 155 Group Piano4 (or demonstration of	2	C	*	MR		
	piano prof.)						
	MUSC 117 Aural Skills I	1	С	*	MR		
	MUSC 111A-MUSC 111Z ⁵	2	С	*	MR		
	MUSC 100 Music Convocation	0	S		MR		
	Foreign language ⁶ or other Carolina Core Req. ⁷	3-4			CC-GFL		
	er Two (16 Credit Hours)						
!	ENGL 102 Rhetoric and Composition	3	С		CC-CMW/INF		
	Major Ensemble ³	1	С	*	MR		
	MUED 156 Group Piano4 (or demonstration of	2	С	*	MR	Instructor consent	
	piano prof.)						
!	MUSC 115 Music Theory I	3	С	*	CC-AIU	C or better in MUSC 114 (or passing	
						score on the Ugrad Theory Diag.	
						Exam)	
	MUSC 118 Aural Skills II	1	С	*	MR	MUSC 117	
	MUSC 111A-MUSC 111Z ⁵	2	С	*	MR		
	MUSC 100 Music Convocation	0	S		MR		
	MUSC 100L Recital Class Laboratory	1	С	*	MR		
	Foreign language ⁶ or other Carolina Core Req. ⁷	3			CC-GFL		
Semes	ter Three (16-17 Credit Hours)						
	MUSC 316 Music Composition I	3	С	*	MR	MUSC 115 or equiv. experience	
	MUSC 215 Music Theory II	3	С	*	MR	C or better in MUSC 115	
	MUSC 217 Aural Skills III	1	С	*	MR	MUSC 118	
	Major Ensemble ³	1	С	*	MR		
	MUSC 111A-MUSC 111Z ⁵	2	С	*	MR		
	Foreign language ⁶ or Carolina Core Req. ⁷	3			MR/CC		
	Carolina Core Requirement ⁷	3-4			CC		
	ter Four (16 Credit Hours)		_				
	MUSC 416 Music Composition II	3	С	*	MR	MUSC 316	
	MUSC 353 History of Western Music I	3	С	*	MR	C or better in MUSC 100L and MUSC	
						115	
	MUSC 218 Aural Skills IV	1	С	*	MR	MUSC 217	
	Major Ensemble ³	1	С	*	MR		
			С	*	MR		
	MUSC 111A-MUSC 111Z ⁵	2	_				
	MUSC 312 Counterpoint	3	С	*	MR	C or better in MUSC 215	
	MUSC 312 Counterpoint Carolina Core Requirement ⁷	3		*	CC	C or better in MUSC 215	
	MUSC 312 Counterpoint Carolina Core Requirement ⁷ MUSC 100A Music Advocacy I	3	C S	*		C or better in MUSC 215	
Semest	MUSC 312 Counterpoint Carolina Core Requirement ⁷ MUSC 100A Music Advocacy I ter Five (18 Credit Hours)	3 3 0	S	*	CC MR		
Semest	MUSC 312 Counterpoint Carolina Core Requirement ⁷ MUSC 100A Music Advocacy I	3		*	CC	Undergraduate Students: C or better in	
Semest	MUSC 312 Counterpoint Carolina Core Requirement ⁷ MUSC 100A Music Advocacy I ter Five (18 Credit Hours)	3 3 0	S	*	CC MR	Undergraduate Students: C or better in MUSC 215; Graduate students:	
Semest	MUSC 312 Counterpoint Carolina Core Requirement ⁷ MUSC 100A Music Advocacy I ter Five (18 Credit Hours)	3 3 0	S	*	CC MR	Undergraduate Students: C or better in MUSC 215; Graduate students: passing score on the Music Theory	
Semest	MUSC 312 Counterpoint Carolina Core Requirement ⁷ MUSC 100A Music Advocacy I ter Five (18 Credit Hours)	3 3 0	S	*	CC MR	Undergraduate Students: C or better in MUSC 215; Graduate students: passing score on the Music Theory portion of the Music Graduate	
Semest	MUSC 312 Counterpoint Carolina Core Requirement ⁷ MUSC 100A Music Advocacy I ter Five (18 Credit Hours)	3 3 0	S	*	CC MR	Undergraduate Students: C or better in MUSC 215; Graduate students: passing score on the Music Theory portion of the Music Graduate Diagnostic Exam or a grade of C or	
Semesi	MUSC 312 Counterpoint Carolina Core Requirement ⁷ MUSC 100A Music Advocacy I ter Five (18 Credit Hours) MUSC 525 Post-Tonal Music Theory	3 0 3	S	*	CC MR MR	Undergraduate Students: C or better in MUSC 215; Graduate students: passing score on the Music Theory portion of the Music Graduate Diagnostic Exam or a grade of C or better in MUSC 523	
Semesi	MUSC 312 Counterpoint Carolina Core Requirement ⁷ MUSC 100A Music Advocacy I ter Five (18 Credit Hours) MUSC 525 Post-Tonal Music Theory MUSC 516 Composition	3 3 0	S	* * *	CC MR MR	Undergraduate Students: C or better in MUSC 215; Graduate students: passing score on the Music Theory portion of the Music Graduate Diagnostic Exam or a grade of C or better in MUSC 523 MUSC 416 or equiv. experience	
Semesi	MUSC 312 Counterpoint Carolina Core Requirement ⁷ MUSC 100A Music Advocacy I ter Five (18 Credit Hours) MUSC 525 Post-Tonal Music Theory MUSC 516 Composition MUSC 354 History of Western Music II	3 3 0 3 3 3	S C C C	* * * *	MR MR MR MR MR MR MR/CC-INT	Undergraduate Students: C or better in MUSC 215; Graduate students: passing score on the Music Theory portion of the Music Graduate Diagnostic Exam or a grade of C or better in MUSC 523	
Semesi	MUSC 312 Counterpoint Carolina Core Requirement ⁷ MUSC 100A Music Advocacy I ter Five (18 Credit Hours) MUSC 525 Post-Tonal Music Theory MUSC 516 Composition MUSC 354 History of Western Music II Theory Elective ⁸	3 3 0 3 3 3 3	S C C C C C	* * * * *	MR MR MR/CC-INT MR	Undergraduate Students: C or better in MUSC 215; Graduate students: passing score on the Music Theory portion of the Music Graduate Diagnostic Exam or a grade of C or better in MUSC 523 MUSC 416 or equiv. experience	
Semes	MUSC 312 Counterpoint Carolina Core Requirement ⁷ MUSC 100A Music Advocacy I ter Five (18 Credit Hours) MUSC 525 Post-Tonal Music Theory MUSC 516 Composition MUSC 354 History of Western Music II Theory Elective ⁸ Major Ensemble ³	3 3 0 3 3 3 3	S C C C C C C	*	MR MR MR MR MR MR MR/CC-INT MR MR	Undergraduate Students: C or better in MUSC 215; Graduate students: passing score on the Music Theory portion of the Music Graduate Diagnostic Exam or a grade of C or better in MUSC 523 MUSC 416 or equiv. experience	
Semes	MUSC 312 Counterpoint Carolina Core Requirement ⁷ MUSC 100A Music Advocacy I ter Five (18 Credit Hours) MUSC 525 Post-Tonal Music Theory MUSC 516 Composition MUSC 354 History of Western Music II Theory Elective ⁸ Major Ensemble ³ MUSC 311A-MUSC 311Z ⁵	3 3 0 3 3 3 3 1 2	S C C C C C	*	MR MR MR MR MR MR/CC-INT MR MR MR	Undergraduate Students: C or better in MUSC 215; Graduate students: passing score on the Music Theory portion of the Music Graduate Diagnostic Exam or a grade of C or better in MUSC 523 MUSC 416 or equiv. experience	
Semes	MUSC 312 Counterpoint Carolina Core Requirement ⁷ MUSC 100A Music Advocacy I ter Five (18 Credit Hours) MUSC 525 Post-Tonal Music Theory MUSC 516 Composition MUSC 354 History of Western Music II Theory Elective ⁸ Major Ensemble ³ MUSC 311A-MUSC 311Z ⁵ Carolina Core Requirement ⁷	3 3 0 3 3 3 3	S C C C C C C	*	MR MR MR MR MR MR MR/CC-INT MR MR	Undergraduate Students: C or better in MUSC 215; Graduate students: passing score on the Music Theory portion of the Music Graduate Diagnostic Exam or a grade of C or better in MUSC 523 MUSC 416 or equiv. experience	
Semes	MUSC 312 Counterpoint Carolina Core Requirement ⁷ MUSC 100A Music Advocacy I ter Five (18 Credit Hours) MUSC 525 Post-Tonal Music Theory MUSC 516 Composition MUSC 354 History of Western Music II Theory Elective ⁸ Major Ensemble ³ MUSC 311A-MUSC 311Z ⁵ Carolina Core Requirement ⁷ ter Six (18 Credit Hours)	3 3 0 3 3 3 3 1 2 3	S C C C C C C	*	MR MR MR MR MR/CC-INT MR MR MR CC	Undergraduate Students: C or better in MUSC 215; Graduate students: passing score on the Music Theory portion of the Music Graduate Diagnostic Exam or a grade of C or better in MUSC 523 MUSC 416 or equiv. experience C or better in MUSC 353	
Semesi	MUSC 312 Counterpoint Carolina Core Requirement ⁷ MUSC 100A Music Advocacy I ter Five (18 Credit Hours) MUSC 525 Post-Tonal Music Theory MUSC 516 Composition MUSC 354 History of Western Music II Theory Elective ⁸ Major Ensemble ³ MUSC 311A-MUSC 311Z ⁵ Carolina Core Requirement ⁷ ter Six (18 Credit Hours) MUSC 516 Composition	3 3 0 3 3 3 3 1 2 3	S C C C C C C	*	MR MR MR MR MR/CC-INT MR MR MR CC	Undergraduate Students: C or better in MUSC 215; Graduate students: passing score on the Music Theory portion of the Music Graduate Diagnostic Exam or a grade of C or better in MUSC 523 MUSC 416 or equiv. experience	
Semesi	MUSC 312 Counterpoint Carolina Core Requirement ⁷ MUSC 100A Music Advocacy I ter Five (18 Credit Hours) MUSC 525 Post-Tonal Music Theory MUSC 516 Composition MUSC 354 History of Western Music II Theory Elective ⁸ Major Ensemble ³ MUSC 311A-MUSC 311Z ⁵ Carolina Core Requirement ⁷ ter Six (18 Credit Hours) MUSC 336 Introduction to Computer Music	3 3 0 3 3 3 3 1 2 3 3 3	S C C C C C C C C	* * * * * *	MR MR MR MR MR/CC-INT MR MR MR CC MR MR	Undergraduate Students: C or better in MUSC 215; Graduate students: passing score on the Music Theory portion of the Music Graduate Diagnostic Exam or a grade of C or better in MUSC 523 MUSC 416 or equiv. experience C or better in MUSC 353	
Semesi	MUSC 312 Counterpoint Carolina Core Requirement ⁷ MUSC 100A Music Advocacy I ter Five (18 Credit Hours) MUSC 525 Post-Tonal Music Theory MUSC 516 Composition MUSC 354 History of Western Music II Theory Elective ⁸ Major Ensemble ³ MUSC 311A-MUSC 311Z ⁵ Carolina Core Requirement ⁷ ter Six (18 Credit Hours) MUSC 336 Introduction to Computer Music MUSC 311A-MUSC 311Z ⁵	3 3 0 3 3 3 3 1 2 3 3 2	S C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C	* * *	MR MR MR MR/CC-INT MR MR MR CC MR MR MR	Undergraduate Students: C or better in MUSC 215; Graduate students: passing score on the Music Theory portion of the Music Graduate Diagnostic Exam or a grade of C or better in MUSC 523 MUSC 416 or equiv. experience C or better in MUSC 353	
Semesi	MUSC 312 Counterpoint Carolina Core Requirement ⁷ MUSC 100A Music Advocacy I ter Five (18 Credit Hours) MUSC 525 Post-Tonal Music Theory MUSC 516 Composition MUSC 354 History of Western Music II Theory Elective ⁸ Major Ensemble ³ MUSC 311A-MUSC 311Z ⁵ Carolina Core Requirement ⁷ ter Six (18 Credit Hours) MUSC 336 Introduction to Computer Music MUSC 311A-MUSC 311Z ⁵ Theory Elective ⁸	3 3 0 3 3 3 3 1 2 3 3 2 3	S C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C	* * * * * *	MR MR MR MR/CC-INT MR MR MR CC MR MR MR MR MR MR	Undergraduate Students: C or better in MUSC 215; Graduate students: passing score on the Music Theory portion of the Music Graduate Diagnostic Exam or a grade of C or better in MUSC 523 MUSC 416 or equiv. experience C or better in MUSC 353	
Semesi	MUSC 312 Counterpoint Carolina Core Requirement ⁷ MUSC 100A Music Advocacy I ter Five (18 Credit Hours) MUSC 525 Post-Tonal Music Theory MUSC 516 Composition MUSC 354 History of Western Music II Theory Elective ⁸ Major Ensemble ³ MUSC 311A-MUSC 311Z ⁵ Carolina Core Requirement ⁷ ter Six (18 Credit Hours) MUSC 336 Introduction to Computer Music MUSC 311A-MUSC 311Z ⁵	3 3 0 3 3 3 3 1 2 3 3 2	S C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C	* * * * * * *	MR MR MR MR/CC-INT MR MR MR CC MR MR MR	Undergraduate Students: C or better in MUSC 215; Graduate students: passing score on the Music Theory portion of the Music Graduate Diagnostic Exam or a grade of C or better in MUSC 523 MUSC 416 or equiv. experience C or better in MUSC 353	

Semester Seven (14-17 Credit Hours)						
MUSC 516 Composition	3	С	*	MR	MUSC 416 or equiv. experience	
MUSC 515 Orchestration	3	С	*	MR	Undergraduate Students: C or better in	
					MUSC 215	
MUSC 333 Basic Choral & Instr. Conducting	2	C	*	MR	C or better in MUSC 217	
Concentration Elective ⁹	2	С	*	MR		
MUSC 130A-Z Ensemble (Chamber)10	1	C	*	MR		
Carolina Core Requirement ⁷	3			CC		
Carolina Core Req. ⁷ or Elective ¹¹	0-3			CC/PR		
(only if needed to meet CC or hrs. to graduate)						
Semester Eight (16-17 Credit Hours)						
MUSC 540 Projects in Computer Music	3	С	*	MR	MUSC 336 or instructor consent	
MUSC 445 Special Topics in Musicology &	3	С	*	MR	C or better in MUSC 354 (MUSC 445	
Ethnomusicology					only)	
or MUSC 544 Topics in Music History						
or MUSC 546 Black Sacred Music: Local & Global						
Perspectives						
Music History and Literature Elective ¹²	3	С	*	MR		
MUSC 516 Composition	3	С	*	MR	MUSC 416 or equiv. experience	
Ensemble (major or chamber) ^{3 & 10}	1	С	*	MR		
Carolina Core Requirement ⁷ or Elective ¹¹	3-4			CC/PR		

Graduation Requirements Summary

Minimum Total Hours	Minimum Major Requirements Hours	College & Program Requirements Hours	Carolina Core Hours	Minimum Institutional GPA
128	90	1-7	31-37	2.000

- 1. Regardless of individual course grades, students must maintain a minimum 2.50 GPA on all MUSC & MUED courses and a 2.00 cumulative GPA.
- 2. Some colleges require a minimum GPA for major courses. Courses indicated in this column are included in the major GPA for this program of study.
- 3. Students are required to participate in the major ensemble most closely related to their primary instrument. Students must declare a primary instrument upon acceptance into the program. Ensembles are: Marching Band, Symphonic Winds, Wind Ensemble, University Orchestra, Concert Choir, & University Chorus. Some ensembles require an audition for membership. Regulations for attendance at ensemble rehearsals & performances are different from regulations for class attendance. Members of ensembles are expected to be present at every rehearsal & performance, unless excused by the conductor.
- 4. MUED 155 and 156 are not required if taking MUSC 111P for Piano as primary instrument or if a student passes the proficiency exam.
- 5. Applied Music must be completed satisfactorily for a minimum of six semesters & 12 hours of credit.
- 6. Students in the Composition concentration are required to demonstrate proficiency in one foreign language equivalent to the 122 course through course credit or the corresponding foreign language placement score.
- 7. The Carolina Core provides the common core of knowledge, skill and academic experience for all Carolina undergraduate students.
- 8. Theory Electives (6 hours): MUSC 312, 313, 315, 319, 320, 515, 518, 525, 526, 528.
- 9. Concentration Electives: Any MUED or MUSC courses (other than MUSC 103, 104, 105, 110, 113, 140, 203). Students must complete a minimum of 6 hours of concentration electives, including MUED 155 & 156, if needed and MUSC 278 for those whose primary medium is voice.
- 10. Courses which qualify for the Chamber Music requirement include all MUSC 130 courses with a suffix of A-Z and topics in: Voice, String, Percussion, Wind, Guitar, and Keyboard. Students enrolling in an ensemble to fulfill a degree requirement must register for at least 1 credit hour.
- 11. No courses of a remedial, developmental, skill-acquiring, or vocational nature may apply as credit toward degrees in the School of Music. The School of Music allows the use of the Pass-Fail option on elective courses. Further clarification on inapplicable courses can be obtained from the School of Music
- 12. Music History & Literature Electives: MUSC 500, 543, 544, 545, 546, 548, 549, 555, 557, 558, 559, 587.

Program Notes:

- Courses identified as "critical" have a deadline for completion. ENGL 101 & 102 must be completed within the first 60 semester hours of work in order to be credited toward graduation. MUSC courses identified as "critical" must be completed in order to be admitted to the upper division.
- To be admitted to the upper division, students must meet the following criteria: 1) completion of Piano proficiency requirements; 2) successful completion of a barrier jury on their primary instrument; 3) completion of Aural Skills training sequence (MUSC 117, 118, 217, 218); 4) completion of music theory sequence (MUSC 115, 215); and 5) completion of at least 60 credits with a cumulative grade point average of 2.50 in MUSC & MUED courses and 2.00 in all courses.
- All undergraduate students must take a 3-credit course or its equivalent with a passing grade that covers the founding documents. This course may
 fulfill any requirement in the program of study. Courses that meet this requirement are listed in the academic bulletin.
- Performance Certificate: The performance certificate is awarded by the School of Music to recognize those undergraduate music students with degree
 emphases other than music performance, as well as those students not majoring in music. The performance certificate will allow gifted and highly
 motivated students to acquire additional credit, professorial interaction, & guidance, and departmental distinction in music performance.

University Requirements: Bachelor's degree-seeking students must meet Carolina Core (general education) requirements. For more information regarding these requirements, please visit the Carolina Core page on the University website.

Codes:						
CC	Carolina Core	CC-INF	Carolina Core – Information Literacy			
CC-AIU	Carolina Core-Aesthetic and Interpretive Understanding	CC-INT	Carolina Core – Integrative Course			
CC-ARP	Carolina Core-Analytical Reasoning and Problem-Solving	CC-SCI	Carolina Core – Scientific Literacy			
CC-CMS	Carolina Core-Effective, Engaged, and Persuasive Communication: Spoken Component	CC-VSR	Carolina Core - Values, Ethics, and Social Responsibility			
CC-CMW	Effective, Engaged, and Persuasive Communication: Written Component	CR	College Requirement			
CC-GFL	Carolina Core-Global Citizenship and Multicultural Understanding: Foreign Language	MR	Major Requirement			
CC-GHS	Carolina Core – Historical Thinking	PR	Program Requirement			
CC-GSS	Carolina Core – Social Sciences					

Disclaimer: Major maps are only a suggested or recommended sequence of courses required in a program of study. Please contact your academic advisor for assistance in the application of specific coursework to a program of study and course selection and planning for upcoming semesters.