Music (BM) in Performance with an Emphasis in Voice

This program is offered by the Leigh Gerdine College of Fine Arts/Department of Music and is only available at the St. Louis home campus.

Program Description

The bachelor of music in performance is a pre-professional degree designed to prepare students who wish to pursue a future in the professional music world as a performing artist or studio teacher. This degree requires an emphasis in collaborative piano, orchestral instruments, jazz, piano or voice.

The voice emphasis is designed for the student who wishes to pursue a career as a professional performer or pedagogue. Extensive applied instruction and classes on technique, pedagogy, repertoire in various languages and performance styles, as well as ensemble experience, constitute the core of the curriculum.

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the BM performance with an emphasis in voice, the student will be able to:

- Exhibit knowledge of a physiological elements of vocal production as demonstrated through progressive consistency of performance in terms of technique, communication of ideas, poise and artistry.
- Integrate the core music curriculum of theory and history into their performance through written program notes, enabling them to incorporate appropriate stylistic choices to bring authenticity of performance to their vocal repertoire, while also strengthening their writing skills.
- Demonstrate command of pronunciation and interpretation of multiple languages used in vocal repertoire.
- Demonstrate skills in critical listening and appropriate commentary on musical performance.
- Demonstrate a beginning knowledge of teaching to further understand the workings of the vocal instrument and put into practice techniques of pedagogy.
- Perform collaboratively with pianists, instrumentalists, vocalists and in ensembles.

Admission and Audition Requirements

To be admitted as an undergraduate music major or music minor, applicants must complete an in-person audition/interview with the music faculty and complete various diagnostic examinations. Auditions are arranged through the Office of Undergraduate Admission. Specific information on the audition requirements for each music degree program is available from the department’s website. Priority consideration for performance scholarships is given to students who complete all admission requirements before February 28 of the application year.

Performance Requirements

Much of the music that we make is collaborative in nature, with a mix of keyboard, wind, brass, string and percussion instruments and voices. So that performance majors develop an ability to work with others beyond an accompanist, all performance majors presenting junior and senior recitals will include on each recital or in a Thursday student recital at least one 3-minute work that includes collaboration with a performer other than or in addition to piano. Works longer than 3 minutes are encouraged.

Degree Requirements

For information on the general requirements for a degree, see Baccalaureate Degree Requirements under the Academic Policies and Information section of this catalog.

- 97-98 required credit hours
- Modern languages study
- Applicable University Global Citizenship Program hours, with accommodations for bachelor of music
- Electives

Global Citizenship Program for Bachelor of Music

- GLBC 1200 Global Cornerstone Seminar
- 6 credit hours from courses designated ‘Roots of Cultures’ (One course with the MUSC prefix can fulfill GCP and major requirements simultaneously.)
- 3 credit hours from courses designated ‘Social Systems & Human Behavior’
- 3 credit hours from courses designated ‘Global Understanding’
- 3 credit hours from courses designated ‘Physical & Natural World’ or ‘Quantitative Literacy’
- KEYS 4XXX Global Keystone Seminar

NOTE: Except where specified otherwise, the above courses must not also satisfy major requirements. GCP skills requirements may be fulfilled with the courses above, courses in the major, or electives. ‘Arts Appreciation’ is satisfied in meeting the requirements for the major.

Required Courses

Music Theory and History Core

- MUSC 1010, MUSC 1020, MUSC 2010, MUSC 2020 Music Theory I-IV (12 hours)
- MUSC 1810, MUSC 1820, MUSC 2810, MUSC 2820 Musicianship I-IV (8 hours)
- MUSC 2030, MUSC 2040 Survey of Music History I, II (6 hours)
- MUSC 4700 Advanced Topics in Music (taken in junior or senior year only) (2-3 hours)

Performance Courses

- MUSC 2602, MUSC 3002, MUSC 4002 Applied Voice (eight semesters required) (24 hours)
- MUSC 0890 Recital Attendance (six semesters required) (0 hours)
- MUSC 0990 Master Class (taken every semester) (0 hours)
- Junior Recital (0 hours)
- Senior Recital (0 hours)

Major Ensemble

8 hours over eight semesters, as approved by advisor, to be selected from:

- MUSC 4900 Webster University Concert Choir (1 hour per semester)
- MUSC 4910 Webster University Chamber Singers (1 hour per semester)
- MUSC 4920 Webster University Aurelia (1 hour per semester)

Supportive Courses

- MUSC 1080, MUSC 1085, MUSC 2001, MUSC 2501
- Secondary Instrument: Class Piano or Applied Piano (six
consecutive semesters required; minimum four hours of applied instruction in individual lessons) (6 hours)
  • MUSC 2127 Vocal Diction Practicum (three semesters required, each with a different language topic) (3 hours)
  • MUSC 3070 Orchestration I (3 hours)
  • MUSC 3410 Conducting I (3 hours)
  • MUSC 4040 Music of the Twentieth Century (3 hours)
  • MUSC 4140 Lyric Diction (2 hours)
  • MUSC 4150 The Art Song (3 hours)
  • MUSC 4160 Operatic Literature (3 hours)
  • MUSC 4250, MUSC 4255 Voice Pedagogy I, II (4 hours)
  • MUSC 4450 World Music and Ethnomusicology (2 hours)
  • MUSC 4930 World Music Performance Ensemble (1 hour)
  • MUSC 4990 Webster University Opera Studio (4 hours)

Language requirement: Students pursuing the voice emphasis fulfill a foreign language requirement by studying French, German or Italian. Students can fulfill the requirement by successfully completing with a C or better 12 credit hours of foreign language, by passing two sequential 2000-level courses, or by passing an intermediate level language competency examination. All courses must be in a 16-week format unless taken in Vienna.