

MUSIC COMPOSITION

music.northwestern.edu/academics/areas-of-study/composition

Composition students pursue a course of study that develops analytical and creative skills and enjoy several opportunities to hear their works performed. Students intending to major in composition may substitute MUS_COMP 211-0 Class Composition for applied studies during their first and second years.

Programs of Study

- Composition Major (<https://catalogs.northwestern.edu/undergraduate/music/music-composition/music-composition-major/>)
- Composition Minor (<https://catalogs.northwestern.edu/undergraduate/music/music-composition/music-composition-minor/>)

MUS_COMP 112-0 Applied Composition for Music Majors (1 Unit)
Original composition; individual instruction.

MUS_COMP 211-0 Class Composition (1 Unit) Class instruction in techniques of composition. Open to music and non-music majors.

MUS_COMP 212-0 Applied Composition for Music Majors (1 Unit)
Original composition; individual instruction.

MUS_COMP 305-0 Optional Recital (0 Unit)

MUS_COMP 312-0 Applied Composition for Music Majors (1 Unit)
Original composition; individual instruction.

MUS_COMP 314-1 Instrumentation (1 Unit)
Instruments of the orchestra; scoring techniques; analysis of instrumental combinations.
Prerequisite: MUSIC 211-3 or consent of instructor.

MUS_COMP 314-2 Orchestration (1 Unit)
Stylistic scoring projects; analysis of orchestral and chamber scores.
Prerequisite: MUS_COMP 314-1 or consent of instructor.

MUS_COMP 314-3 Advanced Orchestration (1 Unit)
Contemporary scoring techniques; creative projects; analysis of orchestral and chamber scores.
Prerequisite: MUS_COMP 314-2, graduate standing, or consent of instructor.

MUS_COMP 335-0 Selected Topics (1 Unit)
Topics vary; announced before registration. Writing projects; analysis of scores; contemporary stylistic techniques, performers, composers, and materials; in-class performances of original work. May be repeated for credit.

MUS_COMP 336-0 Contemporary Repertoire (1 Unit)

MUS_COMP 337-0 Topics in Contemporary Repertoire (1 Unit)
Topics vary by quarter. Close study of specific recent compositional styles, which may include minimalism, complexity, music of the last decade, experimental music.
Prerequisite: consent of instructor.

MUS_COMP 338-0 Composer Portraits (1 Unit)
Composers vary by quarter. Portrait studies of the work of a major composer or composers, e.g., Ferneyhough; Lutoslawski; Cage; Birtwistle and Maxwell Davies.
Prerequisite: consent of instructor.

MUS_COMP 339-0 Compositional Concepts and Techniques (1 Unit)

Topics vary by quarter. Content, musical spaces, extended techniques, and spectralism.

Prerequisite: consent of instructor.

MUS_COMP 340-0 Composition Workshop (1 Unit)

Topics vary by quarter. Examples include Composer/Performer, Composing for Percussion, Composing for Dance, Composing for Solo Instrument.

Prerequisite: consent of instructor.

MUS_COMP 370-0 Junior Recital (0 Unit)

MUS_COMP 380-0 Senior Recital (0 Unit)

MUS_COMP 390-0 Composition Colloquium (0 Unit) Discussion of contemporary compositional techniques.

MUS_COMP 399-0 Independent Study (0.5-1 Unit)

MUS_COMP 435-0 Selected Topics (1 Unit)

MUS_COMP 436-0 Contemporary Repertoire (1 Unit)

MUS_COMP 437-0 Topics in Contemporary Repertoire (1 Unit)

MUS_COMP 438-0 Composer Portraits (1 Unit)

MUS_COMP 439-0 Compositional Concepts and Techniques (1 Unit)

MUS_COMP 440-0 Composition Workshop (1 Unit)

MUS_COMP 490-0 Composition Colloquium (0 Unit)

MUS_COMP 499-0 Independent Study (1 Unit)
SEE DEPT FOR SECTION AND PERMISSION NUMBERS.

MUS_COMP 512-0 Applied Composition for Music Majors (1 Unit)

MUS_COMP 535-0 Selected Topics (1 Unit)
Bienen School of Music.

MUS_COMP 537-0 Topics in Contemporary Repertoire (1 Unit)
Bienen School of Music.

MUS_COMP 539-0 Compositional Concepts and Techniques (1 Unit)
Bienen School of Music.

MUS_COMP 540-0 Current Compositional Praxis (1 Unit)
Topics vary by quarter. Examples include Composer/Performer, Composing for Percussion, Composing for Dance, Composing for Solo Instrument.

MUS_COMP 580-0 Doctoral Recital (0 Unit)

MUS_COMP 590-0 Research (1-4 Units)
Summer program for first and second year PhD students.