HENRY AND LEIGH BIENEN SCHOOL OF MUSIC

music.northwestern.edu

Overview

One of the oldest degree-granting music institutions in the United States, Northwestern University’s Henry and Leigh Bienen School of Music combines a nationally ranked music program of conservatory-level intensity with the academic rigor and scholarly resources found only at a world-class private research university. Entering first-year undergraduates show the highest level of achievement in music as well as academics. The school believes that by carefully developing outstanding musicianship and keen intelligence, while nurturing a curiosity about the world, we can best encourage the emergence of each student’s unique creative voice.

Key to all performance majors is intensive one-on-one training with a celebrated faculty that includes members of the Chicago Symphony and Lyric Opera of Chicago Orchestras, internationally acclaimed soloists, sought-after conductors, and distinguished scholars and clinicians. Students work in small classes with these dedicated teachers and artists in a curriculum that comprises music history and theory, aural and piano skills, instrumental and voice lessons, and advanced electives. Special programs include a five-year dual-degree curriculum—enabling students to earn a degree in music as well as one in communication, education and social policy, engineering, journalism, or arts and sciences—and the ad hoc (self-designed) major. Additionally, the world-class music making and other cultural resources of downtown Chicago provide exceptional opportunities for learning outside the classroom.

Facilities

The Bienen School of Music occupies three lakefront buildings. The Patrick G. and Shirley W. Ryan Center for the Musical Arts houses the 400-seat Mary B. Galvin Recital Hall, the 150-seat David and Carol McClintock Choral and Recital Room, and the 150-seat Shirley Welsh Ryan Opera Theater as well as administrative and faculty offices, teaching studios, classrooms, and practice rooms. The building connects with Regenstein Hall, which houses the 200-seat Regenstein Masterclass Room, the Office of Bands, rehearsal facilities, faculty studios, and practice rooms. The 1,000-seat Pick-Staiger Concert Hall houses rehearsal facilities and the Concert Management Office.

Musical Organizations

As a part of their program of study, music majors are required to participate in music school ensembles. Students from all other schools of the University are also encouraged to participate in any organizations for which they qualify. Ensembles include Symphony Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra, and Philharmonia; Symphonic Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, Concert Band, and Wildcat Marching Band; Bienen Contemporary/Early Vocal Ensemble, University Chorale, University Singers, Alice Millar Chapel Choir, and Northwestern Camerata; Jazz Orchestra and jazz small ensembles; Baroque Music Ensemble and Contemporary Music Ensemble; Guitar Ensemble and Percussion Ensemble; and chamber music ensembles.

Music Library

Among the nation’s largest music libraries, the Northwestern University Music Library supports all areas of musical study with a broad collection of books, scores, sound recordings, periodicals, and online resources. The facility, located in historic Deering Library, offers a reading room rich in reference materials, a music listening center, and a computer lab equipped with specialized music hardware and software. The Music Library is also distinguished internationally for its extensive collection of contemporary music, which includes one copy of nearly every score published since 1945 as well as many original manuscripts by prominent composers such as Pierre Boulez, John Cage, George Crumb, and Iannis Xenakis. The Music Library’s collections and staff serve the Bienen School of Music, the entire Northwestern University community, and researchers from around the world. For more information see www.library.northwestern.edu/music.

Programs of Study

The Bienen School of Music offers programs leading to the professional degrees of bachelor of music, master of music, and doctor of musical arts. The school also offers two nonprofessional degrees, the bachelor of arts in music and bachelor of science in music.

The curriculum allows flexibility for students while providing an education that is foundational for all musicians. Applicants in all areas who are accepted by the Bienen School enter directly into a program of specialization that begins in the first undergraduate year. The music core studies, taken by all students, require the acquisition of fundamental competencies and provide fundamental and essential experiences that complement the specialized studies in the declared major. Students are also required to complete studies in a number of allied subjects throughout the University.

Bachelor of Music (BMus)

Courses of study leading to the bachelor of music degree include majors in piano, strings, voice, winds and percussion, jazz, music cognition, music composition, music education, musicology, and music theory. Candidates for the degree of bachelor of music must complete a minimum of 48 units. For bachelor of music degree requirements, see the program page specific to the area of study.

Bachelor of Arts in Music (BAMus) and Bachelor of Science in Music (BSMus)

The bachelor of arts in music and bachelor of science in music are nonperformance degrees that offer a broad liberal arts education with a major in music. The requirements of the BAMus are essentially identical to those for the BA in the Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences; the requirements for the BSMus are the same as those for the BAMus except that the BSMus has no foreign language requirement. Within these degrees’ focus on music, there are a wide range of possibilities for study; students may choose to specialize in one of the available academic areas (music cognition, music composition, music education, musicology, or music theory) by fulfilling their Music Electives with courses in their area of interest, they may choose not to specialize (in which case the Music Electives are fulfilled with any music courses), or they may design an ad hoc specialization, consisting of 10 units which substitute for the Music Electives category below.

For BAMus and BSMus degrees, 45 units are required:

Bachelor of Science in Music (BSMus)
in the Bienen School of Music to acquaint themselves and comply
for which they are registered. It is the responsibility of students enrolled
Students are expected to attend all sessions of courses and ensembles
Attendance Policy

Grade of D or above (including P grades for non-dual degree students)
record and cannot count toward elective requirements. The second
receives a C grade or above, the initial D grade remains on the permanent
A grade of D or above (including P grades for non-dual degree students)
Music majors must earn a grade of C or above in all courses required in
requirements of their home school.
For all undergraduate degrees, students must also complete
the Undergraduate Registration Requirement (https://
catalogs.northwestern.edu/undergraduate/requirements-policies/
undergraduate-registration-requirement/) along with the degree
requirements of their home school.

Grading
Music majors must earn a grade of C or above in all courses required in
the major, including all music core requirements and all specialization
courses, in order to count those courses toward graduation requirements.
A grade of D or above (including P grades for non-dual degree students)
may be used to fulfill distribution requirements and electives. If a student
receives a D in a major course, then takes that course a second time and
receives a C grade or above, the initial D grade remains on the permanent
record and cannot count toward elective requirements. The second
(improved) grade does not replace the first, and the same course cannot
be counted twice in the degree.
A maximum of six courses in non-music subjects taken under the P/N
grade option may be counted toward the degree. Music students may not
take music courses under the P/N grade option, except for those courses
graded solely with P/N grades.

Attendance Policy
Students are expected to attend all sessions of courses and ensembles
for which they are registered. It is the responsibility of students enrolled
in the Bienen School of Music to acquaint themselves and comply
with the attendance policy of their departments, class instructors, and
ensemble conductors. In addition, students who are absent from classes
for three or more consecutive days because of illness are required to
notify the Bienen School's Office of Student Affairs.

Outside professional opportunities may arise for music students.
If such an opportunity directly interferes in any way with curricular
responsibilities, students must first obtain permission from the faculty
of record for courses potentially affected, including classes, rehearsals,
and performances, along with the signature of the program coordinator
and a signature from one of the co-chairs of the Department of Music
Performance. Noncompliance may be cause for failure in the courses or
ensembles for which a student is registered during that quarter.

Applied Music Study
Bachelor of Music degrees require four years of individual instruction for
performance majors in piano, strings, voice, winds and percussion, jazz,
and in composition. One year is required for academic majors in music
cognition, musicology, and music theory; three years are required for
music education. Concurrent registration in a major ensemble (https://
www.music.northwestern.edu/academics/ensembles/) is required in
each quarter of applied study, with the exception of piano majors and
composition majors. Applied study must be with a faculty instructor in
the program area to fulfill degree requirements.

Applied Music Courses
Students in degree programs outside of music may have a limit on the
number of applied music courses that are allowed to count toward those
degrees. The list below specifies courses offered by the Bienen School
that are considered to be applied music.

Applied Music Courses
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tr>
<td>CONDUCT 364-0</td>
<td>Choral Organizations</td>
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<tr>
<td>CONDUCT 374-0</td>
<td>Band Organizations</td>
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<tr>
<td>CONDUCT 378-0</td>
<td>Contemporary Music Ensemble</td>
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<td>CONDUCT 391-0</td>
<td>Chamber Music</td>
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<td>CONDUCT 393-0</td>
<td>Orchestral Organizations</td>
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<td>CONDUCT 395-0</td>
<td>Baroque Music Ensemble</td>
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<tr>
<td>GEN_MUS 115-0</td>
<td>Non-Major Piano and Organ</td>
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<tr>
<td>GEN_MUS 116-0</td>
<td>Non-Major Piano</td>
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<tr>
<td>GEN_MUS 120-0</td>
<td>Non-Major Strings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEN_MUS 121-0</td>
<td>Non-Major Guitar Class-Beginning</td>
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<tr>
<td>GEN_MUS 125-0</td>
<td>Non-Major Winds/Percussion</td>
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<tr>
<td>GEN_MUS 130-0</td>
<td>Non-Major Jazz</td>
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<tr>
<td>GEN_MUS 133-0</td>
<td>Non-Major Class Voice-Beginning</td>
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<tr>
<td>GEN_MUS 160-0</td>
<td>Non-Major Private Voice-Beginning</td>
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<tr>
<td>GEN_MUS 260-0</td>
<td>Non-Major Private Voice-Intermediate</td>
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<tr>
<td>GEN_MUS 315-0</td>
<td>Non-Major Piano and Organ</td>
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<tr>
<td>GEN_MUS 316-0</td>
<td>Non-Major Piano - Graduate</td>
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<tr>
<td>GEN_MUS 360-0</td>
<td>Non-Major Private Voice-Advanced</td>
</tr>
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<td>GEN_MUS 364-0</td>
<td>Choral Organizations</td>
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<td>JAZZ_ST 162-0</td>
<td>Applied Jazz for Music Majors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JAZZ_ST 262-0</td>
<td>Applied Jazz for Music Majors</td>
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Overlay Requirement in Business or Finance
All Bienen School undergraduates are required to complete an “overlay”
course in business or finance. The requirement does not add to the
existing number of courses required for undergraduate degrees;
depending on which course is chosen, the course counts toward the
student’s general education or free electives requirement. See the
Office of Student Affairs in the Bienen School of Music for course
recommendations.

Three quarters ensemble (1.5 units)
One 300-level elective in MUSICOL, MUS_COMP, MUS_TECH, MUS_THRY, or
MUSIC_ED

Music electives (10 units)

Distribution Courses (13 units): Area I Natural Sciences (2), Area II Formal Studies
(2), Area III Social/Behavioral Sciences (2), Area IV Historical Studies (2), Area V
Ethics and Values (2), Area VI Literature/Fine Arts (2), and English Composition (1)
Non-Music Electives (12 units, 6 of these are foreign language courses for BAMus
students)
Double Majors

Students may earn a double major in four years by fulfilling the requirements of both majors. Typically, the double major within the Bienen School of Music combines a specialization in a performance area with one in an academic area, although double majors in two academic areas are also possible. A double major in two performance areas is not permitted.

Four-year music students may also complete a second major outside the music school but may earn only one bachelor’s degree. Second majors from the Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences are available to Bienen School of Music students without transferring into that school. Majors in the other four undergraduate schools at Northwestern may only be completed by students in that school; in these cases, interested music students may either pursue a dual degree with the second school, or transfer to the other school and complete the music major as a second major, in which case no degree from the Bienen School is awarded.
Students in other undergraduate schools may pursue music as a second major.

Ad Hoc Majors
It is possible to design an ad hoc (self-designed) major that cuts across specializations to meet a particular student’s needs and career ambitions. Bachelor of Music degree students may design an ad hoc major as a second major; 12 units are required beyond the core, and may not be double counted in the primary major. Bachelor of arts in music and bachelor of science in music degree students may pursue an ad hoc concentration within the degree; 10 units beyond the core are required for the concentration. Ad hoc programs are designed in consultation with faculty with expertise in the particular area of interest. Specializations have included areas such as arts administration, music criticism, and popular musicology.

Dual Bachelor’s Degree Programs
The Bienen School of Music offers dual bachelor’s degree programs with the Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences (music and liberal arts), the School of Communication (music and communication), the School of Education and Social Policy (music and education and social policy), the McCormick School of Engineering and Applied Science (music and engineering), and the Medill School of Journalism, Media, Integrated Marketing Communications (music and journalism). For information on program requirements, see Dual Bachelor’s Degrees (https://catalogs.northwestern.edu/undergraduate/dual-bachelors-degrees/).

Minor Programs

Minor programs include a minimum of 6 and a maximum of 9 courses, of which a minimum of 5 courses are not double-counted toward the major. Students must receive a grade of C or above in all courses counted toward the minor; P/N grades in courses used for minor requirements must be approved by the assistant dean. Students who wish to complete a minor program should fill out a Minor Declaration Form, available in the Office of Student Affairs, and should fill out a minor petition form one year before graduation. Students may pursue more than one Bienen School of Music minor.

Requirements for minors in general music (for non-majors), music cognition, music composition, music education, musicology, music technology, and music theory can be found on the corresponding program page. See below for requirements for minors in arts administration, commercial music, and music criticism.

Minor in Arts Administration (8 units chosen from the list below, music majors only)
- ECON 201-0 Introduction to Macroeconomics
- ECON 202-0 Introduction to Microeconomics
- MUSIC 360-0 Career Innovation in Music and the Performing Arts
- MUSIC 398-0 Internship
- Any courses from BUS_INST (Business Institutions), IMC (Integrated Marketing/Communication), or ENTREP (Entrepreneurship)
- Any courses in ORG_BEH (Organizational Behavior), ACCOUNT (Accounting), MKTG (Marketing), or ADVT (Advertising) through the School of Professional Studies

Minor in Commercial Music (8 units, open to music majors and non-majors)
- JAZZ_ST 330-1 Jazz Composition and Arranging I and JAZZ_ST 330-2 Jazz Composition and Arranging II
- One course chosen from RTVF
- MUS_COMP 111-0 Class Composition or MUS_COMP 311-0 Class Composition
- MUS_COMP 314-1 Instrumentation
- One course in popular music chosen from GEN_MUS or MUSICOL
- Two courses chosen from MUS_TECH

Minor in Music Criticism (6 units, music majors only)
- MUSICOL 399-0 Independent Study or MUSIC 398-0 Internship
- JOUR 201-1 Reporting & Writing
- JOUR 201-2 Multimedia Storytelling
- JOUR 202-0 Philosophy of Modern Journalism or JOUR 370-0 Media Law & Ethics
- JOUR 310-0 Media Presentation: News or JOUR 311-0 Media Presentation: Magazine or JOUR 312-0 Media Presentation: Video Producing for Broadcast & the Web
- One additional journalism elective

Program Honors
Each year faculty are invited to nominate graduating students for program honors. To be eligible for program honors, students must have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or above and be outstanding contributors to their respective programs. Additional criteria govern the selection of voice majors; see the coordinator of the voice and opera program for details. Faculty select only a small number of students in each program for program honors in a given year; for more information, contact the Office of Student Affairs in the Bienen School of Music.