

MUSIC PERFORMANCE

Bachelor of Science (B.S.) – Catalog Year 2026-2027

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

As the only commercial music program in the Rocky Mountain region, CU Denver offers an accredited music bachelor's degree that prepares undergraduates to work as professional musicians. Since we do not follow the traditional conservatory model, our program allows for great flexibility in career exploration. Upon graduation, our students will be the complete musician, with strong skills in entrepreneurship, a background in audio production and music business, as well as the fundamentals to make a living as a professional musician, recording artist, and private instructor. Our program is particularly well-suited for guitarists, bassists, vocalists, pianists, and percussionists/drummers who have a strong interest in jazz and commercial music. Further, our program includes a singer/songwriter component, which makes us ideal for students interested in creating their own original content. Note that our program does not focus on training in classical music, musical theatre, or opera.

More informal than a conservatory program, our program lends itself to a more supportive community. Students network heavily outside the classroom with their fellow students and, because of our urban location, the local community music scene. Our faculty are highly accessible, leading to strong mentorship.

ACADEMIC ADVISING

Freshmen with fewer than 30 credits and/or CAM students who are Undeclared are assigned to the Center for Undergraduate Exploration and Advising (CUE&A). All other College of Arts & Media (CAM) students with more than 30 credits who have declared CAM majors are assigned to the CAM Office of Advising and Student Services.

Students can connect with the internal CAM admissions team to learn more about the program, additional admission requirements, spaces, equipment and technology.

Students with a declared CAM major that have more than 30 credits are encouraged to meet with a CAM advisor every semester prior to registration.

Freshmen with fewer than 30 credits and/or CAM students that are Undeclared students are assigned to the Center for Undergraduate Exploration and Advising. These students are required to meet with an advisor every semester prior to registration.

CAM Recruitment and Enrollment

CAMinfo@ucdenver.edu

Visit the CAM website [here](#)
Arts Building, Suite 177
303-315-7400 (option 1)

CAM Office of Advising and Student Services

CAMadvising@ucdenver.edu

Visit the CAM website [here](#)
Arts Building, Suite 177
303-315-7400 (option 1)

Center for Undergraduate Exploration and Advising (CUE&A)

CUEA@ucdenver.edu

Visit the CUEA website [here](#)
Student Commons 1113
303-315-1940

GENERAL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS & POLICIES

All CU Denver CAM students are required to complete the following minimum general graduation requirements:

1. Complete a minimum of 120 semester hours
2. Achieve a minimum 2.0 CU cumulative grade point average (GPA)
3. Complete all college and major requirements
4. Residency: complete a minimum of 30 CU Denver hours in good standing at CU Denver

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS & POLICIES

There is a competitive process for gaining admission to the overall CU Denver Music & Entertainment Industry Studies program. More information may be obtained by contacting CAMinfo@ucdenver.edu.

Students are responsible for meeting with a CAM advisor to confirm degree progress. Students completing the Music B.S. Degree with an emphasis in Music Performance are required to complete the following minimum program requirements:

1. Complete 34 semester hours of **CU Denver Core Curriculum coursework**.
2. Complete a minimum of 83 semester hours of **major-area coursework** with a grade of C (2.0) or better in each course.
3. Complete a 3-credit Non-Major Arts course in the College of Arts & Media
4. All Music Performance students must successfully complete a Sophomore Proficiency, Piano Proficiency, Junior Recital, and Senior Recital.
5. After successfully completing four semesters of freshman/sophomore level applied lessons (private instruction), students must pass a Sophomore Proficiency in order to move on to the junior/senior level applied lessons and be considered a full-fledged Music Performance major.

MUSIC PERFORMANCE

Bachelor of Science (B.S.) – Catalog Year 2026-2027

Courses	Credits	Notes
Required CU Denver Core Curriculum Coursework	34	CU Denver Core Curriculum
Required College of Arts & Media graduation requirement Non-Major Arts (Film & TV or Visual Arts)	3	
Required Musicianship Coursework	28	
PMUS 1100 Contemporary Music Theory I	3	Students must pass Theory and Ear Training Assessment exams before taking PMUS 1100, PMUS 1110, and PMUS 1023. *Prerequisite: Successful admission into program via audition. Co-reqs: PMUS 1110 + PMUS 1023.
PMUS 1110 Ear Training/Sight Singing I	1	Students must pass Theory and Ear Training Assessment exams before taking PMUS 1100, PMUS 1110, and PMUS 1023. *Prerequisite: Successful admission into program via audition. Co-reqs: PMUS 1100 + PMUS 1023.
PMUS 1023 Piano Class I	1	Students must pass Theory and Ear Training Assessment exams before taking PMUS 1100, PMUS 1110, and PMUS 1023. *Prerequisite: Successful admission into program via audition. Co-reqs: PMUS 1100 + PMUS 1110.
PMUS 1200 Contemporary Music Theory II	3	*Prerequisite: PMUS 1100 + 1110 + 1023. Co-reqs: PMUS 1210 + 1024.
PMUS 1210 Ear Training/Sight Singing II	1	*Prerequisite: PMUS 1100 + 1110 + 1023. Co-reqs: PMUS 1200 + 1024.
PMUS 1024 Piano Class II	1	*Prerequisite: PMUS 1100 + 1110 + 1023. Co-reqs: PMUS 1200 + 1210.
PMUS 2100 Early Classical Composition (Fall only)	3	*Prerequisite: PMUS 1200 + 1210 + 1024. Co-reqs: PMUS 2110 + 1025.
PMUS 2110 Ear Training/Sight Singing III	1	*Prerequisite: PMUS 1200 + 1210 + 1024. Co-reqs: PMUS 2100 + 1025.
PMUS 1025 Piano Class III	1	*Prerequisite: PMUS 1200 + 1210 + 1024. Co-reqs: PMUS 2100 + 2110.
PMUS 2200 Jazz Theory (Spring only)	3	*Prerequisite: PMUS 2100 + 2110 + 1025. Co-req: PMUS 1026.
PMUS 1026 Piano Class IV (Spring only)	1	*Prerequisite: PMUS 1025.
PMUS 4060 Music Theory Analysis (Fall only)	3	*Prerequisite: PMUS 2110 and PMUS 2200.
PMUS 2050 The Holistic Musician	3	
PMUS 3210 Intro to Teaching Private Lessons (Fall only)	3	
Additional Required Music Courses	29	
MUSC 2700 Intro to Music Business	3	
MUSC 3210/3220 Music Marketing or Artist Mgmt	3	*Prerequisite: MUSC 2700.
MUSC 1540 Intro to Audio Production (Fall only)	3	
PMUS 3832 Music in Culture	3	
PMUS ____ Music History Elective	3	
Music Electives	14	
Required Applied, Ensemble, and Recital Music Courses	26	
PMUS 1__ Applied #1	1	*Prerequisite: Successful admission into program via audition. Recommended Co-reqs: PMUS 1500 + PMUS XXXX Ensemble.
PMUS 1500 Music Industry Insights #1	1	*Recommended Co-reqs: PMUS 1XXX Applied Music #1 + PMUS XXXX Ensemble.
PMUS ____ Ensemble #1	1	*Recommended Co-reqs: PMUS 1XXX Applied Music #1 and PMUS 1500.
PMUS 2__ Applied Music #2	1	*Prerequisite: PMUS 1XXX Applied Music #1 + PMUS 1500 + Ensemble. Recommended Co-reqs: PMUS 1500 + PMUS XXXX Ensemble.
PMUS 1500 Music Industry Insights #2	1	*Recommended Co-reqs: PMUS 1XXX Applied Music + PMUS XXXX Ensemble.
PMUS ____ Ensemble #2	1	*Recommended Co-reqs: PMUS 1XXX Applied Music + PMUS 1500.
PMUS 2__ Applied #3	1	*Prerequisite: PMUS 1XXX Applied Music #2 + PMUS 1500 + Ensemble. Recommended Co-reqs: PMUS 1500 + PMUS XXXX Ensemble.
PMUS 1500 Music Industry Insights #3	1	*Recommended Co-reqs: PMUS 2XXX Applied Music + PMUS XXXX Ensemble.
PMUS ____ Ensemble #3	1	*Recommended Co-reqs: PMUS 2XXX Applied Music + PMUS 1500.
PMUS 2__ Applied #4	1	*Prerequisite: PMUS 2XXX Applied Music #3 + PMUS 1500 + Ensemble. Recommended Co-reqs: PMUS 1500 + PMUS XXXX Ensemble.
PMUS 1500 Music Industry Insights #4	1	*Recommended Co-reqs: PMUS 2XXX Applied Music + PMUS XXXX Ensemble.
PMUS ____ Ensemble #4	1	*Recommended Co-reqs: PMUS 2XXX Applied Music + PMUS 1500.
PMUS 3__ Applied Music #5	2	*Prerequisite: PMUS 2XXX Applied Music #4 + PMUS 1500 + Ensemble. Recommended Co-req: PMUS XXXX Ensemble.
PMUS ____ Ensemble #5	1	*Recommended Co-req: PMUS 3XXX Applied Music.
PMUS 3__ Applied Music #6	2	*Prerequisite: PMUS 3XXX Applied Music #5 + Ensemble. Recommended Co-req: PMUS XXXX Ensemble.
PMUS ____ Ensemble #6	1	*Recommended Co-req: PMUS 3XXX Applied Music.
Junior Recital	0	
PMUS 4__ Applied Music #7	2	*Prerequisite: PMUS 3XXX Applied Music #6 + Ensemble. Recommended Co-req: PMUS XXXX Ensemble.
PMUS ____ Ensemble #7	1	*Recommended Co-req: PMUS 4XXX Applied Music.

MUSIC PERFORMANCE

Bachelor of Science (B.S.) – Catalog Year 2026-2027

PMUS 4___ Applied Music #8	2	*Prerequisite: PMUS 4XXX Applied Music #7 + Ensemble. Recommended Co-req: PMUS XXXX Ensemble.
PMUS ___ Ensemble #8	1	*Recommended Co-req: PMUS 4XXX Applied Music.
PMUS 4200 Senior Recital Project (<i>Spring only</i>)	2	
TOTAL PROGRAM HOURS	120	

SAMPLE ACADEMIC PLAN OF STUDY

The following academic plan is a *sample* pathway to completing degree requirements for this major. The plan below is intended for first-time, First-Year students. This sample schedule can be adjusted to accommodate AP, IB, and/or CLEP credits, as well as courses taken during the summer sessions. In addition, students should tailor this plan based on transfer credit, course availability, and individual preferences related to course load, schedules, or add-on programs such as minors or double-majors. **Students deviating from this plan must fulfill course prerequisites and should meet with an advisor to confirm course sequencing and degree requirements.**

YEAR ONE

Semester 1	CRS
PMUS 1100 Contemporary Music Theory I	3
PMUS 1110 Ear Training/Sight Singing I	1
PMUS 1023 Piano Class I	1
PMUS 1___ Applied Music	1
PMUS 1500 Music Industry Insights	1
PMUS 1470 Performance Practice Ensemble*	1
First-Year Seminar (<i>fulfills CU Denver CORE req't</i>)	3
CU Denver CORE Math requirement	3
TOTAL SEMESTER HOURS	14

Semester 2	CRS
PMUS 1200 Contemporary Music Theory II	3
PMUS 1210 Ear Training/Sight Singing II	1
PMUS 1024 Piano Class II	1
PMUS 1___ Applied Music	1
PMUS 1500 Music Industry Insights	1
PMUS ___ Ensemble	1
MUSC 2700 Intro to Music Business	3
ENGL 1020 Core Composition I	3
TOTAL SEMESTER HOURS	14

YEAR TWO

Semester 3	CRS
PMUS 2100 Early Classical Composition	3
PMUS 2110 Ear Training/Sight Singing III	1
PMUS 1025 Piano Class III	1
PMUS 2___ Applied Music	1
PMUS 1500 Music Industry Insights	1
PMUS ___ Ensemble	1
MUSC 1540 Intro to Audio Production	3
Music Elective	2
ENGL 2030 Core Composition II	3
TOTAL SEMESTER HOURS	16

Semester 4	CRS
PMUS 2200 Jazz Theory (<i>Spring only</i>)	3
PMUS 1026 Piano Class IV (<i>Spring only</i>)	1
PMUS 2___ Applied Music	1
PMUS 1500 Music Industry Insights	1
PMUS ___ Ensemble	1
MUSC 3210/3220 Music Marketing or Artist Management	3
CU Denver CORE requirement	3
CU Denver CORE requirement	3
SOPHOMORE AND PIANO PROFICIENCIES	
TOTAL SEMESTER HOURS	16

YEAR THREE

Semester 5	CRS
PMUS 3___ Applied Music	2
PMUS ___ Ensemble	1
PMUS 3832 Music In Culture	3
PMUS 4060 Music Theory Analysis (<i>Fall only</i>)	3
Music Elective	2
CU Denver CORE requirement (<i>suggest Lab Science</i>)	4
TOTAL SEMESTER HOURS	15

Semester 6	CRS
PMUS 3___ Applied Music	2
PMUS ___ Ensemble	1
PMUS ___ Music History Elective	3
PMUS 2050 The Holistic Musician	3
Music Elective	3
Music Elective	1
CU Denver CORE requirement	3
JUNIOR RECITAL	
JUNIOR RECITAL	TOTAL SEMESTER HOURS
	16

YEAR FOUR

Semester 7	CRS
PMUS 4___ Applied Music	2
PMUS ___ Ensemble	1
Music Elective	3
PMUS 3210 Intro to Teaching Private Lessons (<i>Fall only</i>)	3
Non-Major Arts (Film & TV or Visual Arts)	3

Semester 8	CRS
PMUS 4___ Applied Music	2
PMUS ___ Ensemble	1
PMUS 4200 Senior Recital Project (<i>Spring only</i>)	2
Music Elective	3
CU Denver CORE requirement	3

MUSIC PERFORMANCE

Bachelor of Science (B.S.) – Catalog Year 2026-2027

CU Denver CORE requirement	3
TOTAL SEMESTER HOURS	15

CU Denver CORE requirement	3
<i>SENIOR RECITAL</i>	
<i>SENIOR RECITAL</i>	TOTAL SEMESTER HOURS
	14

*PMUS 1470 must be completed by semester 4.