

RECORDING ARTS, AUDITION TRACK

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

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The only program of its kind in the Rocky Mountain region, CU Denver offers an accredited music bachelor's degree that prepares undergraduates to work as audio engineers with acoustic recording and editing. Students learn from expert faculty and from each other, completing 6-7 semesters of audio production course work and developing a professional-level portfolio. Recording Arts covers technical fundamentals and then moves beyond the basics to explore theories supporting advanced problem-solving and technique, as well as creative music mixing strategies.

We offer more than a technical training program – we study the theories behind the practice and thereby promote an advanced understanding of the field. Moreover, CU Denver Recording Arts students are also music students, complementing their recording arts preparation with courses in music business, musicianship, and performance. Through this well-rounded education, our undergraduates develop their understanding of music, hone their critical listening skills, and are more competitive in the professional world.

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 Recording Arts (Audition Track) 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 82 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 Audition Track students must successfully complete a Lesson Assessment and Piano Proficiency.

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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	
General Elective	1	
Musicianship Courses	31	
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 1110 + 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 1110 + PMUS 1023.
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 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	*Prerequisite: Successful admission into program via audition. Recommended Co-reqs: PMUS 1XXX Applied Music #1 + PMUS XXXX Ensemble.
PMUS ___ Ensemble #1	1	*Prerequisite: Successful admission into program via audition. Recommended Co-reqs: PMUS 1XXX Applied Music #1 + PMUS 1500.
PMUS 1___ Applied #2	1	*Prerequisite: PMUS 1XXX Applied Music #1 + PMUS 1500 + PMUS XXXX Ensemble. Recommended Co-reqs: PMUS 1500 + PMUS XXXX Ensemble.
PMUS 1500 Music Industry Insights #2	1	*Prerequisite: PMUS 1XXX Applied Music #1 + PMUS 1500 + PMUS XXXX Ensemble. Recommended Co-reqs: PMUS 1500 + PMUS XXXX Ensemble.
PMUS ___ Ensemble #2	1	*Prerequisite: PMUS 1XXX Applied Music #1 + PMUS 1500 + PMUS XXXX Ensemble. Recommended Co-reqs: PMUS 1500 + PMUS XXXX Ensemble.
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	*Prerequisite: PMUS 1XXX Applied Music #2 + PMUS 1500 + Ensemble. Recommended Co-reqs: PMUS 2XXX Applied Music #3 + PMUS XXXX Ensemble.
PMUS ___ Ensemble #3	1	*Prerequisite: PMUS 1XXX Applied Music #2 + PMUS 1500 + Ensemble. Recommended Co-reqs: PMUS 2XXX Applied Music #3 + 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	*Prerequisite: PMUS 2XXX Applied Music #3 + PMUS 1500 + Ensemble. Recommended Co-reqs: PMUS 2XXX Applied Music #4 + PMUS XXXX Ensemble.
PMUS ___ Ensemble #4	1	*Prerequisite: PMUS 2XXX Applied Music #3 + PMUS 1500 + Ensemble. Recommended Co-reqs: PMUS 2XXX Applied Music #4 + PMUS 1500.
Recording Arts Emphasis Courses	34	
MUSC 1541 Audio Production I: Audio Foundations (Fall only)	3	Students must declare the Recording Arts emphasis to take this course.
MUSC 1542 ProTools 101 (Fall only)	1	*Co-requisite: MUSC 1541.
MUSC 1560 Audio Production II: Tracking Techniques (Spring only)	3	*Prerequisite: MUSC 1541. Co-requisite: MUSC 1800.
MUSC 1800 Acoustic for Audio Prod (Spring only)	3	*Prerequisite: MUSC 1541. Co-requisite: MUSC 1560.
MUSC 2580 Audio Production III: Mixing Techniques (Fall only)	3	*Prerequisite: MUSC 1560 + MUSC 1800. Co-requisite: MUSC 2550.
MUSC 2550 Critical Listening (Fall only)	3	*Prerequisite: MUSC 1560 + MUSC 1800. Co-requisite: MUSC 2580.
MUSC 2590 Mastering and Adv Dig Audio (Spring only)	3	*Prerequisite: MUSC 2550 + MUSC 2580.
MUSC 3530 Live Sound (Spring only)	3	*Prerequisite: MUSC 2550 + MUSC 2580.
MUSC 3505 Introduction to Audio Post Production (Fall only)	3	*Prerequisite: MUSC 2590.
MUSC 4580 Audio Senior Seminar (Spring only)	3	*Prerequisite: MUSC 3505.

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Recording Arts Electives	6	<i>*Prerequisites depend on courses chosen.</i>
Additional Required Music Courses	17	
PMUS ____ Ensemble #5	1	
PMUS ____ Ensemble #6	1	
MUSC 2700 Intro to Music Business	3	
MUSC 3210/3220 Music Marketing OR Artist Management	3	<i>* Prerequisite: MUSC 2700.</i>
PMUS 3832 Music in Culture	3	
PMUS ____ Music History Elective <i>Consult CAM Advising for Music History recommendations.</i>	3	
Music Elective	3	
TOTAL PROGRAM HOURS	120	



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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
MUSC 1541 Audio Production I: Audio Foundations (<i>Fall only</i>) ^M	3
MUSC 1542 ProTools 101 (<i>Fall only</i>)	1
PMUS 1100 Contemporary Music Theory I ^M	3
PMUS 1110 Ear Training/Sight Singing I ^M	1
PMUS Piano Class I ^M	1
CU Denver CORE Math requirement	3
First-Year Seminar (<i>fulfills CU Denver CORE req't</i>)	3
TOTAL SEMESTER HOURS	15

Semester 2	CRS
MUSC 1560 Audio Production II: Tracking Tech (<i>Spring only</i>) ^{M PE}	3
MUSC 1800 Acoustics for Audio Production (<i>Spring only</i>) ^{M PE}	3
PMUS 1200 Contemporary Music Theory II ^{M PE}	3
PMUS 1210 Ear Training/Sight Singing II ^{M PE}	1
PMUS 1024 Piano Class II ^{M PE}	1
ENGL 1020 Core Composition I	3
TOTAL SEMESTER HOURS	14

YEAR TWO

Semester 3	CRS
MUSC 2580 Audio Production III: Mixing Tech (<i>Fall only</i>) ^{M PE}	3
MUSC 2550 Critical Listening (<i>Fall only</i>) ^{M PE}	3
PMUS 2100 Early Classical Composition (<i>Fall only</i>) ^{M PE}	3
PMUS 2110 Ear Training/Sight Singing III ^{M PE}	1
PMUS 1025 Piano Class III ^{M PE}	1
PMUS 1___ Applied Music ^M	1
PMUS 1500 Music Industry Insights ^M	1
PMUS 1470 Performance Practice Ensemble* ^M	1
ENGL 2030 Core Composition II	3
TOTAL SEMESTER HOURS	17

Semester 4	CRS
MUSC 2590 Mastering and Adv Digital Audio (<i>Spring only</i>) ^{M PE}	3
MUSC 3530 Live Sound (<i>Spring only</i>) ^{M PE}	3
PMUS 2200 Jazz Theory (<i>Spring only</i>) ^{M PE}	3
PMUS 1026 Piano Class IV (<i>Spring only</i>) ^{M PE}	1
PMUS 1___ Applied Music ^{M PE}	1
PMUS 1500 Music Industry Insights ^{M PE}	1
PMUS ___ Ensemble ^{M PE}	1
CU Denver CORE requirement	3
PIANO PROFICIENCY	
TOTAL SEMESTER HOURS	16

YEAR THREE

Semester 5	CRS
MUSC 3505 Audio Post Production I (<i>Fall only</i>) ^{M PE}	3
PMUS 2___ Applied Music ^{M PE}	1
PMUS 1500 Music Industry Insights ^{M PE}	1
PMUS ___ Ensemble ^{M PE}	1
MUSC 2700 Intro to Music Business ^M	3
CU Denver CORE requirement	3
CU Denver CORE requirement	3
TOTAL SEMESTER HOURS	15

Semester 6	CRS
Recording Arts Elective ^M	3
Recording Arts Elective ^M	3
PMUS 2___ Applied Music ^{M PE}	1
PMUS 1500 Music Industry Insights ^{M PE}	1
PMUS ___ Ensemble ^{M PE}	1
MUSC 3210/3220 Music Marketing or Artist Management ^{M PE}	3
CU Denver CORE requirement	3
TOTAL SEMESTER HOURS	15

YEAR FOUR

Semester 7	CRS
PMUS 3832 Music in Culture ^M	3
PMUS ___ Ensemble ^M	1
Music Elective ^M	3
CU Denver CORE requirement (<i>suggest Lab Science</i>)	4
CU Denver CORE requirement	3
TOTAL SEMESTER HOURS	14

Semester 8	CRS
MUSC 4580 Audio Senior Seminar (<i>Spring only</i>) ^{M PE}	3
PMUS ___ Music History Elective ^M	3
PMUS ___ Ensemble ^M	1
Non-major Arts (Film & TV or Visual Arts)	3
CU Denver CORE requirement	3
General Elective (<i>student's choice</i>)	1
TOTAL SEMESTER HOURS	14

*PMUS 1470 must be completed by semester 4.

^M Major Course Available ^{PE} Prerequisite Enforced ^{PR} Prerequisite Recommended