

# SINGER-SONGWRITER

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

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

This is the only program of its kind in the region, and one of the few Music Departments in the nation to focus on styles of popular music, and targets Singer/Songwriters who perform their original compositions. Many composition programs exist, but ours focuses on students performing their own compositions, in addition to preparing them to write for other artists. Students develop performance and songwriting skills to enter a highly competitive market as both singers and instrumental accompanists. More informal than a conservatory, our program fosters a supportive and collaborative community.

Because of the vibrant downtown location, with the ready availability of other professional musicians in Denver's thriving urban music scene, students network extensively outside the classroom with their fellows, their faculty, and various venues in the area. With their accessibility to students as well as their professional connection to the local, national and international music scene, our faculty are extraordinary resources and mentors for students. Students develop the skills to live their dream of working as professional touring and recording musicians, performing nationally and internationally. In addition, our Singer/Songwriter graduates are uniquely qualified to succeed in music publishing, to work as song pluggers, perform in combos and as studio musicians, write jingles, work in media, teach private lessons, and to be community music leaders. Further, many of our Music graduates find success at the graduate level, studying advanced music performance, musicology, and music education.

This program is appreciative of and sensitive to all styles and genres; however, it is not designed for students whose primary interest is electronic music composition.

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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 Singer/Songwriter 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 82-83 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 Singer/Songwriter students must successfully complete a Sophomore Proficiency, Junior Recital, and Senior Recital.

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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 Singer/Songwriter major.

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Courses	Credits	Notes
<b>Required CU Denver Core Curriculum Coursework</b>	<b>34</b>	<a href="#">CU Denver Core Curriculum</a>
<b>Required College of Arts &amp; Media graduation requirement</b> Non-Major Arts (Film & Television or Visual Arts)	<b>3</b>	
<b>General Elective</b>	<b>0-1</b>	
<b>Required Musicianship Coursework</b>	<b>33-34</b>	
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 2200 Jazz Theory	3	*Prerequisite: PMUS 1200
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 ____ Piano IV or Functional Guitar Skills	1-2	*Prerequisite for Piano IV: PMUS 1025.
PMUS 2220 Songwriting Production (Spring only)	3	
PMUS 2050 The Holistic Musician	3	
PMUS 3350 The Writers' Room PMUS 2097 Commercial Singing I PMUS 2098 Commercial Singing II → Choose any one of the above	2	
PMUS 3320 Pop Music Arranging (Spring only)	3	*Prerequisite: PMUS 1200 + PMUS 1210 + PMUS 1024.
PMUS 3310 Songwriting Analysis & Creative Exercises (Spring only)	3	*Prerequisite: PMUS 1200 + PMUS 1210 + PMUS 1024.
PMUS 4310 Genre Songwriting for TV/Film (Fall only)	3	*Prerequisite: PMUS 2100 + PMUS 2110 + PMUS 1025 + PMUS 3310.
<b>Additional Required Music Courses</b>	<b>23</b>	
MUSC 2700 Intro to Music Business	3	
MUSC 3210 Music Marketing	3	*Prerequisite: MUSC 2700.
MUSC 3220 Artist Management	3	*Prerequisite: MUSC 2700.
MUSC 3755 Music Publishing	3	*Prerequisite: MUSC 3210 + MUSC 3220.
MUSC 1540 Intro to Audio Production (Fall only)	3	
PMUS 3832 Music in Culture	3	
PMUS ____ Music History Elective	3	
Music Electives	2	
<b>Required Applied, Ensemble, and Recital Music Courses</b>	<b>26</b>	
PMUS ____ Appl Audition Instrument, Sng/Sgwr #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 Audition Instrument #1 + PMUS XXXX Ensemble.
PMUS ____ Ensemble #1	1	*Recommended Co-reqs: PMUS 1XXX Applied Audition Instrument #1 and PMUS 1500.
PMUS ____ Appl Audition Instrument, Sng/Swr #2	1	*Prerequisite: PMUS 1XXX Applied Audition Instrument #1 + PMUS 1500 + Ensemble. Recommended Co-reqs: PMUS 1500 + PMUS XXXX Ensemble.
PMUS 1500 Music Industry Insights #2	1	*Recommended Co-req: PMUS 1XXX Applied Audition Instrument #2 + PMUS XXXX Ensemble.
PMUS ____ Ensemble #2	1	*Recommended Co-req: PMUS 1XXX Applied Audition Instrument #2 + PMUS 1500.
PMUS 1734 Applied Voice, Singer/Songwriter #1	1	*Prerequisite: PMUS 1XXX Applied Audition Instrument #2 + PMUS 1500 + Ensemble. Recommended Co-reqs: PMUS 1500 + PMUS XXXX Ensemble.
PMUS 1500 Music Industry Insights #3	1	*Recommended Co-reqs: PMUS 1734 Applied Voice Singer/Songwriter #1 + PMUS XXXX Ensemble.
PMUS ____ Ensemble #3	1	*Recommended Co-reqs: PMUS 1734 Applied Voice Singer/Songwriter #1 + PMUS 1500.

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PMUS 1734 Applied Voice, Singer/Songwriter #2	1	*Prerequisite: PMUS 1734 Applied Voice Singer/Songwriter #1 + PMUS 1500 + Ensemble. Recommended Co-reqs: PMUS 1500 + PMUS XXXX Ensemble.
PMUS 1500 Music Industry Insights #4	1	* Recommended Co-reqs: PMUS 1734 Applied Voice Singer/Songwriter #2 + PMUS XXXX Ensemble.
PMUS ____ Ensemble #4	1	*Recommended Co-reqs: PMUS 1734 Applied Voice Singer/Songwriter #2 + PMUS 1500.
PMUS 3772 Applied Singer/Songwriter #1	2	*Prerequisite: PMUS 1734 Applied Voice Singer/Songwriter #2 + PMUS 1500 + Ensemble. Recommended Co-req: PMUS XXXX Ensemble.
PMUS ____ Ensemble #5	1	*Recommended Co-req: PMUS 3772 Applied Singer/Songwriter #1.
PMUS 3772 Applied Singer/Songwriter #2	2	*Prerequisite: PMUS 3772 Applied Singer/Songwriter #1 + Ensemble. Recommended Co-req: PMUS XXXX Ensemble.
PMUS ____ Ensemble #6	1	*Recommended Co-req: PMUS 3772 Applied Singer/Songwriter #2.
Junior Recital	0	
PMUS 4772 Applied Singer/Songwriter #3	2	*Prerequisite: PMUS PMUS 3772 Applied Singer/Songwriter #2 + Ensemble. Recommended Co-req: PMUS XXXX Ensemble.
PMUS ____ Ensemble #7	1	*Recommended Co-req: PMUS 4772 Applied Singer/Songwriter #3.
PMUS 4772 Applied Singer/Songwriter #4	2	*Prerequisite: PMUS 4772 Applied Singer/Songwriter #3 + Ensemble. Recommended Co-req: PMUS XXXX Ensemble.
PMUS ____ Ensemble #8	1	* Recommended Co-req: PMUS 4772 Applied Singer/Songwriter #4.
PMUS 4200 Senior Recital Project (Spring only)	2	
<b>TOTAL PROGRAM HOURS</b>	<b>120</b>	

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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
PMUS 1100 Contemporary Music Theory I	3
PMUS 1110 Ear Training/Sight Singing I	1
PMUS 1023 Piano Class I	1
PMUS ____ Applied Audition Instr. Singer/Songwtr	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
<b>TOTAL SEMESTER HOURS</b>	<b>14</b>

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 ____ Applied Audition Instr. Singer/Songwriter	1
PMUS 1500 Music Industry Insights	1
PMUS 3450 Singer/Songwriter Ensemble**	1
MUSC 2700 Intro to Music Business	3
ENGL 1020 Core Composition I	3
<b>TOTAL SEMESTER HOURS</b>	<b>14</b>

### YEAR TWO

Semester 3	CRS
MUSC 3220 Artist Management	3
PMUS 2110 Ear Training/Sight Singing III	1
PMUS 1025 Piano Class III	1
PMUS 2734 Applied Voice, Singer/Songwriter	1
PMUS 1500 Music Industry Insights	1
PMUS ____ Ensemble	1
MUSC 1540 Intro to Audio Production	3
MUSC 3210 Music Marketing	3
ENGL 2030 Core Composition II	3
<b>TOTAL SEMESTER HOURS</b>	<b>17</b>

Semester 4	CRS
PMUS 3310 Songwtr Analysis & Creative Exercises ( <i>Spring only</i> )	3
PMUS 3320 Popular Music Arranging ( <i>Spring only</i> )	3
PMUS 1026/2750 Piano IV or Functional Guitar Skills***	1 or 2
PMUS 2734 Applied Voice, Singer/Songwtr	1
PMUS 1500 Music Industry Insights	1
PMUS ____ Ensemble	1
PMUS 2200 Jazz Theory	3
CU Denver CORE requirement	3
<b>SINGER/SONWRITER PROFICIENCY</b>	
<b>TOTAL SEMESTER HOURS</b>	<b>16-17</b>

### YEAR THREE

Semester 5	CRS
PMUS 3772 Applied Singer/Songwriter	2
PMUS ____ Ensemble	1
PMUS 3832 Music In Culture	3
PMUS ____ Music History Elective	3
PMUS 4310 Genre Songwriting for Film & TV ( <i>Fall only</i> )	3
MUSC 3755 Music Publishing	3
<b>TOTAL SEMESTER HOURS</b>	<b>15</b>

Semester 6	CRS
PMUS 3772 Applied Singer/Songwriter	2
PMUS ____ Ensemble	1
PMUS 2200 Songwriting Production ( <i>Spring only</i> )	3
PMUS 3350 The Writers' Room	2
PMUS 2050 The Holistic Musician	3
CU Denver CORE requirement	3
<b>JUNIOR RECITAL</b>	
<b>JUNIOR RECITAL</b>	<b>TOTAL SEMESTER HOURS 14</b>

### YEAR FOUR

Semester 7	CRS
PMUS 4772 Applied Singer/Songwriter	2
PMUS ____ Ensemble	1
Music Elective	2
CU Denver CORE requirement ( <i>suggest Lab Science</i> )	4
CU Denver CORE requirement	3
Non-major Arts (Film & TV or Visual Arts)	3
<b>TOTAL SEMESTER HOURS</b>	<b>15</b>

Semester 8	CRS
PMUS 4772 Applied Singer/Songwriter	2
PMUS ____ Ensemble	1
PMUS 4200 Senior Recital Project	2
CU Denver CORE requirement	3
CU Denver CORE requirement	3
CU Denver CORE requirement	3
General Elective ( <i>student's choice</i> )	0 to 1
<b>SENIOR RECITAL</b>	
<b>TOTAL SEMESTER HOURS</b>	<b>14-15</b>

\*PMUS 1470 must be completed by semester 4.

\*\*PMUS 3450 must be completed by semester 4.

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\*\*\*Piano/Voice students take Piano IV, whereas Guitar/Voice students take Functional Guitar Skills.