

SONGWRITER ENTREPRENEUR

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

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The singer-songwriter program in the department of Music and Entertainment Industry Studies (MEIS) has been one of the fastest growing programs, not only in the College of Arts and Media, but the University of Colorado Denver. Originally formed out of the music performance program, this area has prepared students for careers as independent songwriters as well as composers for TV and film. Today, with the maturity of this robust program, faculty have begun to see applications and requests from potential students for a new program that requires a balance between the songwriting courses and music business knowledge. For these students, the prospect of a career as an independent musician requires a type of training that takes into account these two areas.

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 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.
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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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	15	
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 + 1210 + 1024.
PMUS ____ Piano III or Commercial/Functional Guitar Skills	1-2	*Prerequisite: PMUS 1200 + 1210 + 1024.
PMUS ____ Piano IV (required for piano students only)	0-1	*Prerequisite for Piano IV: PMUS 1025.
Additional Required Music Courses	30	
MUSC 1540 Intro to Audio Production (Fall only)	3	
PMUS 2215 Songwriting in Logic Pro	3	
PMUS 2220 Songwriting Production (Spring only)	3	
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.
PMUS 3832 Music in Culture	3	
PMUS ____ Music History Elective	3	
Music Business Electives	3	
Music Electives	3	
Additional Required Music Business Courses	27	
MUSC 2700 Intro to Music Business	3	
MUSC 3210 Music Marketing	3	*Prerequisite: MUSC 2700.
MUSC 3690 Concert Promotion/Venue Management	3	*Prerequisite: MUSC 3210 + MUSC 3220.
MUSC 3700 Music Business in the Digital Age	3	*Prerequisite: MUSC 3210 + MUSC 3220.
MUSC 3710 Artist and Record Labels	3	*Prerequisite: MUSC 3210 + MUSC 3220.
MUSC 3755 Music Publishing	3	*Prerequisite: MUSC 3210 + MUSC 3220.
MUSC 3720 Law and the Music Industry	3	*Prerequisite: MUSC 3690 + MUSC 3700 + MUSC 3710 + MUSC 3755.
MUSC 3775 Music Supervision	3	*Prerequisite: MUSC 2700 OR 2750 OR FITV 1001
MUSC 4800 Music Industry Entrepreneurship	3	
Required Applied, Ensemble, and Recital Music Courses	11	
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 ____/1734 Appl Audition Instrument OR Voice, Sng/Swr	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.

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PMUS ____ Ensemble #3	1	*Recommended Co-reqs: PMUS 1734 Applied Voice Singer/Songwriter #1 + PMUS 1500.
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.
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 ____ 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
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 ____ Applied Voice, OR 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
TOTAL SEMESTER HOURS	14

YEAR TWO

Semester 3	CRS
PMUS 1025 Piano III	1
PMUS 1734 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
CU Denver CORE requirement	3
TOTAL SEMESTER HOURS	16-17

Semester 4	CRS
PMUS 3310 Songwrtg. Analysis & Creative Exercises (<i>Spring only</i>)	3
PMUS 3320 Popular Music Arranging (<i>Spring only</i>)	3
PMUS 2200 Jazz Theory (<i>Spring only</i>)	3
PMUS 1026/2750 Piano Class IV or Functional Guitar Skills***	1-2
PMUS 1500 Music Industry Insights	1
PMUS ____ Ensemble	1
PMUS 2215 Songwriting in Logic Pro	3
SONGWRITER ENTREPRENEUR PROFICIENCY	
TOTAL SEMESTER HOURS	15-16

YEAR THREE

Semester 5	CRS
PMUS 3832 Music In Culture	3
PMUS ____ Music History Elective	3
PMUS 4310 Genre Songwriting for Film & TV (<i>Fall only</i>)	3
MUSC 3700 Music Business in the Digital Age	3
Music Business Elective	3
TOTAL SEMESTER HOURS	15

Semester 6	CRS
PMUS 2200 Songwriting Production (<i>Spring only</i>)	3
MUSC 3710 Artist and Record Labels	3
MUSC 3755 Music Publishing	3
MUSC 3775 Music Supervision	3
CU Denver CORE requirement (<i>suggest Lab Science</i>)	4
JUNIOR RECITAL	
JUNIOR RECITAL	TOTAL SEMESTER HOURS
	16

YEAR FOUR

Semester 7	CRS
MUSC 3690 Concert Promo/Venue Management	3
Music Elective	3

Semester 8	CRS
MUSC 3720 Law and the Music Industry	3
MUSC 4800 Music Industry Entrepreneurship	3

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CU Denver CORE requirement	3
CU Denver CORE requirement	3
Non-major Arts (Film & TV or Visual Arts)	3
TOTAL SEMESTER HOURS	15

CU Denver CORE requirement	3
CU Denver CORE requirement	3
CU Denver CORE requirement	3
TOTAL SEMESTER HOURS	15

*PMUS 1470 must be completed by semester 4.

**PMUS 3450 must be completed by semester 4.

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