

SINGER-SONGWRITER

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

FOR TRANSFER STUDENTS

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.

CU DENVER 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

COURSEWORK THAT CAN BE COMPLETED AT PREVIOUS INSTITUTION

The following is a "bucket" of requirements students can complete prior to transferring to CU Denver, including equivalent Colorado Community College System (CCCS) courses. To determine the equivalencies of courses to be completed at non-CU Denver institutions, students can visit www.transferology.com. **It is critical students connect with a CU Denver academic advisor to ensure planned courses will transfer and apply to CU Denver degree requirements.** All non-CU Denver coursework must be completed with a C- or better to be eligible for transfer.

Students interested in completing an Associate (A.A. or A.S.) Degree or a [Colorado Statewide Transfer Articulation Agreement or Degree with Designation \(DWD\)](#) must work with their community/junior college academic advisor to create an academic plan that accounts for all degree or transfer articulation agreement requirements. Colorado Community College Students may also explore the option to complete [Reverse Transfer](#) at CU Denver.

CU Denver Requirements	CU Denver Credits	CCCS Equivalent Courses & Notes	CCCS Credits
CU Denver Core Curriculum Requirements	34 - 40		
ENGL 1020 – Core Composition I	3	ENG 1021	3
ENGL 2030 – Core Composition II	3	ENG 1022	3
Mathematics	3 - 4	GT-MA1 (<i>MAT 1240 recommended</i>)	3 - 4
Arts	3	GT-AH	3

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Humanities	3	GT-AH or GT-HI	3
Behavioral Sciences	3 - 4	GT-SS	3 - 4
Social Sciences	3 - 4	GT-SS or GT-HI*	3 - 4
Natural/Physical Science with lab	4 - 5	GT-SC1	4 - 5
Natural/Physical Science without lab or Math	3 - 5	GT-SC2 or GT-MA1 (<i>except the course used for Core Math</i>) or GT-SC1	3 - 5
International Perspectives	3	Additional GT-AH, HI, SS* (<i>see note below</i>)	3
Cultural Diversity	3	<i>To be completed at CU Denver. This requirement must be completed with an upper-division course and CCCS courses will not apply.</i>	
Non-Major Arts (Film & TV or Visual Arts)	3		3
General Electives (if needed)	0-1		0-1
Singer-Songwriter Transfer Credits	19		
PMUS 1100 Contemporary Music Theory I	3	MUS 1010 Music Theory I	3
PMUS 1200 Contemporary Music Theory II	3	MUS 1011 Music Theory II	3
PMUS 1110 Ear Training and Sight Singing I	1	MUS 1012 Ear Training/Sight-singing I Lab	1
PMUS 1210 Ear Training and Sight Singing II	1	MUS 1013 Ear Training/Sight-singing II Lab	1
Music History Elective	3	Consult CAM Advising for options.	3
PMUS 1023 Piano Class I	1	MUS 1031 Music Class I	2
PMUS 1024 Piano Class II	1	MUS 1032 Music Class II	2
PMUS 2110 Ear Training and Sight Singing III	1	MUS 2012 Advanced Ear Training/Sight-singing I Lab	1
Music Elective	2	Consult CAM Advising for options.	2
Total	53-60		

*If students receive an Associate's of Arts degree from a Colorado Community College, they are not required to complete the International Perspectives Core Requirement.

The number of **elective hours needed depends on how many extra transfer credits a student transfers into CU Denver with.

***The applicability of Guaranteed Transfer (GT Pathways) courses to specific CU Denver Core Curriculum requirements requires completion of a block of five courses: two GT-AH course; one GT-HI course; one GT-SS course; and one additional GT-AH, GT-HI, or GT-SS course.**

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SAMPLE PLAN – COURSEWORK TO BE COMPLETED AT CU DENVER

Based on successful completion of 60 applicable transfer credits and the complete “bucket” of requirements outlined above, students would have the following remaining to complete at CU Denver. At CU Denver, students must tailor this plan based on the evaluation of previously completed college coursework (e.g., AP, IB, CLEP, dual/concurrent enrollment, and transfer credit), course availability, individual preferences related to course load, summer term courses, part-time or full-time student status, or add-on programs such as minors or double-majors.

YEAR ONE

Fall	CRS
PMUS _____ Applied Audition Instrument Singer/Songwriter #1	1
PMUS 1500 Music Industry Insights #1	1
PMUS 1470 Performance Practice Ensemble*	1
PMUS 1025 Piano Class III	1
MUSC 2700 Introduction to Music Business	3
Total Credit Hours	9

Spring	CRS
PMUS _____ Applied Audition Instrument Singer/Songwriter #2	1
PMUS 1500 Music Industry Insights #2	1
PMUS 3450 Singer/Songwriter Ensemble**	1
PMUS 1026/2750 Piano Class IV or Functional Guitar Skills***	1 or 2
PMUS 2200 Jazz Theory (<i>Spring only</i>)	3
PMUS 3310 Songwriting Analysis & Creative Exercises (<i>Spring only</i>)	3
Total Credit Hours	10-11

YEAR TWO

Fall	CRS
PMUS 1734 Applied Voice, Singer/Songwriter #3	1
PMUS 1500 Music Industry Insights #3	1
Ensemble #3	1
MUSC 3220 Artist Management	3
MUSC 3210 Music Marketing	3
MUSC 1540 Intro to Audio Production	3
Total Credit Hours	9

Spring	CRS
PMUS 2220 Songwriting Production	3
PMUS 3320 Popular Music Arranging (<i>Spring only</i>)	3
PMUS 1734 Applied Voice, Singer/Songwriter #4	1
PMUS 1500 Music Industry Insights #4	1
Ensemble #4	1
SOPHOMORE ASSESSMENT AND PIANO PROFICIENCY	
Total Credit Hours	9

YEAR THREE

Fall	CRS
PMUS 3772 Applied Singer/Songwriter #5	2
Ensemble #5	1
PMUS 4310 Genre Songwriting for TV/Film (<i>Fall only</i>)	3
MUSC 3755 Music Publishing	3
Total Credit Hours	9

Spring	CRS
PMUS 3772 Applied Singer/Songwriter	2
Ensemble #6	1
PMUS 3350 The Writers’ Room	2
PMUS 2050 The Holistic Musician	3
JUNIOR RECITAL	
Total Credit Hours	8

YEAR FOUR

Fall	CRS
PMUS 4772 Applied Singer/Songwriter #7	2
Ensemble #7	1
PMUS 3832 Music In Culture	3
Total Credit Hours	6

Spring	CRS
PMUS 4772 Applied Singer/Songwriter #8	2
Ensemble #8	1
PMUS 4200 Senior Recital Project	2
CORE Cultural Diversity	3
SENIOR RECITAL	
Total Credit Hours	8

*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.

This program requires a minimum of 8 semesters to complete. Please consult CAM advising to determine the appropriate timeline, course load, and course selection.

GENERAL PROGRAM AND GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS & POLICIES

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Program requirements on this document are based on degree requirements for the current catalog year at CU Denver and are subject to change. Students are responsible for completing degree requirements based on the catalog year for which they are admitted. Students are responsible for meeting with the major/faculty advisor in the department to confirm major requirements. Students completing the Singer/Songwriter B.S. Degree are required to complete all CU Denver Core and CAM requirements, in addition to minimum program requirements:

1. Complete a minimum of 120 semester hours.
2. Students must complete a minimum of 81-82 MUSC/PMUS credit hours.
3. Students must achieve a minimum GPA of 2.0 for all courses applied to major requirements.
4. Students must complete all major courses taken at CU Denver with a minimum grade of C (2.0) and all transfer courses applying to major requirements with a minimum grade of C (2.0). Students cannot complete major course requirements as pass/fail.