



# UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS®

Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences

## **Department of Music Undergraduate Student Handbook**

University of Arkansas Department of Music  
01/2025

## Directory by Area

### ADMINISTRATION AND STAFF:

Alan Gosman, Department Chair

Er-Gene Kahng, Associate Chair &  
Director of Graduate Studies

Tomoko Kashiwagi, Associate Chair

Justin R. Hunter, Director of Undergraduate Studies

Carla Summers, Office Manager & Assistant to the Chair

J.R. Hinkson, Associate Director of Band Finance, Marketing, and Operations

Christopher Scherer, Percussion Logistics and Music Events Coordinator

Britt Graves, Student Services and Communications Manager

Regan Turner, Administrative Support, Music

Connie Vick, Administrative Support Supervisor, Band

### BAND:

Chris Knighten, Director of Bands

Chase Jones, Assistant Director of Bands

W. Dale Warren, Senior Wind Band Conductor

Christopher Agwu, Assistant Director of Bands

### BRASS:

Katelyn Jahnke, Horn

Cory Mixdorf, Trombone

Benjamin Pierce, Tuba and Euphonium

Richard Rulli, Trumpet

### CENTER FOR BLACK MUSIC:

Kurt Carr

Leo Davis

Amanda Lenora Green Turner

Jake Hertzog

Alisha Lola Jones

Matthew Mihalka

Jeffrey Allen Murdock, Founding Director, Arkansas Center for Black Music

Rod Vester

**CHOIR:**

[Stephen Caldwell](#), Associate Director of Choral Activities

[Jeffrey Murdock](#), Director of Choral Activities

**JAZZ STUDIES:**

[Claudia Burson](#), Jazz Piano

[Lauren Clare](#), Voice

[Jake Hertzog](#), Guitar

[Nikola Radan](#), World Music Ensemble

[Richard Salonen](#), Jazz Lab Ensemble

[Fernando Valencia](#), Percussion

**MUSIC EDUCATION:**

[Daniel Abrahams](#), Area Coordinator

[Alice M. Hammel](#), Lecturer

[Janet Knighten](#), Instructor

[Dale Misenhelter](#), Professor

[Jeffrey Allen Murdock](#), Professor

[W. Dale Warren](#), Professor

**MUSIC INDUSTRY & TECHNOLOGY:**

[Lendell Black](#), Instructor

[Bryan C. Hembree](#), Director, Arts & Culture

[Jake Hertzog](#), Assistant Professor

[Kenneth J. Lamb](#), Lecturer

[Nikola Radan](#), Instructor

**MUSICOLOGY:**

[Christa Bentley](#), Area Coordinator

[Sophie Brady](#), Musicology

[Amy Nicole Cooper](#), Instructor

[Justin R. Hunter](#), Ethnomusicology

[Matthew Mihalka](#), Musicology and Ethnomusicology

**MUSIC THEORY, COMPOSITION:**

[Zachary Lookenbill](#), Music Theory

[Alan Gosman](#), Area Coordinator

[Robert Mueller](#), Composition, Music Theory

[Marco-Adrian Ramos](#), Composition

**OPERA:**

[Jonathan Stinson](#), Director of Opera Theatre

**ORCHESTRA:**

[Robert Mueller](#), Symphony Orchestra

[Jesse Collett](#), Chamber Orchestra

**PERCUSSION:**

[Chalon Ragsdale](#), Area Coordinator

[Fernando Valencia](#), Instructor

[Chris Scherer](#), Instructor

**PIANO:**

[Claudia Burson](#), Instructor

[Tomoko Kashiwagi](#), Area Coordinator

[Scott Montgomery](#), Organ

[Miroslava Panayotova](#), Teaching Assistant Professor

[Henry Runkles](#), Director of Class Piano

[Xiting Yang](#), Teaching Assistant Professor

**STRINGS:**

[Er-Gene Kahng](#), Violin - Area Coordinator

[Timothy MacDuff](#), viola

[Pecos Singer](#), cello

[Garrett Jones](#), double bass

[Jake Hertzog](#), guitar

[Asher Perkins](#), guitar

**WOODWINDS:**

[Nophachai Cholthitchanta](#), Clarinet – Area Coordinator

[Theresa Delaplain](#), Oboe

[Christina Ballatori](#), Flute

[Sarah Hetrick](#), Saxophone

[Melanie Ferrabone](#), Bassoon

**VOICE:**

[Lauren Clare](#), Voice, Area Coordinator

[Lenora Green-Turner](#), Voice

[Moon-Sook Park](#), Voice  
[Jonathan Stinson](#), Voice

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## DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

### 1. INTRODUCTION

The Department of Music offers three majors, one music major leading to a Bachelor of Music and a second leading to a Bachelor of Arts, and a third, music education, leading to a Bachelor of Music degree. The department also offers a minor in music. The Bachelor of Music offers a variety of concentrations as well as a program with elective studies in business.

The music department strives to enrich and inspire the human mind and spirit through the pursuit of excellence in creative activity, research, teaching, and service. The University of Arkansas is an accredited institutional member of the National Association of Schools of Music. The requirements for entrance and for graduation as set forth in this catalog are in accordance with the published regulations of that Association.

In conjunction with this handbook, please refer to the [Undergraduate Catalog](#), the current Schedule of Classes, and direct question to our Undergraduate Coordinator, [Dr. Justin Hunter](#).

# General Music Requirements

To achieve junior standing in the curriculum leading to the Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in music and the Bachelor of Music degree, the student must have completed 56 hours and must have maintained a cumulative grade average of “C” in all music courses, with the exception of ensemble, by the end of the fourth semester. The student must also have earned a grade average of not less than “B” in the major applied field of study during the sophomore year. This standing is prerequisite to all 3000-level courses and above in music.

Pursuant to enrolling in applied music courses, all music majors must audition for the music department faculty. Private study of the primary voice/instrument for music majors requires the successful completion of an audition for the instructor and consent of the Department of Music. Music majors are expected to own their own instruments. Some instruments are provided for student use only in certain circumstances and at the discretion of the music department.

All music majors, with exceptions noted below, are required to enroll in **MUEN 1411** Razorback Chorus I or **MUEN 1591** Treble Chorus I during the first year of residence. Exceptions to the requirement would include all students pursuing the Bachelor of Music (B.M.) degree for whom voice or piano is the major applied area.

**Piano Proficiency Requirement:** Students pursuing a Bachelor of Music degree must pass a piano proficiency examination upon entering the University of Arkansas or must register in piano classes until this requirement is met. Students with previous piano training may take a piano placement exam and be advised to omit one or more semesters of Class Piano (**MUAC 1221**, **MUAC 1231**, **MUAC 2221**). Students will receive college credit for the omitted class piano courses if they validate their higher placement by passing an advanced piano course with a grade of “B” or better.

On the basis of prior study in music, a student may be advised to omit one or more semesters of Aural Perception (**MUTH 1621**, **MUTH 1631**, **MUTH 2621**). Students will receive college credit for the omitted aural perception courses when they have validated their higher placement by passing the course in which they are placed with a grade of “B” or better.

**Writing Requirement:** Students can meet the Fulbright College writing requirement by submission of a satisfactory term paper for **MUED 4112** (music education majors) or **MUHS 4253** (all other music majors).

## 2. BACHELOR'S DEGREES OFFERED

## Degrees Conferred

- B.A. in Music
- B.M. with Composition Concentration
- B.M. with Elective Studies in Business
- B.M. with Guitar Performance Concentration
- B.M. with Jazz Studies Concentration
- B.M. with Piano Performance Concentration
- B.M. with Theory Concentration
- B.M. with String Performance Concentration
- B.M. with Voice Performance Concentration
- B.M. with Woodwind, Brass or Percussion Performance Concentration
- B.M. in Music Education with Choral Concentration
- B.M. in Music Education with Instrumental Concentration
- Minor in Music

## Certificates

- Music Industry Certificate of Proficiency

## Curriculum Guides

<https://catalog.uark.edu/undergraduatecatalog/collegesandschools/jwilliamfulbrightcollegeofartsandsciences/musicmusic/>

## Bachelor of Arts in Music

The BA is a liberal arts degree focused on music studies. Students in the BA program can pursue a number of paths in music and enjoy flexibility in elective hours to pursue personal and career interests. Many double majors are encouraged to pursue the BA degree for its flexibility.

No application to Music is required for the BA program, but those seeking scholarship opportunities in Music must [apply and audition](#).

## Bachelor of Music

The BM is a professional degree with concentrated studies in music. There are six concentrations in the degree: Music Education, Performance, Music Theory, Composition, Performance with Business Electives, and Performance with Jazz Studies.

An application and audition are required for all BM programs. Student must be admitted to a studio for private instruction and scholarship opportunities are possible for all qualified applicants. [Apply here](#).

## Bachelor of Music Education

The University of Arkansas Music Education program attracts students from all over Arkansas and surrounding areas. The well-respected faculty engage students in rigorous and cutting-edge curriculum. From tactics in teaching music to students with special needs to integrating technology and non-traditional learning methods into music education, the program pushes students to think in new ways as future educators.

Throughout the program, students are provided opportunities to observe, interact, and instruct K-12 music students in public schools to discover paths that speak to them most – be it elementary general, vocal, or instrumental music. Upon completion of a semester-long internship, UA Music Education majors enjoy a high success rate in finding teaching positions throughout Arkansas and beyond.

## Minor in Music

The Minor in Music is one of the most popular minors on campus. Private lessons and studies in music history, music theory, and ensemble performance are quite common. Students pursuing the Minor in Music can continue their musical experiences from high school years while pursuing other career paths.

### **3. ADMISSION**

Admission from the University of Arkansas and admission into the Music Program are required. This means that they are two applications prospective students must complete. More information can be found [here](#). Undergraduate Coordinator, Dr. Justin R. Hunter ([jrhunte@uark.edu](mailto:jrhunte@uark.edu)) can answer questions regarding this process. Students wishing to visit the Department of Music to learn about music study can contact Dr. Hunter at any time.

#### Step 1: Apply to the University of Arkansas

All students apply to the University of Arkansas for admission into undergraduate programs. The U of A only allows one major for your application, but if you want to be considered for music as a second major, please contact Dr. Hunter. It is typical for students to apply to the University of Arkansas before applying to the Department of Music for consideration into the Bachelor of Music programs and for scholarship opportunities. Apply to UARK [here](#).

#### Step 2: Apply to the Department of Music

All students seeking a **Bachelor of Music** degree must apply to the Department of Music for entry. This application initiates an audition process that admits students to a particular studio for private instruction. That audition also serves as a scholarship audition for funding from the Department of Music.



Students should prepare the following information for the application: musical background, names and email addresses for two people who can give a letter of recommendation and be able to choose an audition date. In the event of virtual auditions, see below, students must also prepare their audition material before submitting their application and provide a shareable link to a cloud storage site or YouTube of the video recordings.

Students interested in the **Bachelor of Arts in Music** program are not required to apply to the Department but must do so for scholarship consideration. Those not auditioning for scholarships should contact Dr. Hunter to discuss their plans in the program. Before private study can begin for BA in Music requirements, students must seek placement into a studio.

[Apply to Music](#)

### Step 3: Auditions

On-campus auditions are required of all Bachelor of Music applicants and Bachelor of Arts in Music students wanting to be considered for scholarship. On rare occasions, "virtual" auditions are allowed for applicants in need. Please reach out [JR Hinkson](#) should you need to arrange an audition through video submission.

All audition dates include information sessions on scholarships, ensembles, degree options, and our [Living Learning Community](#) for music majors. These meetings are held with area faculty and department administration. Families are welcome to attend the joint meetings but will not be allowed to attend the audition appointments.

[Click here for current audition dates and area-specific audition requirements.](#)

## 4. ADVISING, REGISTRATION & SCHEDULING

### Advising

Admitted students meet with advisors to determine appropriate plans for coursework. Incoming freshmen attend summer orientation, preferably in June, with a music advisor to develop a course of study. Each semester, undergraduate students meet with Undergraduate Coordinator, Dr. Justin Hunter, for advising. The department also partners with the Fulbright Advising Center as a supplemental advising option for students.

Refer to [this link](#) for more information about Fulbright advising.

[This page](#) explains the general steps for class management.

Please save [this link](#), the general page that houses advisor, forms, and class management

information.

## Commencement

Commencement is a time-honored tradition that celebrates the academic accomplishments of students. During commencement ceremonies at the University of Arkansas, we recognize the learning, commitment and effort by our students in completing their degree. This is a special event for the students and for all of those involved in supporting and encouraging them through this journey. [Click here to see how.](#)

There are commencement ceremonies at the end of the fall and spring semesters. [Fall commencement](#) is held on the second or third Saturday in December and is a single event for all undergraduate, graduate and law students who graduated the previous summer or who will graduate in the fall.

[Spring commencement](#) is generally held on the second Saturday of May with University Commencement as the main ceremony where **graduate** students are individually recognized. **Undergraduate** and **law** students are individually honored at college recognition ceremonies held on Friday or Saturday of that weekend. The schedule will be determined early in the graduation term.

Students register their commencement attendance when they [apply for graduation](#). The following guidelines should be used when selecting the appropriate commencement term:

### [Fall Commencement](#)

- Students who graduated in the previous summer term.
- Students who are enrolled in, or will be enrolled in, the classes need to graduate in the fall term.

### [Spring Commencement](#)

- Students who graduated in the previous fall term.
- Students who are enrolled in, or will be enrolled in, the classes needed to graduate in the spring term.
- Students who are within 12 hours of degree completion and who will complete these hours in the following summer term.

## 5. POLICIES & RESOURCES

More information about policies and resources [here](#).

## **6. DEGREE RECITAL RESERVATIONS**

[Stella Boyle Smith Concert Hall](#) and [Giffels Auditorium](#) are available on-campus venues, but different venues may be available in particular semesters. There will be no degree recitals after Reading Day; the latest day to reserve a recital therefore will be the day before Reading Day of either semester. Students will be asked to complete a Pink Form and will coordinate with the office and their Recital Committee to ensure that the performer(s), committee and venue will be available.

## **7. LOCKERS**

Students who wish to reserve a locker can contact Britt Graves at the Music Office. The contents of the lockers must be emptied by the end of Spring semester.

## **8. COLLABORATIVE PIANISTS**

The department assigns collaborative pianists through a collaborative pianist request form. The department can now support Degree Recitals, Department Honor Recitals (Spring semester), and Concerto/Aria Competition (in Fall). For studio recitals, short/ long juries, and any other performance, performers will hire freelance pianists in the area.