# MUSIC

## What can I do with this major?

### AREAS

**EDUCATION**
- Teaching
  - K-12 schools, public and private
  - Colleges and universities
  - Conservatories
  - Daycare centers
  - Recreation centers
  - Children's music programs (franchises, local)
- Research
  - Studios
  - Self-employed

**PERFORMANCE**
- Instrumental
  - Orchestras: Philharmonic, symphony, and chamber
  - Armed Forces bands and orchestras
  - Small ensembles
  - Rock or jazz groups
  - Dance bands
  - Concert soloist
  - Clubs and restaurants
  - Church choirs
  - Community choral groups
  - Opera companies
  - Musical theaters
  - Ballet productions
  - Recording industry
  - Radio, television, and motion picture industries
  - Cruise lines
  - Amusement parks
- Vocal

### EMPLOYERS

**EDUCATION**
- Teaching
  - K-12 schools, public and private
  - Colleges and universities
  - Conservatories
  - Daycare centers
  - Recreation centers
  - Children's music programs (franchises, local)

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- Amusement parks

### STRATEGIES

- **EDUCATION**
  - Acquire teaching certificate for public school teaching. Learn about requirements by state.
  - Earn a graduate degree to teach in higher education.
  - Specialize in an area such as music theory, composition, music history, etc.
  - Performance skill on one instrument or voice is required.
  - Gain experience working with children through volunteer or part-time work experiences.
  - Join the National Association for Music Education as a collegiate member.
  - Develop business relationships with schools and/or music stores to increase client base.

- **PERFORMANCE**
  - Develop musical talent and skill.
  - Obtain formal training to acquire necessary skills, knowledge, and ability to interpret music.
  - Demonstrate ambition and showmanship.
  - Join campus bands and choruses, church choirs, and other performing acts.
  - Seek competitions, apprenticeship programs, and workshops to gain experience and recognition.
  - Auditions are generally required to join bands or get jobs.
  - Be willing to move to a large city with more opportunities such as New York City, Los Angeles, Nashville, Las Vegas, or Chicago.
  - Network with people in the industry to learn about potential jobs.
  - Opportunities are very limited. Most performers have other careers.
## AREAS

### CONDUCTING
- Directing
- Planning
- Leading
- Musician Selection

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conducting Areas</th>
<th>Employers</th>
<th>Strategies</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Orchestras:</td>
<td>Philharmonic, symphony, and chamber</td>
<td>Develop superior musicianship and leadership.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Armed Forces bands and orchestras</td>
<td>Various bands</td>
<td>Acquire extensive experience in performing groups.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Various bands</td>
<td>Choirs</td>
<td>Develop advanced site-reading skills.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Choral groups</td>
<td>Choral groups</td>
<td>Learn other languages such as French, German, Latin, and Italian.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Opera companies</td>
<td>Opera companies</td>
<td>Gain acceptance into a conductor-training program or related apprenticeship.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Musical theater companies</td>
<td>Musical theater companies</td>
<td>Opportunities are extremely limited.</td>
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### COMPOSING/ARRANGING
- Composing
- Arranging

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Composing/Arranging Areas</th>
<th>Employers</th>
<th>Strategies</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Self-employed</td>
<td>Record companies</td>
<td>Knowledge of composition, harmony, arranging, and theory are important.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Publishers</td>
<td>Muzak</td>
<td>Skill on one or more instruments and voice are necessary. Play an instrument in a professional arena.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Motion picture and television industries</td>
<td>Production companies</td>
<td>Become familiar with all types of music productions.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Orchestras:</td>
<td>Philharmonic, symphony, and chamber</td>
<td>Learn how to use electronic instruments and synthesizers.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Opera companies</td>
<td>Opera companies</td>
<td>Develop computer and desktop publishing expertise.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Musical theater groups</td>
<td>Musical theater groups</td>
<td>Attend music conferences and workshops.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ballet troupes</td>
<td>Ballet troupes</td>
<td>Seek grants and awards through foundations, e.g. one from the National Endowment of the Arts.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Broadway</td>
<td>Broadway</td>
<td>Very few musicians earn living through composing.</td>
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### MUSIC LIBRARIES
- Colleges and universities
- Conservatories
- Public libraries
- Radio and television stations
- Motion picture studies

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Music Libraries Areas</th>
<th>Employers</th>
<th>Strategies</th>
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<tr>
<td>Develop computer and research skills.</td>
<td>Colleges and universities</td>
<td>Gain thorough knowledge of music and musicology.</td>
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<td>Gain thorough knowledge of music and musicology.</td>
<td>Conservatories</td>
<td>Earn a master's degree in library/information science.</td>
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<td>Public libraries</td>
<td>Radio and television stations</td>
<td>Work in a campus or public library to gain relevant experience.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Radio and television stations</td>
<td>Motion picture studies</td>
<td>Develop good organizational and technology skills.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Motion picture studies</td>
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<td>Learn to understand foreign languages, particularly Italian, Latin, German, and French.</td>
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<td>Join the Music Library Association.</td>
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<td>AREAS</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>COMMUNICATIONS (BROADCASTING)</strong></td>
<td>Radio and television stations Virtual reality sound environments e.g. Internet sites, software creators</td>
<td>Take classes in communications, broadcasting, or journalism. Work at on-campus radio station. Complete an internship at a television or radio station. Develop computer-related skills such as software development and programming.</td>
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<td>Music and Program Direction</td>
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<td>On Air Performance</td>
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<td>Promotion</td>
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<td>Voice Overs</td>
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<td>Copyright/Clearance Administration</td>
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<td>Music License Administration</td>
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<td>Music Editing, Production, and Composing</td>
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<td>Sound Mixing</td>
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<td>Post Production</td>
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<td>Research</td>
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<td><strong>MUSIC THERAPY</strong></td>
<td>Hospitals: general and psychiatric Special education facilities Mental health centers Nursing homes and senior centers Rehabilitation centers Correctional facilities Private practice Outpatient clinics Schools</td>
<td>Take courses in psychology, social work, or education. Earn a master's degree in music therapy and seek certification. Volunteer in a rehabilitation setting. Demonstrate a genuine interest in helping people. Learn to work well with all types of people. Develop a broad array of musical talents.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>BEHIND THE SCENES</strong></td>
<td>Local bands Regional bands Production companies Theater groups Orchestras Armed Forces Radio, television, and motion picture industries</td>
<td>Shadow an individual who is in the music industry in an area of interest. Volunteer in community, school, or church productions. Gain expertise in the areas of musical and technical knowledge, sound board, and sound equipment. Take courses in areas such as broadcasting, engineering, or computer science to learn technical skills. Complete an internship with a recording company or other relevant organization. Research seminars, workshops, and professional associations that could provide useful information or contacts. Check trade journals and association bulletins for possible employment.</td>
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<td>Audio Technician</td>
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<td>Boom Operator</td>
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<td>General Director</td>
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<td>Music Video Producer</td>
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<td>Recording Engineer</td>
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<td>Set Up</td>
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<td>Recorder</td>
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<td>Rerecording Mixer</td>
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<td>Sound Engineer</td>
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<td>Sound Technician</td>
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<td>Sound/Production Mixer</td>
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<td>Stage Manager</td>
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| Theater groups | | }

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**Notes:**
- **COMMUNICATIONS (BROADCASTING):**
  - Areas covered include music and program direction, promotion, voice overs, copyright/clearance administration, music license administration, music editing, production, and composing, sound mixing, post production, and research.
  - Employers include radio and television stations, virtual reality sound environments, and various online platforms.
  - Strategies include taking classes in communications, broadcasting, or journalism, working at on-campus radio stations, completing internships, and developing computer-related skills.

**MUSIC THERAPY:**
- Areas covered include hospitals, special education facilities, mental health centers, nursing homes, rehabilitation centers, correctional facilities, private practice, outpatient clinics, and schools.
- Employers include hospitals, special education facilities, mental health centers, nursing homes, rehabilitation centers, correctional facilities, private practice, outpatient clinics, and schools.
- Strategies include taking courses in psychology, social work, or education, earning a master's degree in music therapy, seeking certification, volunteering in rehabilitation settings, demonstrating a genuine interest in helping people, and learning to work well with all types of people.

**BEHIND THE SCENES:**
- Areas covered include local bands, regional bands, production companies, theater groups, orchestras, armed forces, radio, television, and motion picture industries.
- Employers include local bands, regional bands, production companies, theater groups, orchestras, armed forces, radio, television, and motion picture industries.
- Strategies include shadowing someone in the music industry, volunteering in community, school, or church productions, gaining expertise in musical and technical knowledge, taking courses in broadcasting, engineering, or computer science, completing internships, and researching seminars, workshops, and professional associations.
### Areas

**Music Industry/Business**
- Publishing and Editing
- Producing
- Recording
- Engineering
- Manufacturing
- Talent Acquisition
- Artist/Talent Representation
- Promotion/Media Relations
- Publicity
- Administration
- Marketing
- Booking
- Product Management
- Business Management
- Retail Sales

### Employers

- Production recording studios (most located in New York City, Los Angeles, and Nashville)
- Music management groups
- Agencies
- Music and record stores
- Instrument manufacturers

### Strategies

- Complete an internship at a record company.
- Take business courses to work in management or administration.
- Journalism, public relations, and communication classes are helpful for work in areas of promotion.
- Gain sales experience for marketing. Learn to interact well with people and develop persuasion tools.
- Knowledge of electronics, audio engineering, and recording knowledge required for production.
- Work or volunteer at a campus or local radio station.
- Join organizations involved with bringing events and entertainment to campus.
- Work at a retail record store to learn about the industry.
- Volunteer to help promote a local or campus band with their promotions and bookings.
- Gain a broad knowledge of music and the industry.
- Build a strong network of contacts.
- Develop skills such as negotiation, assertiveness, the ability to recognize talent, and working under pressure.

### Miscellaneous

**Music Journalism**
- Music-related publications
- Magazines and newspapers

**Law**
- Entertainment or music focused Internet sites
- Entertainment law firms

**Music Analysis**
- Production companies

- Take courses in journalism and English.
- Write articles for campus newspaper.
- Prepare for law school and earn a law degree (J.D.)
- For music analysis:
  - Develop the ability to read and transcribe well.
  - Gain knowledge with use of high tech digital computers to analyze music.
  - Move to a larger city where more opportunities exist.
GENERAL INFORMATION

- Majoring in music provides students with a sense of aesthetics and an understanding of human expression valuable to many employers.
- Develop competencies in business management, computers, marketing, or other areas to broaden range of employment possibilities.
- Finding positions in the music industry requires a combination of talent, training, connections and some luck. Perserverance is required!
- Develop a variety of skills. Become "multitalented."
- As an undergraduate, gain as much experience as possible, paid or unpaid, through college and local organizations. Seek internships or volunteer positions with relevant organizations.
- Confidence, personality, a positive attitude, and a love of music are important to success in many arenas of music. Learn basic tools of self-promotion.
- Some jobs may require you to join unions or guilds. Research the industry to learn which ones are appropriate.
- Performers often travel frequently and must be flexible regarding their work schedules.
- Move to a larger city such as Los Angeles, New York, Nashville, or Chicago to find more job opportunities.