2025-2026 UNDERGRADUATE CATALOG | COURSES OF STUDY

Music

Division of Visual and Performing Arts

- Major: 43-51 credits
- Emphases in Classical Performance or Jazz Performance
- Minor: 18 credits
- All courses for the major must be completed with a grade of C or better
- Minors must complete course work with 2.25 GPA and complete 8 credits of upper-level course work

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS:

- Majors participate in an ensemble and performance lab every semester; minors participate in an ensemble and performance lab for 4 semesters
- Capstone, Performance Emphasis: Senior recital

Mission: The mission of the McKendree University music faculty is to provide students with the skills to appreciate, evaluate, and perform music from different eras of history and different cultures. Students will be expected to analyze music theoretically and to understand its historical significance. Students will then apply these skills in critiquing and evaluating their own and/or other artists' performances. The acquisition of these skills will enable students to be lifelong participants in artistic, cultural and intellectual life.

Student Learning Outcomes

Students will:

- Identify and analyze the elements of music: melody, rhythm, harmony, texture, form and timbre/medium.
- Recognize specific characteristics of music from different cultures and different historical eras.
- Perform a collegiate repertoire with an understanding of instrument-specific performance practices.
- Critique and evaluate performances of musical works.

Preparation: The degree prepares students to enter graduate school in performance, music history, music theory or music therapy. Music majors also may choose to audition for positions in orchestras or bands, or open a private studio.

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN MUSIC REQUIREMENTS 43 crs. **MUL 198 FIRST YEAR GATE JURY** 0 MUS 100 PERFORMANCE LAB (Every semester of enrollment) 0 MUS 255 MUSIC THEORY I 3 1 **MUS 255L AURAL SKILLS LAB I** MUS 256 MUSIC THEORY II 3 1 **MUS 256L AURAL SKILLS LAB II** MUS 265 MUSIC IN WORLD CULTURES 3 MUS 322 INTRODUCTION TO CHORAL CONDUCTING 3 or MUS 323 INTRODUCTION TO INSTRUMENTAL CONDUCTING 3 MUS 355 MUSIC THEORY III 3 1 **MUS 355L AURAL SKILLS LAB III** MUS 356 MUSIC THEORY IV 3 MUS 361 SURVEY OF MUSIC HISTORY I 3 MUS 362 SURVEY OF MUSIC HISTORY II 3 Applied lessons on primary instrument (2 cr. per semester) 16 Participation in an ensemble 0 every semester

REQUIREMENTS FOR EMPHASIS IN CLASSICAL PERFORMANCE (Available in brass, woodwinds, percussion, organ, piano or voice)

MUE 154	CONCERT CHOIR (every semester)	0
or		
MUE 156	CONCERT BAND (every semester)	0
MUL 298	PIANO PROFICIENCY GATE	
	(vocal and keyboard majors)	0
MUS 325	VOCAL DICTION I (vocal majors)	2
MUS 326	VOCAL DICTION II (vocal majors)	2

2025-2026 UNDERGRADUATE CATALOG | COURSES OF STUDY

MUS 302	CLASS WOODWINDS	
	AND PEDAGOGY I	
	(clarinet and saxophone majors)	3
MUS 303	CLASS WOODWINDS	
	AND PEDAGOGY II	
	(flute, oboe, and bassoon majors)	3
MUS 306	CLASS BRASS AND PEDAGOGY	
	(brass majors)	3
MUS 308	CLASS PERCUSSION AND PEDAGOGY	
	(percussion majors)	3
MUL 369	ACCOMPANYING (keyboard majors)	1
MUL 370	ACCOMPANYING (keyboard majors)	1
MUL 398	JUNIOR RECITAL	0
MUL 498	SENIOR RECITAL	
	(capstone experience)	0

All performance majors are required to perform a junior and senior recital. All vocal and keyboard performance majors are also required to pass a piano proficiency exam and must take applied piano lessons every semester until the piano proficiency exam is passed.

REQUIREMENTS FOR

EMPHASIS IN JAZZ PERFORMANCE		8 crs.
MUE 148	JAZZ ENSEMBLE (every semester)	0
MUE 248	JAZZ COMBO (four semesters)	0
MUL 161	IMPROVISATION	1
MUL 261	IMPROVISATION	1
MUL 361	IMPROVISATION	1
MUL 461	IMPROVISATION	1
MUL 398	JUNIOR RECITAL	0
MUL 498	SENIOR RECITAL	
	(capstone experience)	0
MUS 269	JAZZ APPRECIATION	3
MUS 337	JAZZ BAND TECHNIQUES	1

Jazz performance majors are strongly encouraged to participate in concert band each semester. All jazz performance majors are required to perform a junior and a senior recital.

MUSIC MINOR	18 crs.
MUS 100 PERFORMANCE LAB (each semi	ester
of required applied lessons)	0
MUS 255 MUSIC THEORY I	3
MUS 255L AURAL SKILLS LAB I	1
MUS 256 MUSIC THEORY II	3
MUS 256L AURAL SKILLS LAB II	1
MUS 361 SURVEY OF MUSIC HISTORY I	3
MUS 362 SURVEY OF MUSIC HISTORY II	3
4 CONSECUTIVE SEMESTERS OF	
APPLIED LESSONS IN VOICE, PERCUSSION	,
or ON ONE BRASS, WOODWIND	
or KEYBOARD INSTRUMENT	4

All music minors are required to participate in a performing ensemble for at least four semesters. Minors must take a minimum of 6 music credits at the 300 level or above at McKendree University.

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2025-2026 UNDERGRADUATE CATALOG | COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Music (MUS)

MUS 100

a grade.

PERFORMANCE LABThis course is intended for those completing a minor or major in music. The requirements for the course will include attending department performance classes, attending professional and student concerts, and participating in masterclasses. This course is required of all music students who are enrolled in private applied lessons that are required for the completion of their major or minor. Must be taken for

MUS 110 3 FUNDAMENTALS OF MUSIC

Fundamentals of music is designed to cover basic music theory. It includes scales, intervals, keys, triads, and simple harmony.

MUS 137 1 JAZZ IMPROVISATION TECHNIQUES

This course provides the opportunity for students to gain basic knowledge, tools, and experience on how to perform jazz improvisation. It also provides a basic pedagogical model for music education majors who will be teaching musicians how to improvise.

MUS 165 3 MUSIC APPRECIATION

An introduction to music, this course will enable students with various backgrounds in music to listen to music more intelligently. Students will learn about the historical-cultural aspects of music as an art and its development in the great style periods, along with the lives of the leading figures and the world they inhabited. There will be an emphasis on musical styles, forms, and media. This course will encompass music from the medieval period through the twentieth century.

MUS 180-189 1-3 SPECIAL TOPICS IN MUSIC

This course will cover topics or areas not included in the regular curriculum.

MUS 200 2 MUSIC TECHNOLOGY

A computer application course directed to the music teacher, including the use of word processing, databases, spreadsheets, and specialized applications for music education and multimedia production.

MUS 255 3 MUSIC THEORY I

This course reviews the fundamentals of music including the study of intervals, scales, and keys; it continues with extensive reading and writing of rhythm, melody, triads, and the beginning of functional harmony and part-writing. This course is specifically designed for music majors and traditional music minors.

MUS 255L 1 AURAL SKILLS LAB I

To be taken concurrently with Music Theory I. This two-hour performance skills lab provides concentrated practice in sight reading, melodic and rhythmic dictation, and beginning ear training exercises.

MUS 256 MUSIC THEORY II

0

This is a continuation of Theory I, including common practice voice leading in four parts, harmonic dictation, and analysis of primary and secondary progressions. Prerequisite: MUS 255.

MUS 256L 1 AURAL SKILLS LAB II

To be taken concurrently with Music Theory II. This two-hour performance skills lab provides concentrated practice in advanced sight reading, two- and three-voice harmonic dictation, interval and chord identification, and advanced ear training exercises. Prerequisite: MUS255L.

MUS 265 MUSIC IN WORLD CULTURES

An introduction to the diversity of musical cultures found in Africa, North and South America, Eastern Europe, Asia, and the Pacific.

MUS 269 3 JAZZ APPRECIATION

An introduction to jazz, this course will enable students with various backgrounds to appreciate jazz from its inception through current artists. Students will be introduced to different styles including blues, ragtime, Dixieland, swing, bebop, cool, hard bop, fusion, smooth, and alternative jazz. Specific artists will include Louis Armstrong, Miles Davis, Charlie Parker, Count Basie, John Coltrane, Dizzy Gillespie, and performers of today.

MUS 275 HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN MUSICAL

This course will explore the European roots of the musical and trace its development in America and on Broadway. The focus will be on musical developments within the form as well as on how each musical reflects societal issues. Students may elect to take this course at one level, but not both.

MUS 280-289 1-3 SPECIAL TOPICS IN MUSIC

MUS 302 3 CLASS WOODWINDS AND PEDAGOGY I

Group instruction on clarinet and saxophone, including pedagogical principles and playing techniques. Individuals will be expected to demonstrate basic proficiency on each instrument.

MUS 303 3 CLASS WOODWINDS AND PEDAGOGY II

Group instruction on flute, oboe, and bassoon, including pedagogical principles and playing techniques. Individuals will be expected to demonstrate basic proficiency on each instrument.

MUS 306 3 CLASS BRASS AND PEDAGOGY

Group instruction on trumpet, French horn, trombone euphonium, and tuba, including pedagogical principles and playing techniques. Individuals will be expected to demonstrate basic proficiency on each instrument.

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2025-2026 UNDERGRADUATE CATALOG | COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Music (MUS)

MUS 308 3 CLASS PERCUSSION AND PEDAGOGY

A survey of various methods and music materials that may be used at the beginning and intermediate levels of percussion study. Observation, participation in and evaluation of individual and group instruction required.

MUS 322 3 INTRODUCTION TO CHORAL CONDUCTING

Study and practice of the basic techniques of leading choral ensembles, including discussion of rehearsal procedures, concert preparation, and conducting technique. Prerequisite: music major or minor, or instructor consent.

MUS 323 3 INTRODUCTION TO INSTRUMENTAL CONDUCTING

A study in baton technique within the practice of fundamental conducting patterns, conducting technique, and musical terminology. Prerequisite: music major or minor, or instructor consent.

MUS 325 2 VOCAL DICTION I

This course will include the study and practice of physiological processes of vowel and consonant production, their interaction with breathing and phonation, and their representation by standard International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) symbols. Course will include the study of English and Italian diction.

MUS 326 2 VOCAL DICTION II

A continuation of MUS 325. The course will be the study of French and German diction. $\,$

MUS 337 1 IAZZ BAND TECHNIOUES

This course explores teaching materials, techniques of teaching, and Organizational systems as they relate to jazz ensembles. The course also emphasizes the development of the student as both a performer and director through application of teaching techniques in a controlled environment.

MUS 353 MUSIC AND THE CHILD

This course explores some of the ways children develop their skills in musical creativity. Lecture, discussion, anecdotal observation, and direct participation in creative activities will lead the student to an understanding of the cognitive and affective processes at work in imaginative play and the value of those processes in overall development.

MUS 355 3 MUSIC THEORY III

This course introduces the study of form and analysis, more advanced studies in part-writing and dictation and the study of all tertian and seventh chords. The study of orchestration and advanced aural skills will be included. Prerequisites: MUS 255, 255L, 256, and 256L, or instructor consent.

MUS 355L 1 AURAL SKILLS LAB III

To be taken concurrently with Music Theory III, this lab includes advanced sight-singing, three- and four-voice dictation, and score reading. Meets two hours weekly. Prerequisite: MUS 256L.

MUS 356 3 MUSIC THEORY IV

The continuation of writing and analysis skills, this course will include quartal, "stacked", and other 20th century materials, as well as appropriate practice in aural and keyboard applications. An introduction to the composition of counterpoint will also be included. Prerequisite: MUS 355 or instructor consent.

MUS 361 3 SURVEY OF MUSIC HISTORY I

Introduction to the study of Western music history, including compositional forms, genres, composers, and works from the Greeks through the Baroque period.

MUS 362 3 SURVEY OF MUSIC HISTORY II

A continuation of the study of Western music history, including compositional forms, genres, composer, and works from the Classical period through the present. Prerequisite: MUS 361.

MUS 363 3 WORLD MUSIC

A study of instruments, music theory, and music performance from Africa, North American, South America, Europe, and Asia in connection with geographic, economic, and societal influences.

MUS 380-389 1-4 SPECIAL TOPICS IN MUSIC

MUS 470 (3-6) INTERNSHIP IN MUSIC

MUS 480 1-4
INDEPENDENT STUDY IN MUSIC

MUS 481-489 1-4 SPECIAL TOPICS IN MUSIC

MUS 490 1-4 SEMINAR IN MUSIC

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