Carnegie Mellon University

Updated Fall 2025

School of Music

Degree Path: Bachelor of Fine Arts in Composition

Students should consult with the Senior Academic Advisor to ensure successful and on-time degree completion.

Consult with the Senior Academic Advisor, Faculty Advisor(s), and/or instructors of record about appropriate course sections where necessary.

FIRST-YEAR FALL (must be completed as indicated below)				FIRST-YEAR SPRING			
	#	Course Title	Units		#	Course Title	Units
1	57031	Composers' Forum	1	1	57031	Composers' Forum	1
2	57100	Convocation	1	2	57100	Convocation	1
3	57101	Introduction to Music Technology	6	3	57150/153	Harmony II or Basic Harmony II	9
4	57149/152	Basic Harmony I or Harmony I*	9	4	57162	Eurhythmics II	3
5	57161	Eurhythmics I	3	5	57182/186	Solfege II or Advanced Solfege II	3
6	57180/181/185	Basic Solfege I, Solfege I, or Advanced Solfege I*	3	6	57190	Repertoire & Listening for Musicians I (57283 co-req)	3
7	57189	Intro to Repertoire & Listening for Musicians	3	7	57192/194	Keyboard Studies II or IV	3
8	57191/193	Keyboard Studies I or III*	3	8	57283	Music History I	9
9	57418/419	Major Instrumental Ensemble or Chorus	6	9	57418/419	Major Instrumental Ensemble or Chorus	6
10	57521	Major Studio (Composition)	9	10	57521	Major Studio (Composition)	9
11	761XX	First-Year Writing Course	9	11	XXXXX	Global, Cultural, & Diverse Perspectives Course (GCD)**	9
12	99101	Core@CMU	3				
		TOTA	L 56			TOTAL	- 56

^{*} Placement in these courses determined by test prior to matriculation. Students will then complete the series in sequence.

SECOND-YEAR FALL				SECOND-YEAR SPRING					
	#	Course Title	Units		#	Course Title	Units		
1	57031	Composers' Forum	1	1	57031	Composers' Forum	1		
2	57100	Convocation	1	2	57100	Convocation	1		
3	57151	Counterpoint in Theory and Application	6	3	57164	Eurhythmics IV	3		
4	57163	Eurhythmics III	3	4	57184/488	Solfege IV or Advanced Solfege IV	3		
5	57183/487	Solfege III or Advanced Solfege III	3	5	57194	Keyboard Studies IV	3		
6	57193	Keyboard Studies III	3	6	57258	20th-21st Century Techniques	6		
7	57257	Orchestration I	6	7	57271	Orchestration II	6		
8	57284	Music History II	9	8	57285	Music History III	9		
9	57289	Repertoire & Listening for Musicians II (57284 co-req)	3	9	57290	Repertoire & Listening for Musicians III (57285 co-req)	3		
10	57418/419	Major Instrumental Ensemble or Chorus	6	10	57408	Form & Analysis	6		
11	57521	Major Studio (Composition)	9	11	57418/419	Major Instrumental Ensemble or Chorus	6		
12	XXXXX	Elective	6	12	57521	Major Studio (Composition)	9		
		TOTA	L 56			TOTAL	56		

^{**} For Global, Cultural, and Diverse Perspectives, the following courses qualify:

Any History course 79-100 or higher or

Any English course 76-200 or higher or

Any Modern Languages course 82-100 or higher

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THIRD-YEAR FALL			THIRD-YEAR SPRING					
	#	Course Title		Units		#	Course Title	Units
1	57031	Composers' Forum		1	1	57031	Composers' Forum	1
2	57100	Convocation		1	2	57100	Convocation	1
3	57234	Performance for Composers*** or		6	3	57234	Performance for Composers or	6
	57418/419	Major Instrumental Ensemble or Chorus				57418/419	Major Instrumental Ensemble or Chorus	
4	57332	Introduction to Conducting		6	4	57336	Instrumental/Choral Conducting	6
5	57347	Electronic and Computer Music		6	5	57459	Score Reading for Composition Majors and Conducting Minors	6
6	57521	Major Studio (Composition)		9	6	57521	Major Studio (Composition)	9
7	57XXX	Music Support Course in Analysis		6	7	57XXX	Music Support Course	6
8	XXXXX	General Studies Course(s)		12	8	XXXXX	General Studies Course(s)	12
-	•		TOTAL	47			TOTAL	47

FOURTH-YEAR FALL			FC	FOURTH-YEAR SPRING		
#	Course Title	Units		#	Course Title	Units
<i>1</i> 57031	Composers' Forum	1	1	57031	Composers' Forum	1
<i>2</i> 57100	Convocation	1	2	57100	Convocation	1
<i>3</i> 57418/419	Major Instrumental Ensemble or Chorus	6	3	57418/419	Major Instrumental Ensemble or Chorus	6
<i>4</i> 57521	Major Studio (Composition)	9	4	57521	Major Studio (Composition)	9
<i>5</i> 57XXX	Music Support Course	6	5	57597	Senior Composition Project ^o	1
6 XXXXX	Elective(s)	12	6	57XXX	Music Support Course	6
7 XXXXX	General Studies Course	9	7	XXXXX	Elective(s)	12
			8	XXXXX	General Studies Course	9
•		ΤΟΤΔΙ 44				45

TOTAL UNITS REQUIRED FOR MAJOR 407

[°] Senior Composition Project may be taken in either the senior fall or spring semester.

Category	Units	Other Categories	Units
	Onits		
Major Studio	72	CMU Mandatory Courses (Core@CMU, FYW, GCD)	21
Ensemble	42	General Studies (non-57XXX courses)	42
Music Support	24	Electives (57XXX and non-57XXX courses)	30
Composers' Forum	8		
Convocation	8		
Other Music Courses	160		

^{***} Performance for Composers may only be taken for one semester.