What can I do with a degree in... MUSIC?

Why study MUSIC?

Western Carolina University's School of Music provides student musicians with academic, performance, and recording experiences that prepare them for careers in the profession. From our award-winning Pride of the Mountains Marching Band to our regionally acclaimed Music Education and Commercial Music & Audio Production programs, our students are surrounded by excellence. Students will go through music lessons on a main instrument as well as how to teach music and create it electronically, depending on the concentration.

What are the DEGREE OPTIONS?

Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Music
Bachelor of Music (B.M.)
NOTE: Students wishing to pursue a degree in Music Education should review the Education major map or review requirements for a Bachelor of Music degree with a concentration in Music Education below.)

What are the CONCENTRATIONS OR OPTIONS?

Students pursuing a **B.A. in Music degree** may choose the **Music Industry** option in place of a minor or second major. This option prepares students for various careers in the music industry or to establish their own music business.

Students pursuing a **Bachelor of Music (B.M.) degree** choose between three concentrations: C**ommercial Music & Audio Production, Performance, or Music Education.**
The concentration in **Commercial Music and Audio Production (CMAP)** combines traditional studies in music with courses in music technology, jazz, and other popular musical styles. Students gain hands-on experience in WCU's state-of-the-art recording studio.

The concentration in **Performance** features eight semesters of lessons in your performing area, including two public recitals and opportunities for participation in a wide variety of ensembles. It also includes advanced study in music theory, literature, and performance. Most graduates of this program will go on to further study at the graduate level.

The concentration in **Music Education** (B.M./B.S.Ed.) provides students with the thorough training necessary to be a successful music educator in the public schools of North Carolina and the region. Graduates receive both the B.S. and B.S.Ed. degrees.

What is the ADMISSION PROCESS?

Students must apply and audition for either the B.A. or B.M. degree options. Please see **guidelines for admissions** through the School of Music.

What JOBS ARE AVAILABLE?

Depending on the degree, concentration, experiences and other qualifications, our graduates are prepared to become a variety of professionals including accompanists, copyright consultants, music agents, music arrangers, music licensing lawyers, music therapists, performers, composers, band directors and educators, instrument repairers, lyricists, sound recording technicians, and more. **NOTE:** Advanced degrees may be required for some of the listed professions. Please see a career counselor or advisor for more information.

Who employs MUSIC graduates?

Our graduates gain employment with a variety of employers including music industry firms, orchestras, choral groups, opera and theater companies, military ensembles, recording agencies, and education institutions.

MAJOR MAP

How to use this map: Review the four categories and suggestions of activities and when you should consider engaging in them. Remember, these are just suggestions! There is a fillable space for you to add in any other ideas you have to set yourself up for success in life after college.

	1st YEAR	2nd YEAR
EXCEL IN ACADEMICS	Many first-year students will focus on introductory Music courses associated with the performance focus of your choice, plus liberal studies requirements. **Check out the 8-semester plan for your degree** and make an appointment with your advisor.	Students in their second year will likely continue with liberal studies electives, intermediate Music and performance courses topics, as well as introductory courses with their minor. **Check out the 8-semester plan for your degree** and make an appointment with your advisor.
GET HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE	Check out **WCU's DegreePlus program** and choose which events in any of the four categories you want to attend. Categories include: Professionalism, Teamwork, Leadership, or Cultural Responsiveness. See what on-campus employment opportunities are available by logging in to **jobcat.wcu.edu** Audition for the **Pride of the Mountains Marching Band** or **Catamount Singers.**	Get involved with the Inspirational Gospel Choir, Percussive Arts Association, or music-related fraternities and sororities such as Kappa Kappa Psi, Sigma Alpha Iota, or Phi Mu Alpha. If you are thinking about attending a graduate school, start engaging in hands-on experiences required in graduate school admissions. Engage deeper with **DegreePlus;** choose an additional competency to complete
BE PART OF THE COMMUNITY	Connect with the **Center for Service Learning** and ask about the **Spark Award,** a program aimed to encourage students to be connected with their community.	Job shadow with professionals in the career area you wish to pursue. Volunteer with area non-profits or organizations which interest you. Consider the **study abroad programs related to Music.** Talk with a study abroad advisor about targeted experience for your areas of interest.
PREPARE FOR LIFE AFTER COLLEGE	Further explore your career options or career interests using the **Center for Career and Professional Development's** online resources, **Focus 2,** and **Onet Online.** Connect with a career counselor early on to explore opportunities and experiences you can do while in college to further develop your professional resume.	Check out **CCPD's list of career-building activities** and participate in an activity this year, such as attending Career Fair Plus. Start a spreadsheet of graduate schools, if applicable, you wish to apply to in a few years with their admission requirements so that you are aware of the expectations.

Looking for a minor? Consider these options:

Anthropology
Business Administration and Law
Communication
History
Philosophy
Psychology
Sociology

3rd YEAR

Third level courses focus on upper-level Music courses, special topics relating to your career path, or your chosen minor. **Check out the 8-semester plan for your degree** and make an appointment with your advisor.

Apply for internship or student teaching experiences that will give you practical and hands-on experience to put on a resume.

Start building your online portfolio to showcase the works of art you have created.

Consider networking with professionals in your field at national or regional professional conferences such as events hosted by the **American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers** or the annual **NC Music Educators Association's conference.**

Develop deeper relationships with the organizations for which you volunteer. Ask for special projects or responsibilities that you can highlight on a resume.

Connect with alumni in your field through **LinkedIn**

Visit the CCPD to hone your professional resume and cover letter. Apply for internships. Utilize the **Writing and Learning Commons** for MCAT, GRE, and other professional exam preparation sessions. Use **Big Interview** to learn more about professional interviews.

Schedule a visit to tour graduate schools of your choice, if applicable.

4th YEAR

Courses in your final year will complete the major coursework requirement, concentration courses, as well as your chosen minor electives. Be sure to **Check out the 8-semester plan for your degree,** make an appointment with your advisor, complete your degree audit, and **apply for graduation!**

Investigate requirements for full-time jobs. Assess what skills or experiences you're lacking and invest time in seeking additional opportunities such as certification programs, classes, or professional development workshops during your last year to fill that gap. Connect with your faculty advisor or career counselor.

Join professional organizations such as the **NC Music Educators Association's conference.**

Network with employers and non-profits at the annual Career Fair Plus event, held each October and February.

Apply to graduate schools, if applicable.

Look for and apply for jobs between 4 and 6 months before graduation.

Polish your resume, cover letter, and interview skills by vising the **CCPD.**

DID YOU KNOW? Internships are still the number-one educational experience employers look for in a recent college graduate resume. (Chronicle of Higher Education's study on 50,000 employers)

MORE INFORMATION

INTERNSHIP Information

At Western Carolina University there are numerous internship opportunities for students. In some cases internships are established through a faculty member in the student's major. Oftentimes students find part-time jobs in an area related to their field of study. When this happens, students should discuss with their academic advisor the possibility of receiving college credit. Generally, three hours of general elective credit can be earned for a minimum of 200 hours of experience.

SKILLS LEARNED in the classroom

The core competencies will center on developing skills, knowledge, and attitudes such as:

- Independent Worker
- Think and Understand in Patterns
- Curiosity and Creativity
- Time Management
- Oral & Written Communication
- Responsibility
- Innovative Talents
- Problem-Solving
- Planning Ahead
- Teamwork

KNOWLEDGE Base

This program will prepare students to:

- Perform works of various style periods in a musically compelling way.
- Synthesize knowledge, skills, and values acquired throughout the curriculum.
- Share knowledge and expertise in a civic context for the benefit of others.
- Develop an initial educational plan into a career plan in the senior year.
- Advocate effectively for the arts through written and oral communication.

Professional **RESOURCES**

- National Association for Music Education: www.nafme.org
- American Society of Composers: www.ascap.com
- North Carolina Music Educators Association: www.nc-mea.net

QUESTIONS?

For questions, please call the Interior Design program at 828-227-2487 or visit music.wcu.edu

To schedule an appointment with a career counselor, contact the Center for Career and Professional Development, 828-227-7133 or careerservices@wcu.edu.

Western Carolina UNIVERSITY