

College of Arts and Sciences

Performing Arts: Music, Theatre, Dance, and Arts Management

B.A. in Music

American University is an accredited institutional member of the National Association of Schools of Music (NASM).

Admission to the Program

Formal admission to the music major requires demonstrated ability through an audition and interview arranged with the department, preferably prior to beginning university studies. However, a student may enter as an intended major and audition/interview during the first year. Students will be accepted based on programmatic approval and written declaration of major.

University Requirements

- A total of 120 credit hours
- 6 credit hours of college writing
- 3 credit hours of college mathematics or the equivalent by examination

General Education Requirements

- A total of ten courses, consisting of one foundation course and one second-level course in an approved sequence from each of the five curricular areas
- No more than 6 credit hours maybe taken in the same discipline

Major Requirements

- 53 credit hours with grades of C or better
- Applied Music Lesson requirement: all students must successfully complete a minimum of four semesters of MUS-122 Private Instrumental or Vocal Study on a principal instrument or voice; music majors must enroll for a one-hour lesson each week and attend the weekly music performance lab (MUS-001).

Jury examinations must be undertaken at the end of each semester except when the student is presenting a recital in MUS-334 or MUS-434.

Performance Ensemble requirements: All students must successfully complete a minimum of four semesters of approved performance ensembles. Music majors must enroll in a performance ensemble in all semesters in which they are enrolled in applied music lessons.

Music Prerequisite Courses

These courses are waived for students with equivalent music experience:

- MUS-100 Class Instrumental Study: Piano (1)
- PERF-120 Music Fundamentals (3) with a grade of B or better

Course Requirements

- PERF-124 Harmony I (3)
- PERF-125 Harmony II (3)
- PERF-227 Musicianship I (3)
- PERF-228 Musicianship II (3)
- PERF-322 Music History I: From Antiquity to 1750 (3)
- PERF-323 Music History II: 1750 to Present (3)
- PERF-324 Form and Analysis (3)
- PERF-325 Counterpoint (3)
- PERF-445 Senior Capstone: Music (3)
- A minimum of 8 credit hours in MUS-122 Private Instrumental or Vocal Study (2)
- A minimum of 4 credit hours in performance ensembles:
 - PERF-142/542 University Chorus (1)
 - PERF-143/543 University Singers (2)
 - PERF-144/544 University Orchestra (1)
 - PERF-145/545 Chamber Ensembles (1)
 - PERF-146/546 Jazz Ensemble (1)
 - PERF-161/561 Gospel Choir (1)

Area of Concentration

- A minimum of 14 credit hours in an area of concentration. Students may select from the following or design an individual area of concentration with approval of their academic advisor and the director of music. Examples of individually designed areas include music production, international arts management, and music criticism.

Arts Management (15 credit hours)

- ACCT-240 Principles of Financial Accounting (3)
- ACCT-241 Principles of Managerial Accounting (3)
or
ECON-200 Microeconomics 4:2 (3)
- ECON-100 Macroeconomics 4:1 (3)
- MKTG-300 Principles of Management (3)
- PERF-570 Survey of Arts Management (3)

Composition (16 credit hours)

- MUS-122 Private Instrumental or Vocal Study: Composition (2) three semesters for a total of 6 credit hours
- MUS-434 Private Instrumental or Vocal Study: Senior Recital (4)
- PERF-326 Orchestration (3)
- PERF-435 Topics in Music (3) (approved topic)

Jazz Studies (16 credit hours)

- MUS-122 Private Instrumental or Vocal Study (2) three additional semesters for a total of 6 credit hours
- MUS-434 Private Instrumental or Vocal Study: Senior Recital (4)
- PERF-226 Improvisation (3)
- PERF-321 The Evolution of Jazz and Blues (3)

Performance (16 credit hours)

Vocal Performance

- MUS-122 Private Instrumental or Vocal Study (2) three additional semesters for a total of 6 credit hours
- MUS-434 Private Instrumental or Vocal Study: Senior Recital (4)
- PERF-251 Fundamentals of Acting I (3)
- PERF-356 Diction for Singers (3)
German, Italian, or French language courses are recommended

Instrumental Performance

- MUS-122 Private Instrumental or Vocal Study (2) three additional semesters for a total of 6 credit hours
- MUS-434 Private Instrumental or Vocal Study: Senior Recital (4)
- PERF-435 Topics in Music (3) (approved topic)
- PERF-550 Chamber Ensembles (1) three semesters for a total of 3 credit hours

History and Literature or Anthropology of Music (15 credit hours)

- HIST-100 Historians and the Living Past 2:1 (3)
- HIST-xxx or ANTH-xxx approved course (3)
- PERF-435 Topics in Music (3) (approved topic) (two courses for a total of 6 credit hours)
- PERF-491 Performing Arts: Internship (1–6)
or
PERF-435 Topics in Music (3) (approved topic)
- Senior thesis written project submitted for PERF-445 Senior Capstone: Music

Theory (15 credit hours)

- PERF-326 Orchestration (3)
- PERF-435 Topics in Music (3) (approved topic) (three courses for a total of 9 credit hours)
- PERF-585 Creative Theories and Criticism in Performing Arts (3)
- Senior thesis written project submitted for PERF-445 Senior Capstone: Music

University Honors Program

All University Honors students must complete at least 12 credit hours of advanced-level (300-level and above) Honors courses including a 3 to 6 credit hour Honors Senior Capstone Project. Students may graduate with University Honors in the

major if they complete at least 12 advanced-level Honors courses including the Senior Capstone Project in the department. Each department has three levels of University Honors requirements: Level I Options (100-200-level Honors classes); Level II Options (300-level and above Honors classes); and Level III Options (Honors Senior Capstone). The department Honors coordinator advises students in the University Honors Program regarding departmental options. For more information, go to www.american.edu/academic.depts/honors/.

B.A. in Performing Arts: Musical Theatre

Admission to the Program

Formal admission to the major requires demonstrated talent through an audition arranged with the department, preferably prior to beginning university studies. However, a student may enter as an intended major and audition during the first year. Students will be accepted based on programmatic approval and written declaration of major.

University Requirements

- A total of 120 credit hours
- 6 credit hours of college writing
- 3 credit hours of college mathematics or the equivalent by examination

General Education Requirements

- A total of ten courses, consisting of one foundation course and one second-level course in an approved sequence from each of the five curricular areas
- No more than 6 credit hours may be taken in the same discipline

Major Requirements

- 48 credit hours with grades of C or better
Students who wish to study abroad must receive prior approval from their advisor in order to ensure that appropriate courses will transfer and that scholarships and financial aid will apply.
- Participation in a minimum of four department productions and management (as stage manager or assistant stage manager) of one of these productions before graduation

Course Requirements

Core (21 credit hours)

- PERF-251 Fundamentals of Acting I (3)
- PERF-260 Production I: Stagecraft (3)
- PERF-261 Production II: Introduction to Design (3)
- PERF-265 Theatre Practicum (1) (taken twice for a total of 2 credit hours)
- PERF-365 Theatre History I: from the Greeks to the Renaissance (3)
- PERF-366 Theatre History II: from Baroque to the End of the Nineteenth Century (3)
- PERF-440 Stage Management (1)
- PERF-445 Senior Capstone: Musical Theatre (3)

Musical Theatre (27 credit hours)

- PERF-227 Musicianship I (3)
- PERF-228 Musicianship II (3)
- PERF-252 Fundamentals of Acting II (3)
- PERF-340 From Scene into Song (3)
- PERF-346 Survey of Music Theatre (3)
- PERF-450 Rotating Topics in Theatre: Dance Styles for Music Theatre (3)
- PERF-556 Acting V: Audition Techniques (3)
- 3 credit hours of dance technique courses
- 3 credit hours of applied music (MUS-xxx): voice

University Honors Program

All University Honors students must complete at least 12 credit hours of advanced-level (300-level and above) Honors courses including a 3 to 6 credit hour Honors Senior Capstone Project. Students may graduate with University Honors in the major if they complete at least 12 advanced-level Honors courses including the Senior Capstone Project in the department. Each department has three levels of University Honors requirements: Level I Options (100-200-level Honors classes); Level II Options (300-level and above Honors classes); and Level III Options (Honors Senior Capstone). The department Honors coordinator advises students in the University Honors Program regarding departmental options. For more information, go to www.american.edu/academic.depts/honors/.

B.A. in Performing Arts: Theatre

Admission to the Program

Formal admission to the major requires demonstrated talent through an audition portfolio review arranged with the department, preferably prior to beginning university studies. However, a student may enter as an intended major and have an audition or portfolio review during the first year. Students will be accepted based on programmatic approval and written declaration of major.

University Requirements

- A total of 120 credit hours
- 6 credit hours of college writing
- 3 credit hours of college mathematics or the equivalent by examination

General Education Requirements

- A total of ten courses, consisting of one foundation course and one second-level course in an approved sequence from each of the five curricular areas
- No more than 6 credit hours may be taken in the same discipline

Tracks

Performance, Design/Production, Arts Management, or Theatre Arts

Major Requirements

- 48 credit hours with grades of C or better

Students who wish to study abroad must receive prior approval from their advisor in order to ensure that appropriate courses will transfer and that scholarships and financial aid will apply.

- Participation in a minimum of four department productions in either a performance or technical capacity. One of these must be done as stage manager or assistant stage manager.

Course Requirements

Core (21 credit hours)

- PERF-251 Fundamentals of Acting I (3)
- PERF-260 Production I: Stagecraft (3)
- PERF-261 Production II: Introduction to Design (3)
- PERF-265 Theatre Practicum (1) (taken twice for a total of 2 credit hours)
- PERF-365 Theatre History I : from the Greeks to the Renaissance (3)
- PERF-366 Theatre History II: from Baroque to the End of the Nineteenth Century (3)
- PERF-440 Stage Management (1)
- PERF-445 Senior Capstone: Theatre (3)
- One of the following tracks:

Performance (27 credit hours)

Audition required

- PERF-252 Fundamentals of Acting II (3)
- PERF-350 Fundamentals of Acting III (3)
- PERF-355 Speech and Voice (3)
- PERF-450 Rotating Topics in Theatre (3) (taken two times for a total of 6 credit hours)
or
- PERF-490 Independent Study Project (3) (may be substituted for one PERF-450 topic)
- PERF-506 The Moving Body (3)
- PERF-552 Directing Techniques (3)
- PERF-556 Acting V: Audition Techniques (3)
- PERF-557 Creative Writers Performance Lab (3)

Design/Production (27 credit hours)

- ARTH-105 Art: The Historical Experience 1:1 (3)
- ARTS-100 Art: The Studio Experience 1:1 (3)
- PERF-362 Lighting Design (3)
- PERF-364 Basics of Scene and Costume Design (3)
- PERF-450 Rotating Topics in Theatre (3)
- PERF-490 Independent Study Project (3)
or
- PERF-491 Performing Arts: Internship (3)
- PERF-552 Directing Techniques (3)
- PERF-557 Creative Writers Performance Lab (3)
- additional area of specialty course approved by advisor (3)

Arts Management (27 credit hours)

- ACCT-240 Principles of Financial Accounting (3)
- ECON-100 Macroeconomics 4:1 (3)
- PERF-362 Lighting Design (3)
- or*
- PERF-364 Basics of Scene and Costume Design (3)
- PERF-450 Rotating Topics in Theatre (3) or other area of specialty course approved by advisor
- PERF-490 Independent Study Project (3)
- or*
- PERF-491 Performing Arts: Internship (3)
- PERF-552 Directing Techniques (3)
- PERF-557 Creative Writers Performance Lab (3)
- PERF-570 Survey of Arts Management (3)
- PERF-585 Creative Theories and Criticism of Performing Arts (3)

Theatre Arts (27 credit hours)

- PERF-252 Fundamentals of Acting II (3)
- PERF-355 Speech and Voice (3)
- or*
- PERF-506 The Moving Body (3)
- PERF-362 Lighting Design (3)

or

- PERF-364 Basics of Scene and Costume Design (3)
- PERF-552 Directing Techniques (3)
- PERF-557 Creative Writers Performance Lab (3)
- PERF-585 Creative Theories and Criticism of Performing Arts (3)
- 9 credit hours in additional area of specialty courses approved by advisor

University Honors Program

All University Honors students must complete at least 12 credit hours of advanced-level (300-level and above) Honors courses including a 3 to 6 credit hour Honors Senior Capstone Project. Students may graduate with University Honors in the major if they complete at least 12 advanced-level Honors courses including the Senior Capstone Project in the department. Each department has three levels of University Honors requirements: Level I Options (100-200-level Honors classes); Level II Options (300-level and above Honors classes); and Level III Options (Honors Senior Capstone). The department Honors coordinator advises students in the University Honors Program regarding departmental options. For more information, go to www.american.edu/academic.depts/honors/.

Minor in Dance

- 24 credit hours with grades of C or better with at least 12 credit hours unique to the minor
Students intending to pursue the dance minor must be assigned a departmental advisor. Students must achieve some proficiency in dance performance. Required levels of proficiency are decided individually in conference with the director of the dance program, and take into account the student's interests, background, and abilities in dance.

Course Requirements

- PERF-305 History and Philosophy of Dance I: 15th–19th Centuries (3) *or*
PERF-306 History and Philosophy of Dance II: 20th Century (3)
- PERF-411 Composition of Dance I (3) *or*
PERF-412 Composition of Dance II (3)
- PERF-506 The Moving Body (3)
- PERF-507 Principles of Movement (3)
- 12 credit hours in dance electives

Minor in Music

- 21 credit hours with grades of C or better with at least 12 credit hours unique to the minor

Course Requirements

Performance

- PERF-124 Harmony I (3) *and* PERF-125 Harmony II (3) *or*
PERF-227 Musicianship I (3) *and*
PERF-228 Musicianship II (3)
- PERF-322 History of Music I: from Antiquity to 1700 (3) *or*
PERF-323 History of Music II: from 1700 to the Present (3)
- Three semesters of MUS-122 Private Study (2) for a total of 6 credit hours
- 6 credit hours in music electives at the 300 level or above

Theory/History

- PERF-124 Harmony I (3) *and* PERF-125 Harmony II (3) *or*
PERF-227 Musicianship I (3) *and*
PERF-228 Musicianship II (3)
- PERF-322 History of Music I: from Antiquity to 1700 (3) *or*
PERF-323 History of Music II: from 1700 to the Present (3)
- 12 credit hours of music electives at the 300 level or above

Minor in Theatre

- 22 credit hours with grades of C or better with at least 12 credit hours unique to the minor
Students intending to pursue the theatre minor must be assigned a departmental advisor.

Course Requirements

- PERF-251 Fundamentals of Acting I (3)
- PERF-260 Production I: Stagecraft (3)
- PERF-261 Production II: Introduction to Design (3)
- PERF-265 Theatre Practicum (1)
- PERF-365 Theatre History I : from the Greeks to the Renaissance (3)
- PERF-366 Theatre History II: from Baroque to the End of the Nineteenth Century (3)
- One of the following:
PERF-450 Rotating Topics in Theatre (3)
PERF-552 Directing Techniques (3)
PERF-557 Creative Writers' Performance Laboratory (3)
- One of the following:
PERF-350 Fundamentals of Acting III (3)
PERF-362 Lighting Design (3)
PERF-364 Basics of Scene and Costume Design (3)

M.A. in Performing Arts: Arts Management

Admission to the Program

In addition to meeting the minimum university requirements for graduate study, applicants must have completed at least nine undergraduate courses in theatre, dance, music, or visual arts, one-third of which must be advanced work or its equivalent. Equivalent training is understood to be four or more years' experience in a professional company or organization. Students applying to the program with this background will be asked for an interview. Two letters of recommendation and Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores are required. Provisional admission may be granted and is removed at the completion of 12 credit hours of course work with a minimum grade point average of 3.00.

Degree Requirements

- 45 credit hours of approved graduate work
- Advancement to candidacy on completing 12 to 18 credit hours with a grade point average of 3.00 or higher, removing any undergraduate deficiencies, and with the written recommendation of the student's faculty advisor
- A four-hour comprehensive examination covering three areas: arts management, and two areas of specialization
- 6 credit hours from one of the following with grades of B or better:
Non-thesis option:
PERF-702 Masters Portfolio Seminar
PERF-793 Directed Research in the Arts
Thesis option: PERF-797 Master's Thesis Seminar

Course Requirements

- PERF-570 Survey of Arts Management (3)
- PERF-571 Marketing in the Arts (3)
- PERF-585 Creative Theories and Criticism in Performing Arts (3)
- PERF-673 Fund Raising Management for the Arts (3)
- PERF-674 Financial Management in the Arts (3)
- PERF-691 Performing Arts: Internship (1-6)
or
PERF-692 Cooperative Education Field Experience (3-6)
- 6 credit hours from the following:
PERF-702 Masters Portfolio Seminar (1-6)
PERF-793 Directed Research in the Arts (1-6)
PERF-797 Master's Thesis Seminar (1-6)
- 6 credit hours in approved arts-related nonmanagerial courses
- 12 credit hours in approved elective courses including business administration, communication, and public administration

Graduate Certificate in Arts Management

Admission to the Program

Open to students with a bachelor's degree or equivalent from an accredited institution. Applicants must have completed nine or more courses in theatre, dance, music, or visual arts, one third of which should be advanced work or equivalent training. Equivalent training is four or more years' experience in a professional organization. Students are encouraged to schedule a personal interview with the program director.

Certificate Requirements

- 15 credit hours of approved course work with at least 6 credit hours at the 600-level or above, with grades of C or better
Grades of C- or D in certificate program courses are not accepted toward the fulfillment of certificate requirements, although these grades will be included in the calculation of the GPA. Students must have at least a 3.0 GPA in certificate courses in order to be awarded a certificate. Students in certificate programs must take a minimum of 6 credit hours during each 12-month period and complete the certificate in four years. International students must enroll in 9 credit hours each semester (except for summer). A maximum of 3 credit hours earned at an accredited college or university may be applied toward the certificate as transfer credit.

Course Requirements

- PERF-570 Survey of Arts Management (3)
- PERF-571 Marketing in the Arts (3)
- PERF-672 Rotating Topics in Arts Management (3) (two courses for a total of 6 credit hours)
- PERF-673 Fund-Raising Management for the Arts (3)
or
PERF-585 Creative Theories and Criticism in Performing Arts (3)