

# Department of Commercial Music

---

## Mission

To prepare students personally and professionally for careers in the music industry, the Department of Commercial Music focuses on development and integration of skills in the areas of music business, composition and arranging, live and studio performance, and audio recording and production. The combination of internship opportunities, an ever-growing network of working APU alumni, and faculty who are experienced professionals offers students access to strategic links within the Los Angeles music industry.

## Department Overview

The department emphasizes preparation for careers in the ever-changing music industry. The department's commercial music major (<http://catalog.apu.edu/academics/college-arts/school-music/commercial-music/commercial-music-bm/>) program prepares students for careers in the Christian and secular commercial music industries, producing broadly prepared musicians who possess the skills required for a variety of careers in commercial music and who are able to learn and adapt to new skills and practices in an ever-changing field. Coursework focuses on music business, commercial composition and arranging, audio recording technology, and instrumental and vocal performance. Students pursuing this degree select from one of five tracks: Audio Recording, Composing/Arranging, Instrumental Performance, Music Business, and Vocal Performance.

The department offers a Master of Arts in Music Industry (<http://catalog.apu.edu/academics/college-arts/school-music/commercial-music/music-industry-ma/>) program, emphasizing preparation for careers in the ever-changing music industry. Coursework focuses on music business, commercial composition and arranging, audio recording technology, and instrumental and vocal performance.

## Experiential Learning Expectation

The integration of academic learning and practical experience is an essential component of earning an undergraduate or graduate degree in the Department of Commercial Music. Domestic and international undergraduate and graduate students are encouraged to work as professional musicians (e.g., choral and instrumental directors, vocal and instrumental performers, private teachers, etc.) while completing their degree, and all students are required to gain performing experience each semester. On- and off-campus performances are acceptable.

## Accreditation

- All Azusa Pacific University programs are accredited by the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC) (<https://www.wscuc.org>).
- Azusa Pacific University's School of Music is an accredited institutional member of the National Association of Schools of Music (NASM) (<https://nasm.arts-accredit.org/>).