

Department of Music Studies

Mission

The Department of Music Studies prepares students to be complete musicians with transformative programs of study that emphasize integrative practices for the analysis and synthesis of musical concepts as they apply to music itself, to the relation of music and culture, and to the musical vocations.

Department Overview

The Department of Music Studies encompasses programs in music composition and theory, music education, and worship. Coursework in musicianship and musicology is required of all music majors. The department offers the composition major (<http://catalog.apu.edu/academics/college-arts/school-music/music-studies/composition-bm/>), music education (pre-teacher certification) major (<http://catalog.apu.edu/academics/college-arts/school-music/music-studies/music-education-bm/>), music major with an emphasis in music theory (<http://catalog.apu.edu/academics/college-arts/school-music/music-studies/music-theory-ba/>), music and worship major (<http://catalog.apu.edu/academics/college-arts/school-music/music-studies/music-worship-bm/>), music minor (<http://catalog.apu.edu/academics/college-arts/school-music/music-studies/music-minor/>), and the worship leadership minor (<http://catalog.apu.edu/academics/college-arts/school-music/music-studies/music-worship-minor/>).

The Department of Music Studies also houses the Master of Music in Composition (<http://catalog.apu.edu/academics/college-arts/school-music/music-studies/composition-mm/>) and Master of Music Education (<http://catalog.apu.edu/academics/college-arts/school-music/music-studies/music-education-mme/>) programs.

Experiential Learning

The integration of academic learning and practical experience is an essential component of earning an undergraduate or graduate degree in the Department of Music Studies. Domestic and international undergraduate and graduate students are encouraged to work as professional musicians (e.g., choral and instrumental directors, composers, teaching assistants, worship leaders, 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/>).

Requirements Common to All Master's Degree Candidates

Comprehensive Master's Degree Exit Exam

A comprehensive master's-level exit exam must be taken and passed in the last semester of a student's degree coursework in order to graduate with a master's degree from Azusa Pacific University's School of Music.

Grade-Point Average

Degree candidates must maintain a 3.0 GPA for the duration of their time in the master's degree program.

Recital Performance

Degree candidates in performance, conducting, and composition must present a graduate recital. Performances (other than those presented at Azusa Pacific University) proposed to meet this requirement must be requested through the petition process and submitted to the graduate associate dean of the School of Music. Degree candidates in music education are not required to present a graduate recital. In the case of a student who is taking instruction in more than one applied area, recital performance is required only in the primary applied area.

Applied Music

1. Degree candidates in conducting, performance, and composition are required to take at least 8 units in one applied area.
2. Students must take at least 1 unit of applied lessons each semester, even if the minimum number of units for their emphasis has been met.
3. Any student wishing to take more than 2 units of applied lessons in one semester must have written permission from the associate dean or dean of the School of Music in the form of an in-house petition.
4. Jury examinations are required each semester for all students taking private lessons.
5. All students, in conjunction with the instructor, are responsible for selecting an accompanist for juries by the indicated deadlines. There are three ways to select an accompanist:

- a. Faculty may request an accompanist, with the Accompanist Request Form available in the School of Music office, by the indicated deadlines.
 - b. Faculty may request a specific accompanist, with the Accompanist Request Form available in the School of Music office, by the indicated deadlines.
 - c. If no Accompanist Request Form is submitted, or is requested after the indicated deadlines, faculty are responsible to make arrangements for their students.
6. Private Lessons:
- a. Grades for private lessons are issued based on a minimum of 12 lessons per semester. The grade will be lowered if the student attends fewer than the minimum of 12 lessons. Additionally, if the student does not meet the annual mandatory solo performance requirement, an *F* will be assigned for the spring semester applied grade.
 - b. A department representative will assign an instructor.
 - c. When the student is ill and notifies the teacher in advance, a makeup lesson will be rescheduled if possible. "No-show" students do not receive makeup lessons.

Learn more about the School of Music. (<https://www.apu.edu/music/>)