Program Description

The Bachelor of Music with Elective Studies in Business is designed for students who desire a career within the music industry. The comprehensive core curriculum in music includes courses in theory, history, literature, music technology, improvisation, applied study on the major instrument or voice, and ensemble performance. Also included are specialized courses in Music Industry and Marketing, Entrepreneurship, Arts Management, Electronic Music, and Advanced Music Technology. Required business courses include options in the areas of Marketing, Management, Accounting, Economics, and the Legal Environment of Business. Finally, an internship component provides the opportunity for students to gain real-world experience in the music industry areas of their choice. Professional success in the musical arts requires a comprehensive understanding of the new business models at work in our digital world. Our program seeks to provide this up-to-date information to enhance success for the student at every level.

The Bachelor of Music Performance is designed for those students who desire a performance-focused career. A strong core curriculum of musicianship courses includes music theory, history, literature, pedagogy, ensemble performance, and applied study. These courses develop students’ abilities and prepare them to perform in a plethora of venues and genres such as symphony orchestras, chamber ensembles, armed forces ensembles, musical theaters, opera, and countless entertainment venues. As a musician in the 21st Century, this degree also seeks to create excellent performers who "create their own future and not simply enter a future that's been created for them." A second goal of this program is to train musicians with current skills so they have the ability to make their own opportunities, shape their careers like entrepreneurs, produce their own performances, collaborate with artists from other genres and art forms, and perform at a high artistic level. Training in the following areas will assist performers to create a meaningful career in music: Creating and Leveraging a Personal Network, Executing an Action Plan, Identifying Entrepreneurial Opportunities in Music and the Creative Sector, Interdisciplinary Collaborations, E Marketing your Music, Creating an Artist's Digital Portfolio, Video Marketing, Independent Business Website.

The Bachelor of Music Education (K-12) degree provides students with the knowledge, skills, and musicianship to become successful music educators. Studies in music theory, history, literature, ensemble performance, and applied study give the student a strong foundation on which to build a successful teaching career. Classes in conducting, instrumental, choral, and elementary techniques as well as music education philosophy develop the skills and knowledge needed for a rewarding career as a K-12 educator. These skills and knowledge are applied during field experiences as well as during the student teaching internship. As a student, you will gradually accumulate over 200 hours of classroom experience before beginning student teaching. School districts throughout Colorado provide opportunities to gain experience with children of all ages and backgrounds in a variety of school settings.

The Bachelor of Arts in Music is a liberal arts degree with a breadth of general studies in English, Math, Humanities, Natural Sciences, History, Social and Behavioral Sciences and Fine Arts. Combined with courses in music theory, music history and literature, ensembles and applied studies, this curriculum provides a strong foundation that is integrated with 25 course credits of the student's choosing, allowing the flexibility to creatively design a personalized degree program. Students in this major have the ability to create a curriculum tailored to their strengths and career interests that can focus on traditional music, contemporary commercial music, their own musical compositions, or an interdisciplinary program of study designed by the student.

The minor in instrumental music offers students in other majors the opportunity to stay involved with music in college, gaining experience and skills in music lessons, ensembles, and academics. The minor includes three years of ensembles and lessons on an applied instrument; academic courses in music theory, appreciation, and literature; as well as an upper-division elective.

The vocal music minor provides training and performance opportunities for students seeking music development in voice as their secondary area of study. Fundamental studies in piano, music reading and theory, two years of voice lessons, three years of performing in choral ensembles, studies in diction and conducting and performance training in opera scenes comprise this minor. Audition for acceptance into the vocal minor is required.

The jazz studies minor provides the opportunity for students to obtain a comprehensive set of fundamental skills in the jazz area, including large-ensemble performance, small-group performance, improvisation, composition and arranging, history and literature, and private instruction. Music majors who add this minor will broaden their skill set and marketability beyond the classical music area, and non-music majors may add this minor as a secondary area of study. Entrance to the jazz studies minor requires an audition and prior jazz experience.

Special Requirements

Students seeking admittance as a music major must pass a performance audition, a music theory placement exam, and a piano proficiency assessment. Admission to Colorado Mesa University does not guarantee admission into a music degree program. Prospective music majors should consult the music department website or contact the music department for information about audition material and scheduling an audition with the faculty in their area of interest.

Following the audition, students will be notified of audition results. Students admitted as new music majors will be assigned an advisor and should plan to attend an orientation, registration and advising session. If the advisor is unavailable, students should contact the Department Head of Music.

Contact Information

Department of Music
Moss Performing Arts Center 141
970.248.1233

Programs of Study

Bachelors/Minors

- Education: Music Education K-12 (BME)
- Music Performance: Instrumental (BM)
- Music Performance: Keyboard (BM)
- Music Performance: Vocal (BM)
- Music with Elective Studies in Business (BM)
- Music: Commercial Music (BA)
- Music: Instrumental (Minor)
- Music: Jazz Studies (Minor)
• Music: Liberal Arts (BA)
• Music: Vocal (Minor)