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 the student’s abilities and prepare them to perform in a plethora of venues. As a musician in the 21st Century, this degree also seeks to create excellent performers who create their own future. This program will train musicians with professional skills 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: identifying entrepreneurial opportunities in music and the creative sector, interdisciplinary collaborations, e-marketing your music, creating an artist’s digital portfolio, video marketing, and independent business website.

The Music Education K-12 degree provides students with the knowledge, skills, and musicianship to become successful music educators in their intended career path (instrumental, vocal/choral, elementary music). Based on area of specialization, a student will choose Option 1: Instrumental and Keyboard Focus, or Option 2: Vocal Focus. Within these options, students take specific courses appropriate to their specialization in literature, instrumental techniques, advanced conducting, and teaching special ensembles. In addition to instrumental methods and two instrumental techniques courses, vocal majors take two courses in diction and vocal pedagogy to strengthen their knowledge and skill in the vocal/choral area of specialization.

The Bachelor of Arts in Music: Liberal Arts (Commercial Music) is a liberal arts degree focused on jazz and commercial music 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 business, music theory, contemporary music history and literature, commercial ensembles and applied studies, this curriculum provides a strong foundation as well as courses specifically tailored to jazz and commercial music.

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 Music 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 Music Minor requires an audition and prior jazz experience.

Special Requirements

Students seeking admittance as a music major or minor 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.

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)