MUSIC THEORY, BM

Students entering this program should have a strong background in music. This should include performance experience with a specific instrument or voice type.

Admission into the Major

In order to declare a major in music theory, students must submit a writing sample and a statement of career goals and must take an exam on music fundamentals. To begin the application process, students must fill out a separate Audition Request Form, which is available online at http://music.ua.edu/apply-audition/. Upon successful review of the materials, students are expected to declare a major formally no later than the fourth semester of full-time enrollment (or at 61 semester hours for transfer students). Students can declare a major by completing the Change of Major/Minor Application online under the Student tab of myBama.

Students earning the bachelor of music (BM) degree with a major in theory must complete all University, College and departmental degree requirements. These include the general education requirements, the following major requirements and other sufficient credits to total a minimum of 129 applicable semester hours.

Code and Title		Hours	
Major Courses	s		
MUS 115	Theory I: Voice Leading	4	
MUS 117	Theory II: Diatonic Harmony	4	
MUS 215	Theory III: Chromatic Harmony	4	
MUS 217	Theory IV: Advanced Harmony	4	
MUS 219	Composition I	2	
MUS 250	Music In World Cultures	3	
MUS 251	Music History I	3	
MUS 252	Music History II	3	
MUS 300	Readings in Music Theory	2	
MUS 303	16th-Century Counterpoint	3	
MUS 304	18th-Century Counterpoint I	3	
MUS 307	Form And Analysis	3	
MUS 323	Music History III	3	
MUS 325	Instrumentation	3	
MUS 351	Fund Of Conducting	2	
MUS 403	18th-Century Counterpoint II	3	
MUS 418	Schenkerian Analysis	3	
MUS 426	Analysis of 20th-Century Music	3	
MUS 492 or	Choral Conducting	2	
MUS 494	Band Conducting		
MUS electives	300 or 400 level	3	
MUA 010	Music Convocation ((five semesters))	0	
Select four of	the following:	8	
MUA 121 Class Piano I & MUA 122 and Class Piano II & MUA 123 and Class Piano III & MUA 124 and Class Piano IV or MUA 299 Piano Proficiency			
	(four semesters)	4	

Total Hours		76.5-77
MUA ensembles (four semesters)		4
MUA 231	Piano (Secondary)	0.5-1

Grade Point Average

A 2.0 grade point average in the major is required for completion of the degree. Please see the Grades and Grade Points section of this catalog for an explanation on grade point average calculations.

Upper-level Residency

A minimum of 12 hours of 300- or 400-level courses in the major must be earned on this campus.

Required Minor

The music theory major does not require the completion of a minor.

Additional Major Requirements

MUS 121 Intro To Listening does not satisfy the fine arts (FA) general education requirement for music majors. Theory majors may audition for status as "principals" in any instrument or voice. Principal status qualifies the student for two hours of credit per semester instead of the usual one hour. No more than 10 hours or fewer than two hours may be taken in any single instrument or family of instruments. Students who do not qualify as piano principals must enroll for that instrument during every semester. The Seminar in Music Theory Research is normally taken during the second semester of the student's sophomore year. During the senior year, theory majors must present, to the satisfaction of the theory faculty, a paper delivered as a lecture based on research done under the supervision of theory faculty.

Students are responsible for ensuring that they have met all University, College, major and minor requirements. However, each student must meet with an adviser in the major department for academic planning and to be approved for registration each semester. College advisers are also available for additional assistance with minor, College and University requirements.

MUA Applied Courses

Students must earn a minimum of four hours and four semesters in a single instrument or voice chosen from:

Code and Title			Hours
	MUA 231	Piano (Secondary)	1
	MUA 232	Organ (Secondary)	1
	MUA 233	Harpsichord (Secondary)	1
	MUA 234	Voice (Secondary)	1
	MUA 235	Violin (Secondary)	1
	MUA 236	Viola (Secondary)	1
	MUA 237	Cello (Secondary)	1
	MUA 238	Double Bass (Secondary)	1
	MUA 239	Flute (Secondary)	1
	MUA 240	Oboe (Secondary)	1
	MUA 241	Bassoon (Secondary)	1
	MUA 242	Clarinet (Secondary)	1
	MUA 243	Saxophone (Secondary)	1
	MUA 244	Trumpet (Secondary)	1

MUA 245	French Horn (Secondary)	1
MUA 246	Trombone (Secondary)	1
MUA 247	Euphonium (Secondary)	1
MUA 248	Tuba (Secondary)	1
MUA 249	Percussion (Secondary)	1

MUA Ensemble Courses

Four semesters of ensembles should be chosen from the following courses:

Code and Title	2	Hours
MUA 150	Huxford Symphony Orchestra	1
MUA 250	Huxford Symphony Orchestra	1
MUA 350	Huxford Symphony Orchestra	1
MUA 450	Huxford Symphony Orchestra	1
MUA 152	Wind Ensemble	1
MUA 252	Wind Ensemble	1
MUA 352	Wind Ensemble	1
MUA 452	Wind Ensemble	1
MUA 154	Symphonic Band	1
MUA 254	Symphonic Band	1
MUA 354	Symphonic Band	1
MUA 454	Symphonic Band	1
MUA 156	Percussion Ensemble	1
MUA 256	Percussion Ensemble	1
MUA 356	Percussion Ensemble	1
MUA 456	Percussion Ensemble	1
MUA 158	Contemporary Ensemble	1
MUA 258	Contemporary Ensemble	1
MUA 358	Contemporary Ensemble	1
MUA 458	Contemporary Ensemble	1
MUA 159	Jazz Ensembles	1
MUA 259	Jazz Ensemble	1
MUA 359	Jazz Ensembles	1
MUA 459	Jazz Ensemble	1
MUA 162	University Chorus	1
MUA 262	University Chorus	1
MUA 362	University Chorus	1
MUA 462	University Chorus	1
MUA 163	University Singers	1
MUA 263	University Singers	1
MUA 363	University Singers	1
MUA 463	University Singers	1

Career opportunities include full-time work as a performing musician, full-time opportunities as a licensed music therapist, and many other avenues within the music industry.

Types of Jobs Accepted

Recent graduates from The University of Alabama are very successful in major symphony orchestras, military bands, jazz, as freelancers, and as working music therapists.

Learn more about opportunities in this field at the Career Center