Music

The School of Performing Arts (http://www.isu.edu/sopa) is comprised of the music, theatre, and dance disciplines. The goal of the School is to provide the highest quality education and performance activities to those whom it serves. We are located in the Stephens Performing Arts Center, as well as the Fine Arts building (for most music courses), and the Red Hill Building (for most dance courses).

Program Description | Type | Degree
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Music, B.M. (http://coursecat.isu.edu/undergraduate/artsandletters/music/bachelor-of-music) | Degree | B.M.
Music, B.A. or B.S. (http://coursecat.isu.edu/undergraduate/artsandletters/music/ba-bs-music) | Degree | B.A. or B.S.
Music, Minor (http://coursecat.isu.edu/undergraduate/artsandletters/music/minor-music) | Minor | 

Music Program

The Department of Music (see also https://www.isu.edu/music/) offers programs leading to Bachelor of Music, Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science, Bachelor of Music Education, and Master’s of Education (Music Education) degrees. Students who major in music take courses that provide a broad cultural background for careers in music teaching, performance, graduate study and music-related work. Membership in organized music groups, including Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, Marching Band, Symphony Orchestra, Concert Choir, ISU Women’s Choir, Jazz Bands, Chamber Choir, Opera Workshop, and a variety of small woodwind, brass, percussion, string, vocal, and keyboard ensembles, is open to all university students. ISU’s music department provides a wide variety of experiences and opportunities to work with dedicated faculty and guest artists, in an unparalleled state-of-the-art performance facility touted as one of the best in the nation.

Accreditation

The Idaho State University Department of Music is an accredited institutional member of the National Association of Schools of Music (NASM). Its music education program is also accredited by regional and state accrediting agencies.

Goals and Objectives

The Department of Music at Idaho State University has the following goals:

1. To offer instruction of the highest possible quality to music students;
2. To provide an atmosphere of professional experiences in music, including concerts, master classes, and guest artists;
3. To prepare professional musicians for careers in teaching and/or performance;
4. To offer courses and musical experiences as an element of cultural enrichment for students who do not major in music;
5. To provide opportunities for continued participation by all university students in various performing ensembles and other musical activities; and
6. To exhibit a strong posture in community service through co-sponsorship and promotion of music cultural events.

The student-related outcome objectives relating to these goals are as follows:

1. Students will gain professional level performing experience in a variety of settings including large ensemble, small ensemble, and solo performance. These performance experiences will culminate in the presentation of a solo recital in the senior year.
2. Students will gain a broad understanding of the history of music, focusing primarily upon Western musical culture, but also including an overview of world musics. Students will gain an understanding of how music functions within society and culture.
3. Students will gain a broad understanding of music theory, including part writing, analysis, and composition.
4. Students will develop ear training skills, including the abilities to hear and notate pitch, intervals, chords, and rhythms. Students will be able to hear and identify procedures and large scale structures that are used in music.
5. Students, especially those in the Bachelor of Music Education degree, will gain knowledge and experience in the art of teaching music.
6. Students will gain and be able to display basic competencies on piano, including performance, sight reading, transposition, harmonization, and proper piano technique.

Performing Organizations

Membership in organized music groups is open to all university students subject to approval of the respective directors. All ensembles listed below may be repeated at any time without limitation. However, only 8 credits of music ensembles can be counted toward graduation credit hour requirements. All music majors are required to participate in a large ensemble (band, orchestra, choir) as a portion of their applied music study. **Separate participation in chamber ensembles is expected during the degree program, and a chamber ensemble performance is required as a portion of the student’s senior recital program.

Applied Music—Private Lessons

Private lessons are offered in band and orchestral instruments, voice, piano, percussion, and classical guitar for 1-3 credits each semester.

A special music fee is charged for enrollment in applied music. Students taking applied music lessons pay fees currently set at $175, $240, and $350, depending on the level and length of the lessons. Please see the Class Schedule for the applicable fee under Applied Music Lessons.

Students desiring to major or minor in music will normally be classified as entering freshmen in the 1000 level of the series. All music majors must pass the department’s Junior Standing Exam in applied music (usually taken at the end of the sophomore year) and register for, and pass, a minimum of 2 semesters at the 3000 level and 1-2 semesters at the 4000 level. Music Education students will take applied music for 1 credit per semester; Music Performance students will take applied music for 2-3 credits per semester. The courses in this section all use the MUSA prefix.
Piano Placement Exams

These tests serve to determine the specific semester and section of class piano or private instruction to which a student will be admitted. All music majors must successfully complete the department’s required piano proficiency to graduate. Credits in MUSC 1118, MUSC 1119, MUSC 2218, MUSC 2219, or MUSA 1120 may be used toward passing the piano proficiency. The student must register for piano or piano class each semester until passing the proficiency exam.

Special Graduation Requirements

1. An overall accumulative grade point average of 2.0 for all University courses is required for graduation. The Music Department requires a Music GPA of 2.5 as a standard for graduation. An additional requirement is that a music major or minor must earn no less than a “C-” grade in each music course. Furthermore, at least a “C-” grade must be received to advance to another course for which the earlier course is a prerequisite, or to advance to the next level of a continuation course.

2. All Music majors must pass the department’s Junior Standing Exam (usually taken at the end of the sophomore year) and register for, and pass, applied music lessons, a minimum of 2 semesters at the 3000 level, and 1-2 semesters at the 4000 level.

Music Department Handbook

A handbook is available online at https://www.isu.edu/media/libraries/school-of-performing-arts/music/music-handbook.pdf, which describes more completely the facilities, policies, course sequencing, and departmental operations. Prospective students and music majors/minors are urged to become familiar with its contents.

Faculty (http://coursecat.isu.edu/undergraduate/artsandletters/music/faculty)

Music Courses (http://coursecat.isu.edu/undergraduate/allcourses/musc)

Music: Applied Lesson Courses (http://coursecat.isu.edu/undergraduate/allcourses/musa)

Music: General Education Courses (http://coursecat.isu.edu/undergraduate/allcourses/musi)

Music: Performance Courses (http://coursecat.isu.edu/undergraduate/allcourses/musp)

Admission

All prospective music majors/minors and transfer students must contact the department office prior to their first semester’s registration to be assigned a departmental advisor and take diagnostic placement tests and performance auditions. Acceptance as a music major/minor is dependent upon auditions and these examinations. Examinations should be taken before or during the week preceding classwork.

Performance Auditions

These auditions will include technique demonstration and repertoire performance.

Theory Placement Exam

This exam will determine the specific semester of music theory to which a student will be assigned.