

PLANNING BENCHMARKS – MUSIC MAJORS & MINORS

Music Majors and Minors are strongly encouraged to schedule at least one advising appointment per semester with Prof. Roger Zahab or Dr. Susan Rice. Once Music Majors have completed all Core Courses, they should be in regular contact with their assigned Track Advisor.

FRESHMAN YEAR: 7-8 semesters until graduation

- If you have no formal training in music theory or piano, consider enrolling in MUSIC 0121: Basic Musicianship: Class Piano (does not count toward the Music Major or Minor)
- Enroll in MUSIC 0100: Fundamentals of Western Music – this course is a prerequisite for the Music Major and Music Minor (you must score a minimum of B- and may not declare the Major or Minor until you have met this requirement)
- Enroll in a 1.0 credit Performance Course – you may choose to audition for an ensemble (0600 level courses) or to take private lessons (0500 level courses)
- Familiarize yourself with the 5 Music Major tracks and the associated coursework – the 5 Tracks are: Composition, Global & Popular Music, Jazz, Music & Cultural History, and Performance
- Familiarize yourself with the Music Minor and its coursework. Does this program best match your interest and curiosity in music and act as a complement to a major that you're considering?
- Schedule an appointment with Prof. Roger Zahab (Director of Undergraduate Studies) or Dr. Susan Rice (Associate Director of Undergraduate Studies) to explore how your interests best align to the Music Major or Minor curriculum.
- Enroll in MUSIC 0411: Theory 1 after passing the Theory Placement Test (at the Dietrich School Advising Center, 201 Thackeray Hall) or receiving a grade of B- or better in MUSIC 0100: Fundamentals of Western Music
- Investigate the *Music Living and Learning Community* to meet students with similar interests and participate in programs that might expand your curiosity
- Attend a variety of performances on campus (Music Department ensembles and soloists, as well as guest artists), in the Cultural District downtown, and throughout the city and region. *The Pitt Arts program* makes it easy to attend concerts, theatre, dance, and museums for free or at a significantly reduced cost. Go to studentaffairs.pitt.edu/pittarts

SOPHOMORE YEAR: 5-6 semesters until graduation

- Enroll in MUSIC 0412: Musicianship 1 during fall semester and MUSIC 0416: Musicianship 2 during spring semester. These two courses are required for all tracks of the Music Major and the Minor and are most successfully taken during consecutive semesters. (0412 is also offered during spring semester and 0416 during fall semester if you encounter scheduling difficulties with the traditional semester sequence.)
- Enroll in Core Courses - these are required by the Music Minor and all the Music Major tracks and will help you to determine which is the best fit for your interests.
- If you're considering one of the Major tracks, establish relationships with Music professors and graduate students whose work interests you.
- Schedule an appointment with Prof. Roger Zahab (Director of Undergraduate Studies) or Dr. Susan Rice (Associate Director of Undergraduate Studies) to explore how your interests best align to the Music Major or Minor curriculum.
- Visit *Thackeray Hall* to complete the paperwork to declare the Music Major or Music Minor. Be certain to indicate your chosen Track in the Music Major.
- If you've decided to pursue one of the Music Major tracks, remember that all Core Courses and the majority of Required Courses for your track must be completed before you register for MUSIC 1904: Senior Seminar during fall semester of your senior year.
- Map your course registration at least 2 semesters in advance and meet once per semester with Prof. Zahab (Majors) or Dr. Rice (Minors) to update your information and confirm the sequence of your planned courses.

- Continue to participate in Performance Courses and explore non-curricular performance opportunities on your own or with other students through extracurricular activities in music and related arts
- Begin thinking about internship opportunities
- Explore the services offered at the *Career Development & Placement Assistance Office* (it's not just resume crafting, although you should be doing that now, too!). Check out careers.pitt.edu and complete your profile survey on Handshake
- Attend the *Majors & Minors Expo*. If you've decided on a Music Major track but haven't yet identified a related area to study or a second major/minor/certificate program to pursue, this is a great place to talk with professors and pick up information
- Investigate the options for *Study Abroad* or other ways to travel internationally. Click on abroad.pitt.edu to check out programs, costs and scholarship opportunities
- Consider developing a research project from a topic that interests you. *The Office of Undergraduate Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity* offers fellowships to fund your ideas. Learn more at asundergrad.pitt.edu/our
- Attend a variety of performances on campus (Music Department ensembles and soloists, as well as guest artists), in the Cultural District downtown, and throughout the city and region. *The Pitt Arts program* makes it easy to attend concerts, theatre, dance, and museums for free or at a significantly reduced cost. (studentaffairs.pitt.edu/pittarts)
- Spend some time volunteering during the academic year or the summer months. These experiences can build your resume as well as helping to focus your interests and skills.
- Travel as much as possible. Challenge yourself to engage with art forms and musical styles that are unfamiliar or aren't immediately comfortable. Strive for breadth as well as depth in your artistic experiences!

JUNIOR YEAR: 3-4 semesters until graduation

- Complete all Core Courses and the majority of all Required Courses for your Music Major track by the end of this year.
- Map your course registration at least 2 semesters in advance and meet once per semester with Prof. Zahab (Majors) or Dr. Rice (Minors) to update your information and confirm the sequence of your planned courses.
- Consider what you want to accomplish by the time you graduate. Do you want to study abroad? Complete an independent research project? Perform a recital or have your compositions read or performed? After you've given this some thought, make an appointment with your Track Advisor to talk through the frameworks available to you.
- Explore the services offered at the *Career Development & Placement Assistance Office* (careers.pitt.edu). You should have a professional resume crafted by now and should be having conversations about internship opportunities.
- Continue to develop and maintain strong relationships with Music department faculty members.
- Continue to participate in Performance Courses and explore non-curricular performance opportunities on your own or with other students through extracurricular activities in music and related arts
- Consider developing a research project from a topic that interests you. *The Office of Undergraduate Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity* offers fellowships – go to asundergrad.pitt.edu/our
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SENIOR YEAR: 1-2 semesters until graduation

- Music Majors (all tracks) enroll in MUSIC 1904: Senior Seminar in the fall semester
- Meet with your Track Advisor during fall semester to plan the topic and confirm the mentorship of a Music faculty member for your enrollment in MUSIC 1903: Senior Project in the spring semester.
- Apply for graduation. Are your requirements met for Major(s), Minor(s), Certificate Program(s) and General Education courses? Will you have enough credits to graduate?
 - for December graduation, **application deadline is in early July**
 - for April graduation, **application deadline is in early November**
- If you will be applying for jobs and other programs or applying for graduate schools, don't delay in starting your research and preparing your materials. Make a list of possible programs and then make an appointment with your Track Advisor. Who will write your recommendation letters? Have you made an appointment with the *Career Development & Placement Assistance Office* to talk with a Career Consultant? Have you met with other departmental advisors and faculty mentors (especially if you're a double major)?
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