

2025 - 2026 Old Dominion University Catalog

Bachelor of Music (BM) Music with a Major in Composition

Sample four year curriculum with a suggested ordering of courses. Students may re-order as needed.

** indicates not automatically waived with transferrable associates degree, C or better required for transfer.*

Courses in green are waived by the completion of an Associate degree (Not eligible for Applied Associate degrees).

| YEAR 1 - FRESHMAN (28-31 CREDITS) | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| FALL SEMESTER (13-16 credits) | <u>VCCS Equivalency:</u> | SPRING SEMESTER (15 credits) | <u>VCCS Equivalency:</u> |
| ENGL 110C (Grade of C or better required) | ENG 111* | Literature | Transfer Guide |
| Language & Culture I (French, German or Italian is strongly recommended) | Transfer Guide | Language & Culture I (French, German or Italian is strongly recommended) | Transfer Guide |
| Mathematical Skills | Transfer Guide | Human Creativity (May not use MUSC 264A or 126A) | Transfer Guide |
| MUSC 101 (1 credit) | | MUSC 102 (1 credit) | |
| MUSC 150 & 160 (2 credits) | | MUSC 222 (Grade of C or better required) | |
| MUSC 221 (Grade of C or better required) | | MUSC 224 (1 credit) (Grade of C or better required) | |
| MUSC 223 (1 credit) (Grade of C or better required) | | MUSC 266 (1 credit) | |
| MUSC 311+ | | MUSC 311+ | |
| Large Ensemble** | | Large Ensemble** | |
| YEAR 2 - SOPHOMORE (36 CREDITS) | | | |
| FALL SEMESTER (16 credits) | <u>VCCS Equivalency:</u> | SPRING SEMESTER (20 credits) | <u>VCCS Equivalency:</u> |
| ENGL 211C or 231C (Grade of C or better required) | ENG 112, 113, 115, 131* | Information Literacy and Research | Transfer Guide |
| Philosophy and Ethics | Transfer Guide | Human Behavior | Transfer Guide |
| Nature of Science I | Transfer Guide | Nature of Science II | Transfer Guide |
| MUSA 139 (1 credit) | | MUSA 140 (1 credit) | |
| MUSA 240 | | MUSA 232 | |
| MUSC 321 (2 credits)(Grade of C or better required) | | MUSC 335T (satisfies Impact of Technology) | |
| MUSC 323 (1 credit) (Grade of C or better required) | | MUSC 362W (Grade of C or better required) | |
| MUSC 311+ | | MUSC 311+ | |
| Large Ensemble** | | | |
| YEAR 3 - JUNIOR (30-31 CREDITS) | | | |
| FALL SEMESTER (16 credits) | <u>VCCS Equivalency:</u> | SPRING SEMESTER (14-15 credits) | <u>VCCS Equivalency:</u> |
| Interpreting the Past | Transfer Guide | Major Coursework: | |
| <u>Major Coursework:</u> | | MUSA 131 | |
| MUSA 130 | | MUSC 309 (1 credit) | |
| MUSA 331 | | MUSA 332 | |
| MUSC 361 (Grade of C- or better required) | | MUSC 336 | |
| MUSC 421 (2 credits) | | MUSC 422 (2 credits) | |
| Select One: MUSC 460, 461, 462, 491, 492, 495, or 496 | | Select One: MUSC 316, 322, 324, 337, 416, 425, or 440 | |
| MUSC 311+ | | MUSC 311+ | |
| Small Ensemble*** | | MUSC 424 (2 credits) | |
| YEAR 4 - SENIOR (26 CREDITS) | | | |
| FALL SEMESTER (12 credits) | <u>VCCS Equivalency:</u> | SPRING SEMESTER (14 credits) | <u>VCCS Equivalency:</u> |
| <u>Major Coursework:</u> | | <u>Major Coursework:</u> | |
| MUSA 230 (1 credit) | | MUSA 432 | |
| MUSA 431 | | Select One: MUSC 460, 461, 462, 491, 492, 495, or 496 | |
| MUSC 414 (2 credits) | | Small Ensemble*** | |
| MUSC 466 | | Electives (if needed) | |
| <u>Upper Division Gen. Ed. Coursework:</u> **** | | <u>Upper Division Gen. Ed. Coursework:</u> **** | |
| 300-/400-level Option D course | | 300-/400-level Option D course | |

Each student in composition will be required to pass a piano proficiency exam before being allowed to enroll as a composition major.

Composition majors are required to present a lecture-recital containing 30 minutes of original music.

Suggested Music Electives: MUSC 333, MUSC 337 (if not already taken as a Music Theory Elective), MUSC 397, MUSC 410, or MUSC 471.

***Students are required to earn credits through participating in ensembles appropriate to their specialties. Large ensembles include: symphonic band, wind ensemble, symphony orchestra, concert choir, and guitar ensemble.*

****Small ensembles may include: Madrigal Singers, Collegium Musicum, Opera and Musical Theater Production and Performance, brass choir, clarinet choir, flute choir, jazz choir, jazz orchestra, and chamber music groups of varied sizes and instrumentation (brass, woodwind, percussion, guitar, string, piano, mixed ensembles, etc.). Small ensemble offerings may vary each semester; check the class schedule for the latest ensemble availability.*

*****Upper Division General Education may be satisfied by several options. Consult your catalog and advisor for your best option.*

PLEASE NOTE: All Bachelor of Music, Composition majors are required to enroll in and pass MUSC 311+, the zero credit Recital Attendance class, for a total of six semesters in order to be eligible for graduation. Also, students must earn Usher Credit by ushering at a total of six approved events to be eligible for graduation. Refer to the MUSC 311+ syllabus and the Music Student Handbook for complete information.

NOTE: Transfer students are encouraged to use their summer semesters to ensure graduation in four years.

Requirements for graduation include a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.00 overall and in the major, a grade of C or better in all courses required for the major, including prerequisite courses, 120 credit hours, which must include both a minimum of 30 credit hours overall and 12 credit hours in upper-level courses in the major program from Old Dominion University, completion of ENGL 110C, ENGL 211C or 221C or 231C, and a writing intensive (W) course in the major with a grade of C or better, and completion of Senior Assessment.

This four-year plan is a suggested curriculum to complete this degree program in four years. It is just one of several plans that will work and is presented only as broad guidance to students.

Each student is strongly encouraged to develop a customized plan in consultation with their academic advisor. Additional information can also be found in Degree Works.