



**Western University**

London, Ontario

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# Overview

## Ways to Study

[Undergraduate music programs](#) are offered through the Don Wright Faculty of Music and represent a variety of disciplines and interests, including performance, popular music, education and administration. Music education students are guaranteed entrance into Western's Faculty of Education and there is a breadth of performance opportunities, both solo and in ensembles. Please use these links to read more about Western's [departments](#), [opportunities](#), [parent information](#), [scholarships](#) and [virtual open house](#).



## Location, Location, Location

The Don Wright Faculty of Music is located in Western's London campus, and students have access to facilities such as the [Paul Davenport Theatre](#) in Talbot College and [von Kuster Hall and Studio 242](#) in the Music Building. The Music Building has been recently renovated, with new practice rooms and other amenities. Music students also can access research and score resources in the dedicated [Music Library](#) in Talbot College.

## Life on Campus

Students at Western can participate in a [variety](#) of clubs and student societies, including ones focused on music. They can join the [A Capella Association](#), support important causes through their [Charity Chords](#) club or perform with the [UWO Choir](#) or [Chamber Music](#) clubs (which are not the same as the Faculty's ensembles). Students have access to Western's [Recreation Centre](#) (which houses its gym and pool), a variety of on-campus dining and the University Community Centre.

# Programs

## Bachelor of Music

The auditioned Bachelor of Music (BMus) is a music degree, in which all students take a common first year and then begin to specialize and diversify in upper years. Honours programs allow a special program of study which focuses on a given specialty (see below), beginning in third year. Students may choose to do a [general honours degree](#) or a [general BMus](#), which are similar but have slightly different progression requirements throughout the degree. All versions include private instrumental or vocal lessons, ensemble classes and require both music and non-music electives.

In first year, all students take music theory, history and musicianship (e.g. ear-training, keyboard harmony, sight-singing) courses. Additionally, students take a one-term course in music composition, teaching and learning or popular music and culture; a one-term elective from outside the Don Wright Faculty of Music; and another one-term elective that can be in either music or from outside of the Faculty. In second year, students continue taking theory, history and skills courses, and in third and fourth year concentrate more heavily on their area of study (below).

## Honours Specializations

- [Composition](#)
  - Students receive private composition lessons, and take specialty courses in arranging, electronic music and advanced theory.
- [Music Education](#)
  - Students take courses focused on education and teaching skills, including conducting, teaching different instruments and issues in education practice
- Music performance in [orchestral instruments](#) (including harp and guitar), [piano](#), and [voice](#).
  - Students receive recital opportunities, may be required to study chamber music and can explore other topics in music as part of their elective requirements.
- [Music Research](#)
  - Students are able to study topics in music within their research interests, including history, theory and popular music studies courses.

## Honours Bachelor of Arts (Music)

A non-auditioned Bachelor of Arts (BA), with either an [honours specialization](#) (9.0 credits) or [major](#) (6.0 credits) in music, provides students with a strong foundation for music study in first-year courses. They are able to customize their program in upper years. A strong background in either pop or classical music is recommended, and an interview and music theory assessment are requirements for admission.

## Bachelor of Arts (Popular Music)

This auditioned [BA program](#) allows students to explore a variety of aspects of the creative music industry, such as songwriting, project management and game scoring. Auditions are in popular music genres. With a focus on music production, students take standard first-year courses and specialize in second year. In fourth year students complete a capstone project which allows them to explore producing, distributing and marketing their music

## Bachelor of Arts (Music Administrative Studies)

An auditioned BA, the [program](#) is designed to prepare students for management positions in the music industry. This includes marketing, publishing, arts management, and production and distribution of music. Offered jointly with the Management and Organizational Studies (MOS) program at the Faculty of Social Science, it incorporates courses from both programs and electives which can either broaden your expertise or create a mini specialization in a field within music.

## Combined Degree Programs

This is a 5-year program, combining a Bachelor of Music (or other music degree) and a [BA in Honours Business Administration](#) (HBA) from Western or a diploma in [Music Industry Arts](#) (MIA) from Fanshawe College. Generally, students complete two years in the music program, then shift focus to the collaborative program for third year, finishing years four and five with a combination of the two. Students receive their music degree in addition to either the BA in HBA or diploma in MIA.

## Minor

Minors are offered through the Don Wright Faculty of Music in either [music](#) or [dance](#). The music minor focuses on courses in music history and theory. Students have the option to take ensemble courses, though these do not count towards the minor.

# Admissions Requirements

## Course Requirements

[6 approved 4U and/or M level courses](#) including ENG4U (English). All programs list a guideline of a mid-year average in the low 80s. The Administrative Studies program additionally requires one of the following: Advanced Functions (MHF4U), Calculus and Vectors (MCV4U) or Math of Data Management (MDM4U). More details [here](#) and follow this [how to apply quick link](#).

## Audition

The BMus requires students to audition (with short interview), while the BA (Music) requires an interview. All BMus applicants who are not accepted are immediately considered for the BA (Music). A BA in [Popular Music](#) or [Music Administrative Studies](#) requires an interview and a [recorded audition](#). Audition/interview fee is **\$70**.

## Audition Requirements

### Bachelor of Music Audition Requirements

Repertoire should be chosen based on your [instrument or program requirements](#). The average requirement for classical programs is a Grade VIII (8) Royal Conservatory or Canada Conservatory level of repertoire and technique and sightreading at a Grade VI (6) level.\* To audition for the performance stream, it is recommended for students to perform at a Grade X (10) level. Students should have piano proficiency of Grade VI (6) level before graduating; an [equivalency course](#) is offered during the school year. Details and more specific requirements available [here](#).

*\* Keyboard faculty notes most successful piano/organ students auditioned at Grade XI (9).*

### BA in Popular Music Studies Audition Requirements

All requirements described in detail [here](#). Generally, students should prepare 1-2 full songs or an extended solo/line over a 12-bar blues progression or rock groove.

### BA in Music Administrative Studies Audition Requirements:

Students can apply with either classical or pop music following the instructions [here](#). Pop music requirements are the [same](#) as the BA in Popular Music Studies; classical applications require the performance of one piece of RCM Grade VIII (8) or above.

## Admission Forms

All programs require two letters of admission from two separate referees, and to fill out a questionnaire for your program. See [here](#) for individual program forms.

## Music Theory Assessment

Currently offered virtually, assessing preparedness for first-year theory. This assessment covers music theory rudiments (scales, key signatures, rhythm, meter, intervals, triads, seventh chords, and inversions). Those who do not demonstrate this will be required to either take a [preparatory course](#) or study independently; inversely, advanced students may be permitted to skip first-term theory. *Though not specified, most theory assessments align with Royal Conservatory Grade 8 Theory (formerly Advanced Rudiments).*

**Thank you for reading this guide! Check out our [other guides](#) for more information on post-secondary programs and schools!**

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