



University of Toronto

Toronto, Ontario

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Overview

Ways to Study

Undergraduate music programs at the University of Toronto are offered through the [Faculty of Music](#), and represent a variety of disciplines and interests. Students can pursue subjects including performance, education and composition, and study either classical or jazz music. Students wishing to study music as a major in a Bachelor of Arts can do so through the [Faculty of Arts and Sciences](#).



Location, Location, Location

The Faculty of Music is [located](#) at St. George Campus in downtown Toronto, right next to Queen's Park and within walking distance of the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM). Already housing the renowned performance spaces MacMillan Theatre and Walter Hall, and Canada's largest music research collection at its [Music Library](#), the Faculty is in the process of building a new performance space, the [Jay Tefler Forum](#).

Life on Campus

Students at the University of Toronto can participate in a variety of clubs and student societies, including clubs for playing, performing and doing community work with music. You can check them out [here](#). The Faculty of Music Undergraduate Association advocates for students in the faculty, provides support for learning and career development, and hosts social events. Check them out on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#). Due to the campus' close proximity to downtown Toronto, students are also able to explore the city's vibrant art scene and immerse themselves in its multicultural environment.

Programs

Bachelor of Music

The auditioned Bachelor of Music (BMus) is a music degree in which most students take a common first year and then begin to specialize and diversify in upper years. All specializations include private instrumental or vocal lessons, ensemble classes and require both music and non-music electives. Students apply into the [Jazz](#) or [Classical](#) idioms.

In first year, non-specialized Classical students enter into an Exploratory Year in which they take courses in music theory, history and skills (e.g. ear-training, keyboard harmony, sight-singing) courses. Additionally, students take electives of either music or non-music courses to explore their options for specialization in Year 2. All students study a similar core curriculum in history, theory and performance as part of a common educational foundation in music.

Students in the [Jazz](#) idiom must select their specialization (either Music Education or Interdisciplinary Music Studies) in first year; those in the Classical idiom may begin studies in Music Education, Interdisciplinary Music Studies or Composition in first year, but may choose to specialize in Year 2 instead, after completing the Exploratory Year. Transferring to another option within your idiom later is an option, but completing the degree may take longer.

Specializations

- [Composition](#) (Classical)
 - Students receive private [composition](#) lessons, and take specialty courses in arranging, electronic music and advanced theory.
- Music Education ([Classical/Jazz](#))
 - Students take courses focused on [education](#) and teaching skills, including conducting, teaching different instruments and issues in education practice.
- Interdisciplinary Music Studies ([Classical/Jazz](#))
 - Students enroll in a flexible curriculum which allows them to specialize their program around interests which may not fit within the bounds of other specializations and build a breadth of practical skills in music.
- [History, Culture and Theory](#) (Classical)
 - Students are able to study topics in music within their research interests—including [music theory](#), musicology and [ethnomusicology](#)—while building academic and communication skills through their study of music.

Bachelor of Music (Performance)

This is an auditioned degree program in which students focus heavily on developing their performance skills, both in solo and ensemble contexts. It is available to both [Jazz](#) and [Classical](#) students, and is entered into in your first year. Acceptance into the program requires a demonstration of highly developed skills during your audition (see [below](#)).

Artists Diploma in Performance

An [auditioned 3-year diploma](#), this Classical program focuses heavily on developing performance skills, and its curriculum aligns with the first 3 years of the BMus in Performance. Not available to Jazz or Organ students, or students completing (or who have received) a BMus in Performance from the University of Toronto.

Other Degree Programs

[Bachelor of Arts](#)

Through the [Faculty of Arts and Sciences](#), students in the Honours Bachelor of Arts program may audition to make music their focus of studies, as either a specialist (10 credits of 20) or a major (7 credits). Students study the cultural history of music, exploring its relationship to society and taking music theory courses to broaden their analytical skill set. Students may audition into ensembles; this ensemble option adds 1.5 credits to the specialist degree (11.5) and 1 to the major (8). *Students do not receive private lessons.*

Music History and Cultural History Minor

Offered through the [Faculty of Arts and Sciences](#), this minor requires no audition and comprises 4.0 credits of music history courses which cover Western art music, world music and popular music. Ensemble courses, which require an audition, may also be counted towards the minor. *Students do not receive private lessons.*

[Music and Engineering](#)

The [Faculty of Applied Sciences and Engineering](#) at the University offers an auditioned [Engineering Music Performance Minor](#) and a [Certificate in Music Technology](#). The former focuses on private instruction and development of musical skills, and the latter focuses on music recording techniques and technology.

Admissions Requirements

Course Requirements

The [academic requirements](#) for admission are 6 approved Grade 12 U or M level courses including ENG4U (English). Proof of [English language facility](#) is required; 4+ years of full-time study at a Canadian (or a country where the dominant language is English) school which teaches in English is an accepted exemption criteria for this. General acceptance averages are in the mid- to high-80s, with the lowest cutoff point in the high 70s to low 80s.

Audition

All full degree programs [require an audition](#), followed immediately by a short interview. These feature the performance of repertoire and technique, and involve sight reading and ear training tests. The audition fee is **\$70**, submitted online with the Music Questionnaire.

Eligible Instruments for Auditions

Jazz

Students may audition into the Jazz idiom on Double Bass, Guitar, Percussion, Piano, Saxophone, Trombone, Trumpet or Voice.

Classical

Students may audition into the Classical idiom on an instrument within the [Brass](#), [Strings](#) or [Woodwinds](#) families or on Accordion, [Guitar](#), [Harp](#), Historical Instrument, [Piano](#), [Organ](#), [Percussion](#) or [Voice](#).

Audition Requirements: Classical

BMus (Interdisciplinary Music Studies, Composition, Music Education) or BA

BMus and BA applicants should perform repertoire at the RCM Grade 8 level or above. Piano students should perform at RCM Grade 9 level or above. Requirements for each instrument are listed on the [auditions page](#).

BMus (Performance) and Artist Diploma

Performance and Artist Diploma applicants should perform repertoire at the RCM Grade 10 level or above. Piano students should perform repertoire at RCM ARCT level

or above, and will be assigned a Quick Study piece, which they will be expected to learn within the 2-week period leading up to their audition.

Accompaniment

Those applying in the classical stream will be required to source an accompanist if they play a string, woodwind, or brass instrument, or sing. Contact undergrad.music@utoronto.ca to get a list of potential accompanists. This will incur an extra fee, set by the accompanist.

Audition Requirements: Jazz

Pre-screening auditions will be video recorded and [submitted online](#). Jazz applicants must perform 3 pieces from the Jazz idiom, chosen from their list of “Pre-approved tunes.” Applicants wishing to perform other “jazz standard” tunes that are not on this list should contact undergrad.music@utoronto.ca. All pieces should be memorized and must include performance of melody as well as improvisation. All instruments have special audition requirements. Those wishing to enter the Performance stream are expected to demonstrate an advanced level of facility and musicality. These requirements are listed on the [auditions page](#).

Accompaniment

Applicants will perform with a live rhythm section at the in-person audition, provided by the Faculty. Pre-screening video submission may be played with a band you source yourself or with a play-along track.

[Music Questionnaire](#)

Music programs require you to fill out a questionnaire for your program, which is available on the [Applying page](#). This asks you your choices of program, your musical and academic background, contact information for 3 references and your repertoire selection for your audition. You will also write a short essay on your career goals and why you believe the University of Toronto Faculty of Music is a good fit for you.

[Music Theory Assessment](#)

Classical

Applicants must write the Faculty of Music Classical Entrance Theory Exam, which covers music rudiments (scales, key signatures, rhythm, meter, intervals, triads, seventh chords and inversions). A minimum grade of 60% is required. It is recommended applicants have an understanding of theory equivalent to RCM Level 8 Theory. An understanding of basic harmony (i.e. Level 9 theory) will help with a smooth transition into first-year courses.

Jazz

All Jazz applicants write the Faculty of Music Jazz Entrance Theory Exam, and must receive at least 60%. This tests understanding of clefs, scales, intervals, transposition, four-part chords (extension, quality, function), basic analysis using Roman numerals and chord symbols and a basic understanding of fundamental jazz repertoire and the idiom as a whole.

Required Documents

All students must submit their full academic transcripts. Students in the Classical stream must also submit their official RCM exam transcripts. Students in the Jazz stream may elect to do so, if they feel it will improve their application, but they are not required. Piano proficiency is not required, but Grade 3 RCM is recommended to support your studies at the Faculty of Music.

Special Requirements for Composition Application

All applicants for Direct Entry into Composition must submit their [portfolio of compositions](#) electronically. This portfolio consists of at least 4 works (in PDF format), totaling at least 15 minutes in duration, for a variety of ensembles. Popular and commercial music should not be in the portfolio. Portfolios should demonstrate recent and substantial compositional activity; a candidate's willingness to explore and be challenged; various methods of pitch organization, rhythmic structure, motivic and thematic development; and accurate notation. Recordings may be submitted, but only electroacoustic works may be submitted only as recordings (i.e. without a score). Recordings of works for acoustic instruments from a live or studio performance are not considered electroacoustic works.

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

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Please direct any questions or corrections to sandy@bandology.ca.