



Wilfrid Laurier University

Waterloo, Ontario

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Overview

Ways to Study

[Undergraduate music programs](#) are offered through the Faculty of Music, and represent a variety of disciplines and interests, for students interested in either classical and contemporary styles (rock, pop, jazz) including [performance](#), [community music](#), [education](#), [composition and music therapy](#). There are a breadth of performance opportunities, both solo and in ensembles. Please use these links to read more about Laurier's [music offerings](#), and check out their [experience guide](#) to see an overview!

Location, Location, Location!

The Faculty of Music is located at Laurier's Waterloo Campus, with easy transit to uptown Waterloo, nearby shopping centres and within walking distance of a variety of food and entertainment venues. The Faculty is home to the Maureen Forrester Recital Hall and the Theatre Auditorium, and the walkable campus provides easy access to the university's [library](#), food court and [athletic complex](#). The Faculty building recently underwent renovations to dramatically update its facilities.

Life on Campus

Students at Wilfrid Laurier University can participate in a variety of clubs and student societies that host opportunities for performing and creating music, and support students' career development. The [Faculty of Music Student Association](#) advocates for students in the faculty, provides support for learning and hosts social events. They also help oversee the Faculty's variety of clubs, including the [Laurier Acapella Association](#) (made up of [Hawkapella](#) and [Noteworthy](#)), [Ancient Music Society](#) and groups for community music and [music education](#) students. You can also join [Laurier Music Theatre](#) and many [other clubs](#), as well as participate in recreational [athletics and fitness opportunities](#)!

Programs

Bachelor of Music

Students entering the Bachelor of Music (BMus) at Laurier begin Year 1 with a core selection of required courses, including individual lessons, large ensemble and theory courses, as well as foundational courses in keyboard and voice. First-year students are required to take three elective courses, and can take [music electives](#) that introduce topics such as composition, music therapy, education, digital music and live sound, or in other subjects outside of music.

In upper years, students are able to specialize their program, including focusing on areas of specific interest (see below) or transferring into the Bachelor of Music Therapy. They may also choose not to specialize, instead exploring a wide variety of topics. [Upper-year courses](#) include songwriting, instrumental conducting, the history of music in popular culture and monetizing your music. Students are also required to take courses in programs outside of music to expand their knowledge.

Specializations

For students entering university in the 2026/27 academic year, areas of upper year study will be divided into [large and small specializations](#), requiring different selections of mandatory courses to complete. Upper year students may choose to specialize in one large specialization, two small specializations or one small and one large. Large specializations include performance, music education, community music and composition. Small specializations include conducting, afrodiasporic music, pedagogy and wellness, music theory, musicology and small group performance.

Bachelor of Music Therapy (BMT)

The [Bachelor of Music Therapy](#), which students apply to at the end of second year, trains students to become practising music therapists. The program features courses in practical skills such as improvisation; training on percussion, piano and guitar; supervised group and one-on-one clinical placements; and requires the study of psychology. In fourth year, students complete the 1,000-hour internship required by the Canadian Association of Music Therapy and graduates are as such eligible to write the Certified Board for Music Therapists exam. Completing this internship takes an extra term compared to a four-year Bachelor of Music degree.

Collaborative and Supplemental Degree Offerings in Music

Randolph College for the Performing Arts Partnership

In this [program](#), voice students interested in musical theatre who enter the BMus in Voice Performance are eligible to complete their studies at [Randolph College](#), completing both an [Honours BMus in Voice Performance](#) from Laurier and the [Performing Arts College Diploma](#) from Randolph College. A 4-year option for Randolph College students to pursue a [BMus in Self-Directed Studies](#) is also available.

Metalworks Institute Partnership

In this [program](#), music students complete six terms of study at Laurier and three terms of study at Metalworks, receiving a Bachelor of Music and a diploma in [Audio Production and Engineering](#) from Metalworks. Additionally, music students at Laurier are able to [take courses from Metalworks](#) a la carte on a Letter of Permission, and can count up to 1.5 credits towards their degree requirements. [Metalworks graduates](#) who successfully audition and enroll in a Bachelor of Music at Laurier are able to transfer their college credits towards their degree (up to 5.0 credits), likely completing the degree in three years instead of four.

Music Minor

[Students in other degree programs can take a selection of courses](#) (3.0 credits) from [the available course list](#) to complete a music minor. With an audition, students may be able to participate in ensembles.

Management Option

Students interested in business can [take a selection of courses](#) (4.0 credits) in business throughout their music degree to earn the Management Option. Normally a direct-entry option, eligible students can also apply for the option after enrollment.

Teaching Option

Students wishing to become teachers are able to pursue a [Teaching Option](#), taking a substantial selection of courses (4.0 credits) in education throughout their music degree, including an experiential teaching placement. Successful completion of this option and a selection of other academic prerequisites makes you eligible for direct entry into Laurier's Bachelor of Education program after graduation. Acceptance into this direct entry pathway is competitive.

Certificate in Navigating the Music Industry Ecosystem

[Offered part-time](#) in summer and intersession terms, this four-course certificate instructs students on how to understand and work in the business of music.

Admissions Requirements

Course Requirements

The academic admission requirements are 6 approved 4U and/or M level courses including a 4U English course (i.e. ENG4U). The average admission range for acceptance is in the mid 70s, with a minimum 60% in English. Those applying for direct-entry into the Teaching or Management Options should maintain a low-80s minimum average. See [here](#) for information about entering from Randolph and Metalworks.

Bachelor of Music Therapy

Students intending to enter the Bachelor of Music Therapy (BMT) at the end of second year are expected to maintain a minimum GPA of 7.0 in Music courses, a minimum 5.0 in Psychology courses, and a minimum overall GPA of 6.0. Laurier uses a [12-point grading system to calculate GPA](#). Admission is dependent on taking [prerequisite courses in music therapy and psychology](#). Additionally, students are required to submit a letter of intent and resumé, as well as complete an [interview and audition](#).

Audition

Entrance to all degree programs in the Faculty of Music require an [audition](#). All auditions will be followed by an interview with a faculty member to get to know you and for you to ask questions about studying at Laurier. There is an audition fee of **\$75**, which is paid through the [online portal](#).

Audition Requirements

Classical Music

[Audition requirements](#) generally include the preparation of two contrasting pieces and an étude. Some instruments require additional technique, such as scales. A list of suggested repertoire is provided for each instrument. You may be asked to only perform a portion of each piece, rather than the whole thing. If you are a multi-instrumentalist, you are welcome and encouraged to submit video performances on a secondary instrument in an optional digital portfolio, or contact musicauditions@wlu.ca to discuss your options.

Contemporary Music

For auditions with contemporary music, there are also [specific requirements](#) for each instrument. Generally, you will be required to perform three pieces (in any genre or genres) which display your musical and stylistic range. You may perform pieces on more than one instrument, in any of the following example categories: a solo piece(s) that demonstrates your level of singing/playing; a piece(s) you perform with other players and/or singers; or an improvisation with another musician. Some instruments may require specific demonstrations of technique via scales, rudiments or style demonstrations.

Bachelor of Music Therapy Requirements

The [program interview](#) occurs at the end of second year. Prepare to perform two contrasting pieces on your major instrument, and to sing a song of your own choice while accompanying yourself on guitar or piano. Prepare an improvisation on your major instrument or on piano or guitar. Students will also be asked interview questions to assess their suitability.

Additional Requirements

Interview

The interview occurs on the same day as your audition, and is led by a Faculty member who is not on your audition panel. It is an informal conversation to learn more about you and your love of music.

Audition Portal

After you apply, you will be emailed login information for Laurier's online Audition Portal. The Portal requires you to submit contact information for yourself and one reference who can speak to your musical ability (who will be contacted with a questionnaire), as well as details on your current academic information, musical background and career goals.

Optional Portfolio

You may submit an optional portfolio of past performances, composed or original music through video or audio links sent to the auditions coordinator. This does not replace any audition requirements and is submitted through the portal.

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