

Music

Faculty: Sears (chair), Fienberg, Heisler, Hickman, Kanamaru, Laprade, Leonard, McBride, Nakra

Adjunct faculty: Our adjunct faculty includes studio instructors who are artist-teachers, distinguished as performers with prestigious ensembles of regional and national importance as well as academic faculty. A full listing of the Department of Music faculty, including adjunct faculty, is [available online](#).

Mission Statement

The Department of Music at The College of New Jersey promotes music study in a program where performance, music education, technology, creativity, and scholarship are closely integrated. Our core curriculum emphasizes comprehensive performance opportunities, rigorous academic inquiry, and professional certification. Our programs offer a range of music curricula, including individualized and innovative interdisciplinary options.

Background of the Department

The Department of Music has been a center for the study of music since 1918. Its graduates not only enjoy an excellent placement record for employment and graduate school, but they also consistently attain leadership positions in the varied fields of musical endeavor. The College of New Jersey is an accredited institutional member of the National Association of Schools of Music (NASM). The Department offers various programs of musical study which are consistent with the high standards, ideals, and philosophy of this organization.

The Department of Music, with its large roster of artist-teachers and -scholars, offers diverse types of private studio and musical ensemble experience, inspiring academics, state-of-the-art equipment, and strong library holdings. In addition, its varied curricula provide a wide selection of courses designed as academic, artistic, and professional preparation for work in a variety of music careers. The College has a state-of-the-art music building that serves as the primary facility for concerts and recitals. The Music Building contains the 300+ seat Mildred and Ernest E. Mayo Concert Hall, critically acclaimed for its aesthetic and acoustical properties, as well as instrumental and choral rehearsal halls, a keyboard laboratory, numerous classrooms, small ensemble suites, and practice rooms. There is also a computer and synthesizer lab located in the adjacent Art and Interactive Multimedia Building.

Music does not exist in a vacuum, nor does a musician. In order to ensure well-rounded preparation and to enrich the comprehensive awareness of musicians, provisions are built into the programs for music majors to devote to studying the liberal arts.

Requirements for All Music Majors:

Since the music faculty believes that two of the most vital aspects in the growth of any musician are listening to and performing music, various minimum requirements have been established to ensure that all music majors are exposed to these opportunities for growth. A partial outline of requirements follows; a Student Handbook containing detailed information is available to all students through the Department of Music's webpage or by contacting the Music Office.

1. All students must audition **on campus** for entrance into the Department of Music and when requesting a change in major applied area or program.

2. All music majors must pass the required Sophomore Review.
3. All Music Education and Performance majors must present a senior recital in their primary performance area. Before beginning to prepare for the senior recital, all students must pass a junior hearing in front of their applied area faculty. Performance majors must present a sophomore and junior recital, in addition to the senior recital. Students must register for applied study and the recital course during the semester of their recital performance.
4. Every recital presented must have a recital hearing one month before the event. Only the successful completion of the hearing will ensure a recital performance.
5. All music majors must pass a Keyboard Proficiency Exam as a requirement for graduation. Music Education students must pass the Keyboard Proficiency Exam by January of their junior year to be eligible to student teach in the fall semester of their senior year, and by the end of the spring semester in their junior year to be eligible to student teach in the spring semester of their senior year.
6. Upon the recommendation of the major applied instructor, every student will perform in the Tuesday afternoon student recital series at least one time each academic year.
7. All Performance and Music Education students must enroll in a large ensemble each semester in which they are registered as full-time students and successfully complete the course with a grade of C– or higher. This requirement is waived only during the semester in which a Music Education student is student teaching. Part-time students (those taking fewer than three course units of study per semester) must petition the departmental Performance Affairs Committee for a special exemption from primary ensemble participation on a semester-by-semester basis.

Private Lessons

Music majors will be provided with no more than nine semesters of private applied lessons during their course of study at the College. Lessons beyond nine semesters will be fee-based. All students taking private applied lessons must complete a performance jury for each semester of enrollment in order to receive credit for the course.

Program Entrance, Retention, and Exit Standards

Every degree program at the College has set standards for allowing students to remain in that program, to transfer within the College from one program to another, and to graduate from a program. The following are the standards for Department of Music programs:

1. Retention in music programs is based on the following standards in these content areas:
 - a. *Applied Study.* The lowest passing grade for studio lessons for Performance Majors (400 level lessons) is B- with immediate placement on academic probation. The lowest passing grade for studio lessons for 200 and 300 level lessons is C- with no probation at first instance, but automatic academic probation on a second instance.
 - b. *Teacher Preparation.* Music Education majors must achieve a grade of C+ or above in the following teacher preparation courses: MUS 241, MUS

392, MUS 394, MUS 397/398, and MUS 492. Music Education majors must also achieve minimum passing grade of B- in MUS 490, Student Teaching.

- c. *All other Music Courses.* A grade of C- is the minimum passing grade for all other courses taken toward completion of programs in music.
2. Additionally, retention in the B.A. in Music and B.M. in Performance programs requires a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 for every semester. Retention in the B.M. in Music Education requires a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 at the end of the first and second semesters, 2.75 at the end of the fourth semester, and 3.0 when applying for and participating in student teaching.
3. Transfer into the Department of Music from another program within the College is based upon satisfactory completion of an audition process, including a performance audition, aural skills exam, and degree program interview.
4. Music majors may be put on probation or dismissed from their degree program for any one, or a combination, of the following reasons: low GPA (below required standards), failure to progress toward a degree, failure to progress on their applied instrument, and unacceptable or failing result on the Sophomore Review. Students who have been placed on probation for a low GPA, for which it is mathematically impossible to achieve the minimum required GPA by the end of the probation semester, are subject to immediate dismissal under a “failure to progress” rationale. Similarly, students for whom a low GPA at the end of the semester prior to the Sophomore Review semester is so low that the required minimum GPA is not mathematically attainable by the time of the Review are also subject to immediate dismissal from their music degree program.
5. Music majors may be placed on departmental probation once. A second occurrence will result in dismissal from their degree program. After dismissal, students must wait one year before applying for re-admission. The process for appealing dismissal from the degree program is detailed in the Music Student Handbook, available on the Department of Music website.
5. All Department of Music policies and procedures are detailed in the Student Handbook, available on the Department website.
6. Students are eligible to apply to transfer between Music programs before completing six semesters of study at the College. In order to enroll in any capstone course, students must be in the associated program for a minimum of two semesters.

Bachelor of Arts: Music

The Bachelor of Arts in Music degree (B.A. in Music) includes a core of intensive music study: Musicianship (music theory and aural skills), Historical and Cultural Studies in Music, and an array of Music Electives (including applied instrumental/vocal studio, large and small ensemble performance, Music Technology). At the same time, the B.A. degree emphasizes the study of music in the context of TCNJ’s competitive Liberal Arts experience. In addition to fulfilling the Liberal Learning requirements for all TCNJ students, B.A. in Music students plan a course of Free Electives and are mentored to pursue interdisciplinary academic and creative perspectives on music. Secondary majors,

minors, and/or concentrations are also possible, and encouraged, as is study abroad. Ultimately, the B.A. in Music degree prepares students for a diverse range of careers depending on their individualized courses of study. Applicants for the B.A. in Music degree must demonstrate that they possess the skills to participate successfully in a curricular ensemble or in an applied studio as determined through an audition with the applicable area coordinator and ensemble director.

The precise sequence of courses will be determined through individualized advisement.

Required Music Courses and Proficiencies (9 course units)

Musicianship 1–4	4 course units
Historical and Cultural Studies in Music*	4 course units
Bachelor of Arts in Music Capstone	1 course unit
Keyboard Proficiency**	
Sophomore Review	

Music Electives (minimum 4 course units) ***

Any non-required music offerings, including Applied Studio, Ensembles, Keyboard Skills, Conducting (Choral and/or Instrumental), Diction (recommended for vocalists), Music Technology, Liberal Learning in music, Advanced Theory, and Instrumental Methods classes. A minimum of 4 course units is required.

Liberal Learning (10–13 course units)****

Free Electives (6–9 units)

Total Courses

32 course units

**Two Historical and Cultural Studies in Music requirements cross-count with Liberal Learning Breadth Requirements: “Music in Global Perspective” fulfills one Social Science & History (Behavioral, Social or Cultural Perspectives) requirement, and any one of the Western music history surveys fulfills a Social Science & History (Social Change in Historical Perspective) requirement.*

***Keyboard Proficiency is determined by exam in Keyboard Skills II or by an equivalent exam. B.A. in Music students should plan Music Electives accordingly. All students are strongly encouraged to complete the Keyboard Proficiency by the end of the sophomore year to correspond with the Sophomore Review.*

**** B.A. in Music students must complete one unit of applied studio study and one unit of ensemble participation as part of their elective course of study. Completing four ensemble experiences fulfills one Liberal Learning Breadth Requirement in Arts & Humanities (Literary, Visual & Performing Arts).*

*****Includes an FYS, Liberal Learning Breadth Requirements, and up to three semesters of a second language as needed to demonstrate proficiency in a second language at the intermediate level. Students who qualify to take less than three semesters of a second language may increase their number of free electives accordingly to a maximum of nine units of free electives.*

Recommended First-Year Program of Study for Bachelor of Arts (Music) Students

AMM 099 Arts and Communication Seminar	0 course units
AMM 100 Seminar on Professional and Career Development	0 course units
MUS 246/Music in Global Perspective	1 course unit
MUS 351/Music from 600 to 1750	1 course unit
MUS 261/Musicianship I	1 course unit
MUS 262/Musicianship II	1 course unit

FYS First-Year Seminar	1 course unit
Liberal Learning or FYW First-Year Writing	1 course unit
Liberal Learning and Music Electives	2 course units
Total	8 course units

Bachelor of Music: Music Education

The Bachelor of Music in Music Education prepares students to be certified public school teachers. There are three tracks in this degree: Instrumental (Wind, Strings, and Percussion), Keyboard, and Vocal. (Keyboard, Guitar, and Harp have either a vocal or instrumental emphasis in determining large ensemble requirements.) Successful completion of the degree qualifies students to sit for the Praxis Examination prior to student teaching. Graduates of this program also qualify for certification in other states, subject to the individual processes of each state. The Bachelor of Music in Music Education degree is constructed on a solid core of performance experiences and, as such, also prepares students for potential graduate study. Certification qualifies students to teach K-12 instrumental and choral classes in the New Jersey Public Schools.

Teacher Preparation Requirements

- 1) A cumulative grade point average (GPA) of at least 3.0 is required for students to complete the Music Education program successfully and be recommended for certification and licensure. To help assure that students at The College of New Jersey meet this requirement by graduation, the following procedures will be strictly followed:
 - (a) Admission to full candidacy (junior-level courses and above) in the Music Education program may be awarded following the successful completion of the Sophomore Review, the Keyboard Proficiency, and a 2.75 minimum cumulative GPA. Students with a cumulative GPA below 2.75 at the end of their fourth semester will be placed on Academic Probation and will not be permitted to continue with teacher education courses until the cumulative GPA is raised to 2.75.
 - (b) Admission to upper-level courses, MUS 392 and MUS 397/398, requires a 2.75 minimum cumulative GPA. In addition, admission to MUS 397/398 requires successful completion of MUS 340 or 380. When applying for and participating in student teaching, a student must have successfully completed MUS 330 and MUS 452, and attained a 3.0 minimum cumulative GPA. In order to apply for state teaching certification through The College of New Jersey, students must have a 3.0 cumulative GPA at the time of program completion.
- 2) Students also must meet the state hygiene/physiology requirement; the state Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying Prevention (HIB) training certificate requirement; and the appropriate basic skills requirement (satisfied through SAT, ACT, or PRAXIS CORE cut scores), Music Content Knowledge PRAXIS, and

- EdTPA requirements before the New Jersey State Department of Education will issue the appropriate certificate. Teacher Education candidates will receive a “certificate of eligibility with advanced standing” which requires a candidate to be provisionally certified for his or her first year of teaching. After one year of successful teaching, the candidate is eligible for a permanent certificate.
- 3) A Mantoux, or tuberculosis test is required by the state of all students prior to the first day of student teaching. This test can be obtained through The College of New Jersey Health Center.
 - 4) Because of the number of concentration specializations that can be pursued in this major, only the core courses of a student’s program of study are set out below. Students should consult with their departmental academic advisors as well as the Department’s Student Handbook in planning the remainder of their academic program. These plans should take into account requirements for the major, liberal learning, professional courses, and state certification.
 - 5) All Music Education students are required to take SPE 203 or ELE 203 in order to meet requirements of the New Jersey State Department of Education.
 - 6) To obtain New Jersey music teacher certification, students must satisfy requirements set forth by the New Jersey Department of Education for Basic Skills, Praxis II: Music Content Knowledge, and EdTPA. Additional certification information can be found here: <https://education.tcnj.edu/offices-partnerships/certification/>.

Required Core Courses: Music Education

MUS 111/222 Keyboard Skills I & II

or

MUS 281/482 Keyboard Harmony & Piano
Pedagogy (piano majors only) 1 course unit

MUS 233/344 Keyboard Skills III (choral track only)

MUS 330 Keyboard Proficiency Exam

MUS 370 Woodwinds II AND MUS 370 Jazz Pedagogy

and

MUS 486/Art of Accompanying (piano) .5-1 course unit

MUS 124/125 Diction for Singers I& II (vocal) 1 course unit

MUS 241/Introduction to Music Education .5 course unit

MUS 240 or 280/Conducting I (instrumental/choral) .5 course unit

MUS 246/Music in Global Perspective 1 course unit

MUS 261/Musicianship I 1 course unit

MUS 262/Musicianship II 1 course unit

MUS 263/Musicianship III 1 course unit

MUS 264/Musicianship IV 1 course unit

MUS 290/Vocal Methods .5 course units

MUS 335 or 336 or 337 or 345/Music Technology 1 course unit

MUS 340 or 380/Conducting II (instrumental/choral) .5 course units

MUS 351/Music from 600 to 1750 1 course unit

MUS 353/Music from 1750 to 1945 1 course unit

MUS 452/Music from 1945 to the Present 1 course unit

MUS 392/Contemporary Issues in Music Education 1 course unit

MUS 394/K-8 Practicum 1 course unit

MUS 397/7-12 Practicum: Choral

MUS 370/Choral or Instrumental Literature	.5 course unit
<i>or*</i>	
MUS 398/ 7-12 Practicum: Instrumental	1 course unit
MUS XXX/Teaching Instrumental Music (instrumental)	1 course unit
<i>or*</i>	
MUS XXX/Teaching Instrumental Music (choral)	1.25 course units
Private Applied Lessons	3.5 course units
Primary Ensemble	1.75 course units
Vocal Ensemble (instrumental)	.5 course unit
Senior Recital	0 course units
MUS 490/Student Teaching	2 course units
MUS 492/Student Teaching Seminar	1 course unit
Total	26 -26.75 course units

**Selection of courses by advisement*

Recommended First-Year Program of Study for Bachelor of Music (Music Education) Students

AMM 099/Arts and Communication Seminar	0 course units
AMM 100 Seminar on Professional and Career Development	0 course units
FYS First-Year Seminar	1 course unit
MUS 111/Keyboard Skills I	
<i>or*</i>	
MUS 281/Keyboard Harmony (piano only)	.5 course unit
MUS 290/Vocal Methods (instrumental only)	
<i>or*</i>	
MUS 124/Diction I (vocal only)	.25-.5 course unit
MUS 125/Diction II (vocal only)	.25 course unit
MUS 261/Musicianship I	1 course unit
MUS 262/Musicianship II	
MUS 246/ Music in Global Perspective	1 course unit
MUS 351/ Music from 600 to 1750	1 course unit
1 course unit	
Private Applied Lessons	1 course unit
Primary Ensemble	.5 course unit
Vocal Ensemble	.5 course unit
First-Year Writing (FYW)**	1 course unit
Total	8-8.25 course units

**Selection of courses by advisement.*

***It is strongly recommended that students exempted from this course take another required Liberal Learning course.*

Bachelor of Music: Performance

There are three tracks in the Bachelor of Music in Performance degree, determined by the primary instrument of study: Instrumental (Wind, Strings, and Percussion), Keyboard, and Vocal. (Keyboard, Guitar, and Harp have either a vocal or instrumental emphasis in determining large ensemble requirements.) The performance degree program prepares students for performance and related music careers, and also serves as preparation for graduate or conservatory study in performance and related music fields.

Required Core Courses:

MUS 111/Keyboard Skills I <i>or</i> MUS 281*	.5 course unit
MUS 222/Keyboard Skills II <i>or</i> MUS 482*	.5 course unit

MUS 233/Keyboard Skills III (non-piano concentrations only)	.5 course unit
MUS 330/Keyboard Proficiency Exam	0 course units
MUS 240, 280/Conducting I	.5 course unit
MUS 246/Music in Global Perspective	1 course unit
MUS 261/Musicianship I	1 course unit
MUS 262/Musicianship II	1 course unit
MUS 263/Musicianship III	1 course unit
MUS 264/Musicianship IV	1 course unit
MUS 290/Vocal Methods	.5 course unit
MUS 335 or 336 or 337 or 345/Music Technology	1 course unit
MUS 351/Music from 600 to 1750	1 course unit
MUS 353/Music from 1750 to 1945	1 course unit
MUS 452/Music from 1945 to the Present	1 course unit
MUS 455/ Issues in Music Performance Studies	1 course unit
Private Applied Lessons	4 course units
Primary Ensemble	2 course units
Vocal Ensemble	.5 course unit
Sophomore Recital	0 course units
Junior Recital	0 course units
Senior Recital	0 course units
Total	18.5-19 course units

**MUS 281 and 482 for piano concentration only*

Specialized Concentrations for Performance Program

Vocal Concentration

MUS 344/Keyboard Skills IV	.5 course unit
MUS 124/125 Diction for Singers I& II	1 course unit
MUS 325/Vocal Literature	.5 course unit
Elective Ensemble/Chamber Music	1 course unit
Music Options by Advisement	1 course unit
Total	4 course units

Keyboard Concentration

MUS 486/Art of Accompanying	.5 course unit
Elective Ensemble/Chamber Music	1.5 course units
Music Options by Advisement	2.5 course units
Total	4.5 course units

Instrumental Concentration

Instrumental Pedagogy or Class Lessons	.5 course unit
Elective Ensemble/Chamber Music	1.5 course units
Music Options by Advisement	2 course units
Total	4 course units

Recommended First-Year Program of Study for Bachelor of Music (Performance) Students

AMM 099/Arts and Communication Seminar	0 course units
AMM 100 Seminar on Professional and Career Development	0 course units
FYS First-Year Seminar	1 course unit
MUS 111/Keyboard Skills I	
<i>or*</i>	
MUS 281/Keyboard Harmony (piano only)	.5 course unit

MUS 290/Vocal Methods (instrumental only)

*or**

MUS 124/Diction I (vocal only)	.5 course unit
MUS 125/Diction II (vocal only)	.5 course unit
MUS 261/Musicianship I	1 course unit
MUS 262/Musicianship II	1 course unit
MUS 246/ Music in Global Perspective	.5 course units
Private Applied Lessons	1 course unit
Primary Ensemble	.5 course unit
Vocal Ensemble	.5 course unit
First-Year Writing (FYW)**	1 course unit
Total	8 course units

**Selection of courses by advisement.*

***It is strongly recommended that students exempted from this course take another required Liberal Learning course.*

Music Minor

The Department of Music offers a Minor in Music Studies. Required courses are a mixture of music-major level and Liberal Learning course offerings. An audition is not required to enter the music minor. Students must register as a Music Minor with the Department of Music before they begin taking classes toward the minor, and they *must consult with a Department of Music advisor* in the selection of the courses which will lead to an individualized minor in music. Students are encouraged to start the music minor in the second semester of their freshman year and must start no later than the first semester of their second year.

The program for the music minor is as follows:

Musicianship (1 course unit)

MUS 261/Musicianship I

Historical and Cultural Studies in Music (1 course unit)

MUS 246/Music in Global Perspective

*MUS 351/Music from 600 to 1750

*MUS 353/Music from 1750 to 1945

**MUS 452/Music from 1945 to the Present

**Prerequisite: MUS 261/Musicianship I*

***Prerequisite: MUS 261/Musicianship III and Writing 102 (WRI 102) (if required)*

Liberal Learning course in Music (1 course unit)

MUS 235/Arts and the Community

MUS 245/AAS 240/History of Jazz

MUS 265/Music and the Stage

MUS 345/Electronic Music

MUS 337/Audio Recording and Production

***MUS 335/Audio Signal Processing

***MUS 336/Interactive Music Programming

***MUS 355/WGS 307/Gender, Sexuality, and Pop Music in the 1980s

***Prerequisites apply

Applied (200- or 300-level) or Class Lessons (.5 course units)

Class Lessons include MUS 102, 103, 123, 126, 127, 150, and 227.

MUS 290 may also count as Applied Lessons.

Note: there is a fee for Private Applied Lessons.

Electives (1.5 Course Units)

All MUS courses apply, including instrumental and vocal ensembles.

TOTAL 5 Course Units**Additional Requirements for the Music Minor:**

1. **Reading music is a requirement.**
2. **A minimum of two courses at the 300-level or above is required for the Music Minor.**
3. No more than one course unit may be taken as an independent study.
4. Upon successful testing, students may transfer up to six credits from other institutions (1.5 course units).
5. Courses taken must be in consultation with a Department of Music advisor.
6. There is an audition for applied lessons. Lessons for beginners are not offered. In addition, there is a fee for the applied lessons. This fee varies depending on the number of credit hours taken.

Theatre Minor

TCNJ's Theatre Minor is recommended for students who want a strong, general education in theatre alongside their major in any department of program. Students choose a path of study depending on their own desire to explore the disciplines of performance, dramatic literature, and production/design. Completion of the Theater Minor requires a 5-unit sequence of courses designed to provide students with balanced and diverse theatre experiences.

Any 5 units drawn from the following (at least two full units must be at the 300- or 400-level):

Integrated Visual and Performing Arts	VPA 101
Dance and Movement Fundamentals	VPA 201 (can take up to 2 times for 1 unit)
Ensemble – Lyric Theatre	MUS 229 (can take up to 4 times for 1 unit)
History of African-American Theatre	AAS 243
Acting	TTR/COM 255
Music and the Stage	MUS 265
World Drama	TTR/LIT 233
Shakespeare & Gender	LIT 255
Arts and Community	MUS 235
Modern European Drama	LIT/TTR 347
American Drama	LIT/TTR 373
Shakespeare: Tragedies & Romances	LIT 422

Shakespeare: Comedies & Histories
Social Justice, Music, Education

LIT 421
MUS 358

Independent Study in Theatre TTR/MUS 391

Students can either do an in-house independent study (at one of our performance facilities on campus, for example) or work with McCarter Theatre or another professional theatre company under a faculty member's guidance for the same credit.

Course substitutions are allowed with approval from Dr. Suzanne Hickman, Department of Music (hickman@tcnj.edu).

Music Technology Minor

The School of the Arts and Communication also offers an interdisciplinary minor in Music Technology. Please see the Music Technology minor page for a description and available courses.