BACHELOR OF MUSIC DEGREE (BM)

The Bachelor of Music degree program at the Peabody Conservatory is designed to offer gifted students the training to prepare themselves for careers in performance, composition, computer music, music education, recording arts, and related areas of professional activity.

Admission Requirements

Students applying for the Bachelor of Music degree program present transcripts, test scores, and recommendations before playing an audition. The details of this process may be found at the Admissions website. Students applying for the Bachelor of Music degree program should meet the following criteria:

1. The student must be a graduate of an accredited high school or present evidence of equivalent study.
2. General admission requirements as listed for specific degrees and programs are identical for all applicants. However, immigration considerations make special procedures necessary in order to help meet the needs of individual students. The detailed instructions sent to each applicant should be studied with utmost care.

Program Requirements

BM Curricular Components

Matriculating first-year students will satisfy between 131 and 161 credits in four years through passing grades, transfer credits, or onsite placement exams. Undergraduate students must be enrolled as full-time students for eight semesters and are required to remain enrolled in one-hour major lessons for all eight semesters.

The applied level of transfer students is determined by faculty and set at the end of the first year of study. Once set, the transfer student must be enrolled as a full-time student in one-hour major lessons until the conclusion of their adjusted final year.

Applied Enrollments

Major Lessons

Undergraduate students must enroll in major lessons through their last semester of the degree time frame (eight semesters for freshmen and the determined number for transfer students).

Any change to studio assignment must be approved by the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs (see Studio Assignments) and students must earn at least a B- in major lessons (see Academic Standing).

Juries and Recitals

The progress of each student is measured by the major department each year. Advancement and assessment are accomplished by an annual departmental examination (a "jury"). Every performance major must play a departmental jury for credit by the end of each school year. Students majoring in Composition, Computer Music, and Music for New Media students participate in weekly seminars with the entire Composition Department that provide ongoing departmental evaluation for each student. Dual Degree students who perform their recitals in their fifth year of study will play four juries and one hearing.

A student who does not play a jury at the end of each academic year or does not earn at least a B- in a jury is not considered to be in good academic standing and will need to replay the jury in the following fall semester. A graduation recital or comparable capstone project is required of all degree candidates.

Large Ensembles

All undergraduate students majoring in orchestral instruments must participate in Large Ensemble each semester of enrollment for major study as assigned, excluding Jazz majors. All Voice and Organ BM candidates have a six-semester choral requirement. For Voice majors, performance of a major opera role may qualify for Large Ensemble credit. All other non-orchestral BM candidates have a choral obligation as stipulated in their specific degree requirements. Ensemble credits beyond those required may be counted as elective credit. The regulations for performing in large ensembles, which are set by the Ensembles Office, may be found at the Ensemble Office website.

Small Ensembles

String and Percussion majors are required to enroll in four semesters of Chamber Music. Woodwind and Brass majors have a two-semester small ensemble requirement. Jazz majors must complete six semesters...
of small ensemble. A minimum of 10 certified coaching hours and a
performance must be completed in order to earn credit. After completing
the sight-reading course in the freshman year, Piano majors fulfill
Accompanying and Chamber Music requirements specified in the
curriculum.

Academic Enrollments
Breakthrough Curriculum
All undergraduates complete the Breakthrough Curriculum. Matriculating
BM students take Exploring Arts Careers. In the third year of study,
students take Building a Brand and Portfolio and Pitching Your Creative
Idea. The culmination of study is the preparation and presentation of a
pitch, adjudicated by a panel of faculty and guests that also serves as an
entry in a real competition for funding and project support to implement a
residency at one of Peabody’s partner institutions. Students may attempt
to test out of the Building a Brand and Portfolio requirement; information
on testing out can be requested from the LAUNCHPad office (https://
peabody.jhu.edu/life-at-peabody/career-services/).

Music Theory
With the exception of students in jazz performance, all undergraduate
music students have a three-year requirement for Music Theory. The
Music Theory program consists of four to six consecutive semesters of
courses: Music Theory 1 through Music Theory 6. Students are strongly
encouraged to complete all Music Theory requirements in the first three
years of study. Simultaneous enrollment in more than one Music Theory
course is not permitted except with the express permission of the Chair
of Music Theory and the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. Entering
students who are not strong in the fundamentals of music (i.e., rhythm,
meter, scales, intervals, keys, triads, and inversions) are encouraged to
review their preparatory work during the months prior to the beginning
of the academic year. Those who are not able to show proficiency in
these areas on the placement exam will be placed in an intensive section.
Advanced placement in Music Theory is possible.

Ear Training
Ear-training and Sight-singing classes are closely coordinated with the
Music Theory curriculum. Students are strongly encouraged to complete
all Ear-training requirements during the first two years of study. Students
who are not able to show proficiency on Ear-training placement exams
will be placed into an intensive section. Note: students who are placed
into a Perfect Pitch section are exempt from the second year of Ear-
training.

Keyboard Studies
Keyboard Studies classes are coordinated with the Music Theory and
Ear-training curriculum. Students are strongly encouraged to complete
all Keyboard Studies requirements during the first two years of study.
Placement is determined by individual auditions.

Musicology
Students pursuing the standard BM musicology requirements will
complete a total of 12 credits of musicology course work. Students enroll in History of Music 1, History of Music 2, History of Music, Music
History in Global Contexts or enroll in three of these four courses plus a
musicology elective seminar. Students must complete the first semester of the Liberal Arts Core curriculum (Core 2) before starting the sequence
or be in their third year of study. Students may not enroll in more than one
musicology survey course per semester, although students may enroll
concurrently in their final survey course and an elective. Music Education
majors follow a specific sequence of courses designed to accommodate
Music Education coursework. Jazz majors take only History of Music
3. Transfer credits in Musicology are considered for approval by the
Chair of Musicology and the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs on
a case-by-case basis. Jazz majors pursue a concurrent curriculum in
the history of Jazz. Students who are enrolled in English as a Second
Language courses complete only three History of Music courses and do
not complete an elective seminar.

Liberal Arts
Depending on their major, music students are required to fulfill 22-32
credits of Liberal Arts courses, beginning with a two-year Core Curriculum
(12 credits). The majority of students will take the Core Curriculum in
their first two years of study. Some students may be placed in Writing
Intensive for their first year and begin the Core Curriculum in their second
year. Students may petition to have Homewood Liberal Arts courses
substitute for Core credit. Recording Arts students should see the
Recording Arts specific program requirements for their variation of this
curriculum.

Humanities Core Curriculum
• PY.260.115 Core 1: Analytical Thinking and Writing (3 credits, fall)
• PY.260.216 Core 2: Writing and Research Methods (3 credits, spring)
• PY.260.359 Core 3: Critical Methods (3 credits, fall)
• PY.260.360 Core 4: Art, Culture, and Society (3 credits, spring)

English as a Second Language (ESL)
Peabody offers intensive English as a Second Language (ESL) courses.
Matriculating international students will be tested to determine their
level of English proficiency and placed into the ESL curriculum if
appropriate. Some Peabody courses require successful completion of
ESL courses as a prerequisite. ESL 1 does not count toward fulfillment
of degree requirements, and the grades earned are not calculated in the
student’s GPA; however, the hours are counted as part of the course load
for tuition and full-time enrollment determination.

Critical Writing Intensive and ESL Writing Intensive
PY.260.021 ESL Writing Intensive 1 is a yearlong course designed for
international students who are new to writing in English. PY.260.023
Critical Writing Intensive 1-PY.260.024 Critical Writing Intensive 2 is a
yearlong course to prepare students for college-level writing. Both Writing
Intensive courses involve close coordination with faculty members
teaching the Core Curriculum and fulfill Liberal Arts electives.

Students enrolled in ESL courses can complete fewer Core courses and
Liberal Arts Electives as outlined in their degree audits.

Liberal Arts Electives
Upon completion of the first year of the Liberal Arts Core or by the
third year of study, students begin to take Liberal Arts elective courses.
Students may fulfill Liberal Arts electives by taking coursework on the
Homewood campus.

Electives
Unless otherwise specified, the term elective means class elective.
Additional lessons cannot count as electives, but additional ensembles
may. Questions about the appropriateness of all other courses for
elective credit should be directed to the Office of Academic Advising.

Graduate Seminars
Graduate students in the MM and DMA programs have priority seating in
Music Theory and Musicology graduate seminars, as do undergraduates
with additional requirements (such as those in the five-year BM/MM
program). In general, undergraduate students may only enroll in graduate seminars for elective credit under the following conditions:

- For seminars in Music Theory, students must have successfully completed Theory 1, 2, 3, and 4.
- For seminars in Musicology, students must have successfully completed at least two of the three History of Music survey courses and take the third simultaneously with the seminar.

Even after obtaining the permission of the faculty member, undergraduate students may still be removed from graduate seminar rosters, depending on the needs of the graduate population.