

BACHELOR OF MUSIC (BMUS)

Overview

The School of Music at the University of Ottawa is one of the country's leading music schools. It is the ideal place to nurture your passion for all things musical and to pursue the rigorous training needed for an active and successful career in the field. We maintain close ties with renowned institutions such as the National Arts Centre (NAC) and the Ottawa Symphony Orchestra. Our program boasts state-of-the-art music facilities and internationally recognized professors who perform around the globe and publish in leading academic journals. We are a full-service music school offering comprehensive training in performance, composition, music education, theory and musicology.

Although any of our programs can pave the way for a career in education, musicology, music journalism or arts administration, the Bachelor of Music (BMus) is designed specifically for students wishing to become career musicians. Admission to the BMus therefore requires that you audition on your main instrument and demonstrate an intermediate or advanced level.

This program is offered in English and in French.

Program Requirements

Additional requirement: admission to the BMus requires an audition. Consult the School of Music guidelines.

All non-keyboard majors must submit to a proficiency exam set by the School of Music at the end of the 2nd year. This exam must be completed successfully by the end of the 4th year to obtain the BMus degree.

Requirements for this program have been modified. Please consult the 2025-2026 calendars (<http://catalogue.uottawa.ca/en/archives/>) for the previous requirements.

Basic Skills

ENG 1100	Workshop in Essay Writing	3 Units
3 course units from:		3 Units
AHL 1100	Introduction to Interdisciplinary Study in the Arts ¹	
AHL 1900	Introduction to Interdisciplinary Study in the Arts ¹	
ENG 1120	Selected Topics in Literature and Composition	

Compulsory courses at the 1000 level

MUS 1032	Applied Music I: Performance BMUS ²	6 Units
3 course units from: ³		3 Units
MUS 1191	Sight-Singing and Dictation I: General	
MUS 1194	Sight-Singing and Dictation I: Enriched	

Compulsory courses at the 2000 level

MUS 2032	Applied Music II: Performance BMUS ²	6 Units
MUS 2306	Theory and Analysis I ³	3 Units
MUS 2307	Theory and Analysis II	3 Units
MUS 2365	Music: The Big Questions I	3 Units
MUS 2366	Music: The Big Questions II	3 Units
3 course units from:		3 Units
MUS 2191	Sight-Singing and Dictation II: General	

MUS 2194 Sight-Singing and Dictation II: Enriched

Compulsory courses at the 3000 level

MUS 3306	Theory and Analysis III	3 Units
MUS 3307	Theory and Analysis IV	3 Units
MUS 3365	Music and Genre	3 Units
MUS 3366	Music and Text	3 Units

Ensemble courses⁶

12 course units of ensemble from:		12 Units
MUS 3901	Orchestra ⁸	
MUS 3902	Wind Ensemble ⁹	
MUS 3903	Opera Production ¹⁰	
MUS 3904	Choral Ensemble ¹¹	
MUS 3907	Guitar Ensemble ¹²	
MUS 3916	Piano Ensemble ¹³	
MUS 3917	Accompaniment ¹³	

Optional courses

6 course units from:		6 Units
MUS 3030	Applied Music III ²	
MUS 3032	Applied Music III: Performance BMUS ^{2,7}	
6 course units from:		6 Units
MUS 4301	Selected Topics in Musicology ¹	
MUS 4310	Selected Topics in Music Theory and Analysis ¹	

36 optional course units in music (MUS) with the possibility of taking 12 course units of ensemble courses from the list of optional ensemble courses⁵

3 elective course units in a discipline other than music (MUS)

3 course units in French as a second language (FLS)⁴

6 elective course units, except for ensemble courses

Total: 120 Units

Note(s)

¹ This course has variable topics. Students may take this course twice.

² Students failing an applied music course (MUS 1032, MUS 2032, MUS 3030, MUS 3032) will be asked by the School of Music to withdraw from the BMus.

³ A written test at the beginning of MUS 1191 will determine if a student must participate in an additional weekly lab. For MUS 2306, a written test at the beginning of the course will determine if the student must also enrol for MUS 1303.

⁴ An exemption from this requirement is given to students who obtain an equivalency for the language proficiency test or who pass a music (MUS) course offered in French. The course is then to be replaced by 3 elective course units.

⁵ The course AMT 3105 can count towards this requirement.

⁶ Students may repeat ensemble courses for credit. Ensemble units over the required 12 units count as optional music courses (maximum of 12 additional units for a maximum of 24 ensemble units).

⁷ Students who successfully complete MUS 3032 will be granted permission to enrol in MUS 4032 or MUS 4035.

⁸ Compulsory for string students.

⁹ Compulsory for winds, brass, and percussion students.

¹⁰ Compulsory for voice students

¹¹ Compulsory for voice, guitar, harp, percussion, piano, winds, and brass students.

This is a copy of the 2026-2027 catalog.

¹² Compulsory for guitar students.

¹³ Compulsory for piano students.

List of optional ensemble courses

MUS 3901	Orchestra	3 Units
MUS 3902	Wind Ensemble	3 Units
MUS 3903	Opera Production	3 Units
MUS 3904	Choral Ensemble	3 Units
MUS 3905	Calixa-Lavallée Choir	3 Units
MUS 3907	Guitar Ensemble	3 Units
MUS 3908	Jazz Ensemble	3 Units
MUS 3909	Brass Choir	3 Units
MUS 3910	Brass Ensemble	3 Units
MUS 3911	Woodwind Ensemble	3 Units
MUS 3913	Percussion Ensemble	3 Units
MUS 3914	Contemporary Music Ensemble	3 Units
MUS 3915	Mixed Ensemble	3 Units
MUS 3916	Piano Ensemble	3 Units
MUS 3917	Accompaniment	3 Units
MUS 3930	Improvisation	3 Units