

Major Planning Guide:

Music

What can I do with a degree in music?

Students who decide to major in music may want to make a career out of music performance, conducting, composing, or musical theater. Other students plan to teach music, either privately, as elementary or high school music teachers, or at the college level. Some students plan to work in the music industry and want preparation both in music and business. Others want to use music therapeutically or as part of their religious ministry.

Related Majors/Concentration

Music Education
Music History
Ethnomusicology
Music Therapy
Composition
Conducting
Vocal Performance

Where can I earn a bachelor's degree in music in Washington?

Certain universities offer music as an undergraduate major. You can use the College Navigator search engine found at <http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator> to find music programs in Washington state or around the country.

How do I prepare to major in music?

Here are a few steps that we recommend you take to make sure that music is the right choice for you. There are many different types of careers in music, and it is important to do some research ahead of time to find the one that best fits your goals. An advisor can help you choose the transfer degree, and what courses you should take while you are here at Seattle Central.

Step One: Research

- Those who are undecided about a major/career can make an appointment with our Career Exploration Center in BE 1102E to take a career assessment test. This assessment can reveal your interests, values, and skills which then match you up with potential careers and programs that prepare you for specific career paths.
- Consult advisors at your intended transfer universities early so that you know whether it is better for music majors to finish the associate degree first or transfer early.
- Many music programs will require auditions for entry into the major. Students should take courses or lessons while at Seattle Central to prepare for auditions, even if those courses may not transfer.
- Certain universities offer a music major, but the concentrations they offer vary. If you want to study composition, for instance, make sure your intended transfer university offers that focus.
- Our Transfer Center in BE 1102F can help find universities you are interested in attending and guide you through the

Step Two: Pick a Degree

Students planning to major in music often earn the Associates of Art (AA-DTA) degree, or transfer early. Advisors can help students understand what requirements are necessary for transfer. You may pick up a degree planning worksheet for the AA-DTA ([purple sheet](#)) in BE 1102 lobby.

Step Three: Make a Long Range Academic Plan

Students planning to major in music at a baccalaureate institution may find that their best course of action is to focus on general education requirements at Seattle Central and consider transferring to a baccalaureate institution before completing an associate degree.

While music theory and performance classes may be helpful to build skills and prepare for auditions, many music classes at Seattle Central may not transfer to local universities to meet major requirements. Universities may want music majors to take their version of required music classes, or may require placement testing before transfer credit is granted. Because requirements vary according to the transfer university, it is STRONGLY recommended that students contact advisors in music departments at the universities where they are planning to transfer to find out what coursework is recommended for music majors. Once they have that information, students should work with an advisor at Seattle Central to ensure they take the appropriate classes to make the best use of their time at Seattle Central.

What are my next steps?

- Once you have had the chance to explore the career opportunities in music you might want to schedule an appointment to meet with an advisor to plan out your course of study. You can make an appointment by stopping by the Advising office in BE 1102D or calling us at 206-934-4068. (*If you are an international student, please stop by International Education Programs in BE 1113*).
- Attend Transfer Fairs and Career & Networking Fairs hosted by our office throughout the year.
- Explore the professional organizations in your area of interest for more information about education and career options.

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