

Seattle Central College Transfer Major Planning Guide

MUSIC

What can I do with a major 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.

Common concentrations within the music undergraduate major include:

- Composition
- Conducting
- Ethnomusicology
- Instrumental performance
- Music education
- Music history
- Music industry
- Music therapy
- Vocal performance

These may also be separate majors at some universities.

How can I prepare at Seattle Central for a major in music?

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.

Students planning to major in music should consider working toward the Associate of Arts – DTA degree to prepare to transfer. Exactly when will be best to apply to transfer should be decided by the student in consultation with advisors at the universities where the student may transfer.

Consider an emphasis to your associate degree before you transfer, such as Global Studies. This can enhance your resume, personal experience and be something you put into your personal statement. You may even already have completed it without knowing it! For questions on how to plan your emphasis, please contact your advisor.

Tips for Success as a Music Major

- 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.
- Music departments are unlikely to require any specific math courses, but it is still a good idea to take math early so that you are sure to complete your general math requirement before you transfer.
- Check prerequisites, admission requirements, and GPA requirements at your intended transfer university early so you can be well-prepared to transfer.
- 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 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.
- Check both university *admission* and *graduation* requirements at your preferred transfer university as a guide to choosing your classes. Some universities, for example, may require a year of foreign language as a graduation requirement. It may be much easier (and cheaper!) to meet that requirement at Seattle Central rather than waiting until later.

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

Cornish College of the Arts – Instrumental Performance, Vocal Performance, Jazz, Composition, Early Music, Music Theater

Northwest University – Music, Music Education, Music Industry Business, Music Ministry

Pacific Lutheran University – Music, Music in Performance, Music Education, Musical Arts, Composition

Seattle Pacific University – Music (concentrations in Composition, General Music, Music Education, Performance, and Music Technology), Music Therapy

University of Puget Sound – Music, Music Education, Music Performance, Music w/ Business

University of Washington, Seattle – Composition, Conducting, Ethnomusicology, Jazz and Improvised Music, Music Education, Music History and Music Theory, Instrumental or Vocal Performance

Western Washington University – Composition, Music History and Literature, Music Education, Music Performance

You can use the College Navigator search engine found at <http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/> to find additional music programs in Washington State or around the country.

Next Steps:

- Research the universities you are interested in attending and the prerequisite classes they require for your major.
- Meet with an advisor to choose a transfer degree, discuss prerequisites, and plan what classes you need to take in the next quarter or two.
- Explore the professional organizations in your area of interest for more information about education and career options.