



# MUSIC IN COLLEGE

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*Info for orchestra students and parents*



# OUR QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

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- Mrs. New - Bachelors degree in Music Education, Masters degree in Music Education.
- Mr. Link - Bachelors degree in Music Education, Masters degree in Music Education, Masters in Administration. Has taught at the university level and experienced auditions, admissions, etc.
- Undergraduate universities for both of us - small college programs where we gained a great amount of experience in performing and teaching. We both feel this was a key factor in our success as musicians and educators.



**I WANT TO BE A MUSIC MAJOR**

# CAREER OPPORTUNITIES WITH A BACHELOR'S IN MUSIC

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- Orchestra Director, music teacher, private lesson teacher (music education)
- Professional performing musician (music performance, artist's diploma)
- Church musician (there are Sacred music degrees at some universities)
- Composer - freelance, arranging/orchestrating, jingle-writing, film scores
- Music Therapist - children, hospice facilities, substance abuse programs, pain management
- Music Business - Advertising executive, booking agent, music publisher, personal manager, office manager, retail
- Music Producer - music director, recording engineer, studio manager
- Music Administration - work with staff/students in a college music program
- College professor with advanced degrees

# DEGREE PROGRAMS

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- MOST universities have the following degree programs:
  - Bachelor of Arts in Music
  - Bachelor of Music Education
  - Bachelor of Music Performance
- Many universities also have the following specialty programs:
  - Music Composition/Music Theory
  - Music History (also known as Musicology)
  - Jazz Studies
  - Music Therapy
  - Music Industry/Business
  - Artist's Diploma

# REQUIREMENTS FOR ENTERING COLLEGE AS A MUSIC MAJOR (PERFORMANCE, EDUCATION, BA)

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- GPA
- Auditions - do some research for universities you are interested in.
  - At a minimum, two contrasting pieces (lyrical, technical)
  - 3 octave scales (2-octave for basses)
  - Solo Bach, major concerti
- Entrance exams - sometimes required. Music theory, aural skills, music history, piano (if you already have piano experience).

# OTHER TYPES OF MUSIC DEGREES

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- Theory/Composition
  - A portfolio of compositions, extensive knowledge of music theory, piano skills
- Music Therapy
  - Usually requires an audition on your instrument and an interview process.
- Music History
  - May or may not require an audition. Excellent writing and research skills, will usually need an advanced degree.
- Music Industry/business
  - May or may not need to audition on your instrument.
  - Depending on area, knowledge of technology (sound board equipment, software, etc.)
- Artist's Diploma
  - Usually reserved for those who already have an undergraduate degree in another area. Does not have liberal arts requirements, purely musical training. Must be at an EXTREMELY high level to be accepted into this type of program.

# THE MUSIC AUDITION – HOW CAN I PREPARE?

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- Private lessons with a top-notch teacher each week.
  - The level of music that must be prepared for an audition is too high to achieve on your own. Invest in a good teacher and see them regularly! Your directors can offer guidance here.
- Regular practice routine - learn how to practice effectively! Performance majors spend 4 or more hours a day practicing. You have to LOVE practice to go this route!
- Repertoire selection - prepare contrasting pieces - you will usually need a lyrical and a technical. Solo Bach and major concertos for your instrument are also a good idea. Look at audition requirements and communicate with your private lesson teacher to make a plan.
- What's the level? Large music programs will require more than smaller programs. You will want to aim for Class One solo literature at least by your Senior year.

# OTHER PREPARATIONS

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- AP Music Theory - only Senior year, entrance exam required.
  - Great prep for your college music theory courses!
- Piano - most all music degrees have a piano component.
- Future music educators and music therapists - help out at middle schools, gain experience working with younger students.
- Music therapists - visit nursing homes and hospitals to play your instrument
- Attend symphony performances, listen to orchestral music, learn about composers and style periods
- Music industry - attend live music shows, learn about the music scene, observe marketing/social media tactics to attract fans

A pair of black-rimmed glasses is positioned in the center of the frame, resting on a sheet of handwritten musical notation. The notation is in black ink on white paper and includes various musical symbols such as notes, stems, and clefs. The background is slightly blurred, emphasizing the glasses and the text. The overall tone is educational and artistic.

# MINORING IN MUSIC

# MUSIC MINOR

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- A music minor is a way to be involved in the music program without making it your main focus.
- Some students choose to minor if they want to continue growing in their musical development without going into it as a career.
- A music minor typically involves just a handful of music courses, such as music theory and aural skills, as well as private lessons and large ensembles.
- May gain you the experience to teach private lessons or play in regional orchestras, but most likely not a full-time career path.

A blurred photograph of an orchestra performing. The image is semi-transparent, allowing the text to be clearly visible. The musicians are wearing dark clothing, and the background is a warm, out-of-focus setting. The text is centered and reads "PLAYING MUSIC AS A NON-MAJOR".

# PLAYING MUSIC AS A NON-MAJOR

# NON-MAJOR OPPORTUNITIES

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- All dependent on the individual school
- Large schools such as UofH, UT-Austin, Texas Tech have a non-major orchestra. Usually you still must audition, but can continue playing your instrument in an ensemble in this way.
- Small schools WANT you to come and play your instrument!
  - Many small music departments rely on non-majors to complete their large ensembles. Because of this, they are able to offer scholarships to non-major students. Often these scholarships require you to play in orchestra and take applied music (lessons).
  - Austin College, West Texas A&M, UT Arlington, Fort Hays State University, Oklahoma City University, Truman State University in Missouri

# IMPORTANT TO CONSIDER – SIZE OF UNIVERSITY

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- For a music major, carefully consider what you hope to gain from your college experience.
  - The average music student will have fewer opportunities in a large music department - graduate students can take all the spots in the orchestra, and you may not get to actually study privately with a professor.
  - Small music departments are a GREAT place if you want to get really involved, have more individual attention, more performance opportunities, AND scholarships.
- Non majors and minors - small universities may be able to offer you scholarships to play your instrument as well. This will probably not be the case at a large university.

# SCHOLARSHIPS (AKA, YOUR PARENTS' FAVORITE SLIDE)

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- Different offerings dependent on the university
- At large universities and conservatories, you will need to be a superstar on your instrument - all-region, MISD Honor Recital, etc. in order to receive any kind of scholarships. They will want you to be a music major.
- At smaller universities, they are looking for solid players to fill out their ensembles. They can usually offer more money to recruit you to their program. Priority is given to music majors, but many non-majors can benefit.
- Declaring a music minor at least may sometimes help your chances at receiving scholarship money.
- Auditions and sometimes interviews determine your scholarship - you are typically required to be in applied music (private lessons) and play in an ensemble.
- Look at other types of scholarships offered as well - freshmen merit scholarships, cultural scholarships, etc. can help alongside your music scholarship.

- The less popular your instrument, the more likely you are to receive a scholarship (we're looking at you, basses and violas!)
- Scholarship dollars vary from year to year, and some scholarships are only available after you've been involved in the program for a year or two. So keep showing them you are amazing!
- Out of state tuition waivers are very much available alongside your music scholarship!!
- Other scholarships available outside of your university:
  - TMEA, TODA (Music Education majors)

## OTHER ADVISE

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- Don't sell yourself short - explore LOTS of opportunities - big and small schools, inside and outside of Texas. Do lots of research!
- Take auditions at multiple schools to help you weigh your options.
- If music is your biggest passion, use it! You can always get a Bachelor of Arts if you are unsure of exactly which direction to choose. Any college degree will help you find a great job after graduation.
- Ask for our help! This is a very individual journey and we are here for you!

# SOME TEXAS COLLEGES WITH AWESOME MUSIC PROGRAMS

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- University of North Texas - large school (biggest music school in the nation)
- University of Texas at Arlington - medium-sized music department with a great orchestra program. Music Industry and Music Theory degrees available
- SMU - medium-sized music department that offers scholarship money (private school)
- Austin College in Sherman - very small music program, scholarship money available to non-majors (private school)
- Sam Houston State University - medium-sized music program, scholarship money available and lots of opportunity. Music therapy degree available. Great Music Education department.
- Texas State University - medium-sized music program with a great music education program
- West Texas A&M University - small music program with scholarships and lots of opportunity, Music therapy degree available.
- University of Texas at San Antonio - medium-sized music department with opportunities to play in orchestra as a non-major.

# NON-TEXAS COLLEGES WITH AWESOME MUSIC PROGRAMS

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- ▶ Fort Hays State University (Hays, KS) - very affordable, lots of scholarship funds available to majors and non-majors.
- ▶ Oklahoma City University (Oklahoma City, OK) - scholarships available for majors and non-majors. Music with Pre-Med or Pre-Law emphasis available - big scholarship money for these majors!
- ▶ Wichita State University (Wichita, KS) - medium-sized music department with lots of scholarships available for music majors.
- ▶ Kansas State University (Manhattan, KS) - medium-sized music department with scholarships available for majors and non-majors.
- ▶ Northwestern State (Natchitoches, LA) - small music department with lots of scholarships available for majors and non-majors.
- ▶ Oklahoma State University (Stillwater, OK) - medium music department with opportunities for non-majors.

**QUESTIONS?**