



What can I do with a major in... **COMPOSITION**

The Bachelor of Music degree in Composition is a professional degree for the musically talented student interested in a highly intense, in-depth study of music within the context of Scripture and the liberal arts. In addition to the music credits, the degree also includes core curriculum courses to round out one's studies. It is an appropriate degree for students considering graduate studies, private teaching, composing and arranging, or other music-related professions. The Bachelor of Music in Composition does not qualify the student to be certified to teach public school music. All students who plan to declare music as their major must submit a Music Audition Application and go through an audition process to be considered for acceptance into the music program.

What types of work are related to this degree?

- Freelance composer or arranger
- Church worship leader
- Behind the scenes: audio, recording, production
- Concert promotion
- Concert hall management or administration
- Music program coordination
- Music critic
- Artist representation
- Arts administration or management
- Promotion/media relations
- Music librarian
- Commercial/advertising jingle writing

Who employs people with this degree?

- Music industry
- Private and community music centers (teaching)
- Churches, orchestras, choral groups
- Opera and theatre companies
- Military ensembles
- Recording studios
- Dance companies and teaching studios
- Colleges and universities (may require graduate degree)
- Parks and recreation programs
- Nursing homes and hospitals
- Concert venues and performance halls
- Music-related publishers
- Entertainment law firms and businesses
- Music shops/retailers

More information online at ONETonline.org

Strategies for Success:

- As an undergraduate, gain as much experience as possible, paid or unpaid, through college and local organizations. Seek internships or volunteer positions with relevant organizations. Look for experiences where you can compose or arrange music.
- Confidence, personality, a positive attitude, and a love of music are important to success in many areas of music. Learn basic tools of self-promotion, but realize that few musicians earn a living solely through music.
- Some jobs may require you to join unions or guilds. Research the industry to learn which ones are appropriate.
- Many musicians travel frequently and must be flexible regarding their work schedules.
- Majoring in music provides students with a sense of aesthetics and an understanding of human expression valuable to many employers.
- Develop competencies in business management, computers, marketing, or other areas to broaden range of employment possibilities.
- Learn to articulate the transferrable skills provided by your liberal arts education: organization, written and oral communication, problem solving, leadership. It is also very important that you learn to improvise.

Professional Associations:

- National Association of Composers USA
- American Composers Forum
- American Federation of Musicians
- American Guild of Musical Artists

- American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers
- Association of Performing Arts Presenters
- Music Publishers Association
- Musicians Foundation

This information represents possible occupations and strategies for careers with this major. As with any job or career, there may be additional qualifications or experience needed. For more information and options, make an appointment with Career Development or check out our online resources on our website or on theROCK, Career Development tab.