Music

Davidson Music Center (45), Room 129
805 756-2406   FAX 805 756-7464
www.music.calpoly.edu
email: music@calpoly.edu

Department Chair, W. Terrence Spiller
David Arrivée  Kenneth S. Habib
Antonio G. Barata  William V. Johnson
Meredith Brammeier  Alyson McLamore
Thomas H. Davies  Paul Rinzler
India D’Avignon  Craig H. Russell

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

Music – BA, Minor

The Bachelor of Arts in Music introduces a student to the role of music in today’s world, helps form personal goals, and provides the discipline, skills and knowledge to accomplish those goals. The program develops musical skills, encourages creativity, and cultivates vision for the future. The University’s polytechnic emphasis also provides an excellent opportunity to explore music in conjunction with a wide range of other fields. Graduates are prepared to begin specialized study at the graduate level and to enter a wide variety of professional careers.

The Music Department is a valuable resource for the non-music major. Its courses and performing ensembles are open to all students who wish to enrich their lives through music. Qualified students may explore the subject in depth by minoring in music.

The Music Department also serves as a cultural center for both the university and the community through a program of public performances by student and faculty groups and through clinics, workshops, concerts, and lectures by outstanding individuals from outside the university.

Acceptance into the music major program requires a demonstrated ability on an instrument, in voice, or talent through other musical media.

Department Requirements

1. New students should contact the Music Department Office before their first term of enrollment to arrange for placement examinations for music theory, keyboard proficiency, musicianship (dictation, sight singing), and a performance audition for applied study placement and assignment to performing ensembles. Regardless of courses taken prior to coming to Cal Poly, students are required to remedy deficiencies before enrolling in advanced music theory or music history courses.

2. Each music major enrolled in at least 6 units of music courses must include a performance ensemble each quarter in order to qualify for applied study of voice or instruments. (See the Department for details regarding appropriate ensembles and applied study policies.) Each student enrolled in private instruction must take an applied music jury at the end of Spring Quarter.

3. Each student is required to attend a minimum of 6 concerts per quarter.

4. At the end of the sixth quarter of enrollment (third quarter of enrollment for transfer students) a student must take a mid-point evaluation to verify progress and potential in music. This test includes the following:
   • private performance skills (should be at the MU 250 level; tested through a jury)
   • musicianship skills up through the level of Musicianship III
   • knowledge of music theory up through the level of Theory II
   • piano proficiency (see No. 5 below)

5. Each student must pass a piano proficiency examination in order to graduate. The examination must be taken by the end of the sophomore year and if it is not passed, the student is expected to continue to enroll in piano until it is passed.

6. Use of Music Department instruments, scheduled practice rooms, electronic studio, or lockers requires a Music Use Fee. See the Music Department Office for details.

7. It is important that each student stay closely in touch with his/her advisor in order to progress through the music major program in the most efficient manner.

8. The Music Department is not able to offer the full complement of performing ensembles and private instruction during the Summer Quarter; it is important to take this into consideration when planning coursework for completion of the major.

A music major handbook giving complete details of the program, policies and forms is available from the Music Department.