

Bachelor of Music: Jazz Composition

[rev. fall 2025]

Course Requirements		Recommended Course Distribution			
Credits		First Yr	Second	Third	Fourth
8	MUTH 131, 132 (Music Theory I + II) ¹	4 4	- -	- -	- -
8	MUTH 250-299 or JAZZ 221, MUTH 250-299 (Music Theory) ²	- -	4 4	- -	- -
8	MUTH 101, 102, 201, 202 (Aural Skills I-IV)	2 2	2 2	- -	- -
48	PVST 040 (Principal Private Study)	6 6	6 6	6 6	6 6
8	PVST (Secondary Private Study) ³	2 2	2 2	- -	- -
8	JAZZ 700-703, 803-805 (Jazz Ensemble electives) ⁴	- -	- -	2 2	2 2
2	JAZZ 110 / PVST 078 (Jazz Keyboard/Piano) ⁵	- -	- 2	- -	- -
2	JAZZ 100 (Jazz Aural Skills)	- 2	- -	- -	- -
4	JAZZ 120 (Jazz Theory I)	- 4	- -	- -	- -
4	JAZZ 130, 131 (Basic Arranging/Comp Techniques I + II)	- -	2 2	- -	- -
8	JAZZ 201, 202 (Jazz Improvisation I + II)	- -	- -	4 4	- -
4	MUSY 101 (Intro to Hist and Lit of Music)	4 -	- -	- -	- -
8	JAZZ/MUSY 290, 291 (Intro to African American Music I + II) ⁶	- -	4 4	- -	- -
8	Conservatory electives ⁷	- -	- -	2 2	2 2
24	Liberal Arts electives	4 2	- -	4 6	4 4
16	Free electives ⁸	- -	2 -	2 -	6 6
168		22 22	22 24	20 20	20 18

Non-Course Requirements

Private Study Committee Examinations:

First Major Committee	- ✓	- -	- -	- -
Second Major Committee	- -	- ✓	- -	- -

Performance Requirements:

Junior Recital	- -	- -	- ✓	- -
Senior Recital	- -	- -	- -	- ✓

¹ A music theory placement test score of 80 or higher is a prerequisite for MUTH 131. Students with lower scores must successfully complete MUTH 120 before taking MUTH 131.

² Jazz majors may fulfill one of their 200-level Music Theory courses with JAZZ 221 (Jazz Theory II). JAZZ 221 is offered in the fall semester and recommended for the second year.

³ Jazz composition majors have an instrumental/vocal focus as determined at the time of Conservatory admission to the Jazz Composition Program. Jazz composition majors will be expected to take two-credit secondary lessons in their focus area during their first two years in the program.

⁴ Jazz composition students must audition for jazz ensembles at the start of each academic year. The Jazz Faculty will place students into large jazz ensembles (JAZZ 700-703; JAZZ 704 (Jazz Trombone Choir) may be counted as large ensemble for rhythm section players only). Students must complete at least four credits (two semesters) in large jazz ensembles. The remaining four required jazz ensemble credits may be fulfilled through additional participation in large jazz ensembles or through participation in small jazz ensembles (JAZZ 703, 803-805). JAZZ 703 may be counted as a large or small jazz ensemble. APST 808 (Performance and Improvisation Ensemble) may fulfill two credits (one semester) of the small ensemble requirement.

⁵ JAZZ 110 requirement may be fulfilled through two credits of PVST 078 (Jazz Piano Secondary Lessons). Lessons determined upon consultation with the student's advisor, studio faculty, or department chair.

⁶ JAZZ/MUSY 290, 291 count as eight of the 32 Liberal Arts electives required for the Bachelor of Music degree.

⁷ Conservatory elective courses are any credited Conservatory courses that will count toward the total required credits and that carry the CNDP attribute.

⁸ Students may register for any credited Conservatory or Arts and Sciences course that will count toward the total required credits.