

Career-Related Services

Career Counseling
Graduate School Planning
Career Resource Library
Career Assessments
Internship Planning
Credentials Services

Hours

Monday - Friday
8 am - 5 pm



School of UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES
512-232-8400 Jester A115

utexas.edu/ugs/csacc

Music



Center for STRATEGIC ADVISING
& CAREER COUNSELING

Career Options for Music Majors

This booklet contains specific information about majoring in music at The University of Texas at Austin, as well as career opportunities related to this major. The careers listed typically require a bachelor's degree, and special certification or training requirements are noted. Please use this booklet as an idea generator, rather than as a comprehensive list of all career options for music majors. The career descriptions were obtained from the Center for Strategic Advising & Career Counseling (CSA&CC) library resources and career websites (see listing of sources on last page).

The first section, "Direct Career Opportunities," includes careers that use the musical and creative skills acquired by music majors. The second section, "More Career Opportunities," lists careers that are potentially available to all fine arts majors who have related experience or coursework.

For music majors, there are many career options that require a master's or doctoral degree but do not require any particular undergraduate degree. Examples of these include law, international affairs, museum administration, library and information studies, hospital administration, and many more. For careers requiring graduate education, please visit our library or speak to a career counselor.

The CSA&CC offers many other services and resources to help you with your career planning. These include:

- Career Counseling
- Career Assessment
- Career Information Library
- Internship Information
- Graduate School Planning Assistance

Visit our website at utexas.edu/ugs/csacc or call 232-8400 for more information.

MAJORING IN MUSIC AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

Departmental Website: www.music.utexas.edu

Campus Location: MRH 3.836

Phone Number: 471-7764

DESCRIPTION OF MAJOR

The music major is intended for a student who has had some years of formal music training and the desire to explore the discipline in its theoretical, historical, economic, and performance context. An undergraduate degree can lead to graduate study and/or careers in education, performance, composition, technology, or business-related fields.

AREAS OF STUDY

Chamber Music/Collaborative Arts

Conducting and Ensembles

Composition (including Electronic Music Studios)

Jazz Studies/Music Industry

Music and Human Learning

Musicology and Ethnomusicology

Piano and Keyboard

Strings

Theory

Woodwind, Brass, and Percussion (including Percussion Studio)

Vocal Arts

EXAMPLES OF COURSES

115D String Instrument Fundamentals

Beginning instruction in string instrument performance and pedagogy. This course is offered in the following instruments: double bass, viola, violin, and violoncello. Individual or class instruction in music performance. Laboratory hours as required.

303M Introduction to Traditional Musics in World Cultures

Same as Asian Studies 303M. Open to all University students. Art, sacred, and folk traditions of music in the cultures of Asia, Africa, the Pacific, Europe, and the Americas.

339M Introduction to the Music Business and Entrepreneurship

An overview of the dynamics and business challenges of the contemporary music performance world, with an emphasis on the study of the rapidly changing musical culture and an increasingly competitive and diversified marketplace. Guest lecturers include professional conductors, directors of large performance venues, classical and pop music performers, music critics, songwriters, music publishers, entertainment law attorneys, and record producers.

460P Pedagogy

Designed primarily for students planning teaching careers. This course is offered in harp, piano, strings, woodwinds, brass, percussion, and voice. Methods of individual and class instruction through the use of music literature and the teaching repertoire. Practice teaching and laboratory for diagnostic and corrective methods are required

Skills gained by Music Majors

Highly developed motor coordination

Poise and self confidence

Ability to hear and recognize tonal structures

Persistence and harmonic balance, rhythm, and tempo

Working harmoniously with others

Creativity

DIRECT JOB OPPORTUNITIES

This sampling includes careers that use the musical and creative skills typically acquired by music majors.

Artist Agent

Represent freelance artists, photographers, musicians, actors, and dancers and connects them with work opportunities. Negotiate prices, deadlines, and copyright issues and collect and distribute payment. Typically work on a freelance, commission basis.

Artist and Repertoire (A & R) Administrator

Plan, analyze, and monitor budgets for artists' expenditures at a record label.

Artist and Repertoire (A & R) Coordinator

Find talent for record label to sign by visiting clubs, screening demo recordings, and viewing video performances. Help find songs for artists who sign on with the record label.

Conductor/Music Director

Lead instrumental or choral music groups, such as symphonies, bands, choirs, and dance bands. Audition and select musicians, choose music, and manage rehearsals and performances. May work for public schools, universities, community organizations, and private ensembles. Certification is required for work in public schools.

Digital Audio Editor

Work with sound designers, composers and directors to put audio, music, sound effects, and spoken dialogue together in a highly controlled environment.

Jingle Writer

Specialize in writing music for radio and television commercials. Creatively produce and incorporate original sound designs into the production process. Represent clients musically as directed.

MIDI Pre-Producer

Work with film/TV composers who are proposing film scoring projects to film/TV directors. Use a MIDI studio where the orchestration can be economically realized as an option to hiring an entire orchestra to record proposed musical ideas and themes.

Multimedia Developer (Interactive Multimedia Specialist)

Format and produce audio content for CDs and websites. Combine two or more formats including text, still images, video, animation, or sound as part of an interactive software package.

Musical Composer/Arranger

Apply music theory to create harmonies and melodies in original or standard musical forms; arrange music composed by others or rewrite original music in different musical styles; create and develop musical ideas; score compositions to adjust ranges and keys to address instrumental and vocal capabilities; collaborate

with other colleagues, such as copyists, to complete the final score.

Musical Instrument Repairer/Tuner

Repair, adjust, and tune instruments to restore sound quality. Inspect instruments to determine their value or restoration needs.

Music Distributor/Retailer

Distributor: sell and deliver finished musical products to retail and on-line outlets; Retailer: receive the products from the distributor, work with the record labels to create sales and marketing campaigns, sell the products to the public.

Music Publisher

Negotiate and issue licenses for songs, collect revenues, and ensure that proper royalties are paid; help songwriters by critiquing newly written songs, giving creative advice, providing publicity, developing career goals, and providing introductions to other songwriters and creative people in the business. Secure recording contracts or production jobs for artists, writers and producers.

Music Therapist

Use music to accomplish therapeutic goals relating to the restoration, maintenance, and improvement of mental and physical health in settings, such as hospitals, treatment centers, nursing homes, hospices, rehabilitation centers, prisons, and mental health clinics. May require additional certification or graduate degree.

Personal Manager

Direct aspects of an artist's career, such as record company issues, publishing, touring, marketing, publicity, business management, film and sound track work, sponsorships, endorsements, and other opportunities. May secure recording and/or publishing contracts and be involved in contract negotiations, often working with the artist's attorney.

President or Vice President of Music (Film Studio)

Oversee all live action film and television music matters. After establishing the filmmaker's needs, supervise the music in both production and post-production phases, with a focus on pre-existing music. May supervise the scoring and mixing processes.

Production Designer and Director/ Set and Lighting Designer

Develop a concept for artists' live performance and either create or oversee the design of the stage, lighting, special effects, and choreography; select songs, the pace of the show, and the overall direction of the performance.

Publicist

Strategize campaigns and coordinate all publicity efforts, including national media, television, syndicated radio, and tour press, for record labels or individual musicians and groups. Write press releases, coordinate media interviews, and distribute promotional recordings.

Recording Engineer and Mixer

Select and place microphones, record the music onto tape, work the console, sort out the recorded and overdubbed data and mix it down to whatever format is needed to clarify the musical statement of the producer and artist.

Recording Equipment Manufacturer's Rep/Customer Service

Work in a customer service/technical support role for recording equipment company. Represent the company at trade shows or conferences, possibly as a product demonstrator if musical performance abilities are strong.

Sound Designer

Develop a sound library of synthesized original sounds and effects for artists/bands, production and multimedia companies and music equipment manufacturers. Use various sophisticated electronic equipment to address customers' needs. In film/video, design creative sounds for images.

Studio Manager/Owner

Run the business of the recording studio, perhaps as sole or partial owner of the business. Book acts to record at the studio, schedule

engineers, market the studio, account for the budget, and provide for all the needs of the parties using the studio. Act as the liaison between the engineers and the clients to ensure client satisfaction and handle all financial transactions with clients.

MORE JOB OPPORTUNITIES

This section lists other opportunities that may be available to all fine arts majors. Entry into these careers usually requires internship or volunteer experience or relevant coursework in addition to a music degree. This is a sampling of job opportunities; for more options and ideas, please visit the career information library.

ADVERTISING/MARKETING/SALES

Advertising and Promotions Manager

Plan and direct advertising policies and programs or produces collateral materials, such as posters, contests, coupons, or giveaways, to create extra interest in the purchase of a product or service for a department, an entire organization, or on an account basis.

Art Buyer

Research and solicit artwork used in advertising projects. Evaluate portfolios, negotiate fees and usage terms, and present estimates to art director. Coordinate photo shoots and retouching work.

Display Designer

Design and install displays of clothing, accessories, furniture, and other products to attract customers. Collaborate with other marketing professionals to develop product campaigns and branding concepts.

Stylist

Work with photographers to create a certain “look” or image in the print advertising industry or for film and commercial shoots. Can specialize in areas such as food, home, furnishings, or casting and research trends in these areas.

Survey Researcher

Design or conduct surveys. May supervise interviewers who conduct the survey in person or over the telephone. May present survey results to client.

BUSINESS

Artist Agent

Represent freelance artists, photographers, musicians, actors, and dancers and connects them with work opportunities. Negotiate prices, deadlines, and copyright issues and collect and distributes payment. Typically work on a freelance, commission basis.

Auction Gallery Assistant

Work for a particular department within an auction gallery, such as prints or contemporary art. Acquire works for sale, perform appraisals, write catalogues, and organize auctions. Interact with art dealers, collectors, and administrators of trusts and estates.

Corporate Recruiter

Maintain contacts in the community and travel, often to college campuses, to seek qualified job applicants. Screen and interview applicants and makes job offers. Stay up-to-date on organizational hiring policies, equal employment opportunity, and affirmative action guidelines. Work for companies, government agencies, and non-profit organizations.

Management Consultant Analyst

Analyze business problems by collecting information from both internal and external sources, developing possible solutions, and then making recommendations to management team. Usually work for consulting firms, who hire recent college graduates for 2-3 year analyst positions.

Retail Manager

Oversee profitable operation of retail stores (example music store or art supply company), including hiring and supervising employees, managing inventory, and managing the budget. May be responsible for merchandise promotions and advertising.

CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS

Meeting and Convention Planner

Coordinate all aspects of group meetings and conventions, including speakers, location, audio-visual equipment, and publicity. Work for nonprofit organizations, professional associations, hotels, corporations, and government agencies.

Public Relations Specialist

Write articles for internal publications, write press releases, assemble press kits, arrange speaking engagements, assist in fundraising activities. Work in a variety of settings: business, government, non-profit, and education.

Special Event Planner

Plan, organize, and implement special events for corporations, non-profit agencies, or individuals. Consult with client, manage budget, supervise vendors, and perform follow-up assessment. Examples of special events include corporate open houses, anniversaries or weddings, charity fundraisers, political rallies, concerts, and festivals.

Technical Writer

Write technical materials that communicate scientific and technical information to readers with little technical background, such as equipment manuals, appendices, or operating and maintenance instructions. May assist in layout work.

Web Designer

Use knowledge of computer applications to translate client needs into artistically appealing website. Select color, text, and artwork and update/maintain site as needed.

EDUCATION

College Admissions Officer

Evaluate freshman and transfer applicants; counsel and advise the general public including, but not limited to, prospective applicants, parents, faculty, and administration on admission-related issues; and participate in various recruitment and yield activities.

Corporate Trainer

Develop and conduct individual, group, and classroom training for employees on a wide variety of subjects. Develop training manuals, handouts, procedures, and supplemental training materials. Other duties involve test creation and administration for the advancement of employees.

Disability Services Coordinator

Serve as an advocate for students with disabilities. Work with faculty to understand and provide reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities. Promote disability awareness on campus.

Elementary School Teacher

Teach pupils in public or private schools at the elementary level basic academic, social, and other formative skills. Public schools require teacher certification, but private schools do not.

Residence Life Coordinator

Supervise undergraduate and/or graduate staff, develop residence hall community, respond to student concerns, manage administration and facilities, and participate in department initiatives and campus life.

ENVIRONMENT AND OUTDOOR

Environmental Education Specialist

Plan, develop, and conduct programs to inform public of historical, natural, and scientific features of national, state, or local parks.

Landscape Architect

Design topography, vegetation, walkways, and other decorative features for businesses, parks, and residential areas. Confer with client, analyze site data, and prepare plans, drawings, and cost estimates. May require coursework in landscape architecture.

Recreation Program Manager

Plan, organize, and evaluate citywide recreation programs, including sports, games, hobbies, arts & crafts, and special events.

Recycling Coordinator

Design and implement curbside and drop-off recycling and hazardous waste programs through city governments or private firms. Conduct public outreach campaigns to educate people about the advantages of recycling. May ensure compliance with ordinances or apply for grants.

GOVERNMENT

Grants Specialist

Plan, manage, and represent government agencies that fund research or cultural programs. Oversee budget and organize panelists who review grant applications. Supervise disbursement of funds and monitor usage of grant monies.

Legal Assistant

Assist lawyers by researching legal precedent, investigating facts, or preparing legal documents. Conduct research to support a legal proceeding, to formulate a defense, or to initiate legal action.

Legislative Analyst

Perform quantitative and qualitative analysis of information needed by legislators and other government officials. Evaluate policy issues and options, write reports, conduct briefing meetings, and respond to inquiries.

Legislative Assistant

Meet with lobbyists, arrange committee and subcommittee hearings, assist in developing legislation and amendments. Respond to requests for information, prepare memos and reports based on completed research for legislators.

Lobbying Organizer

Distribute information about a particular issue or organization (such as funding for the arts), recruit volunteers, solicit funds, and organize such efforts as rallies, letter-writing campaigns, and voter registrations drives. Work for special and public interest groups as well as professional lobbyists.

HUMAN SERVICES

Americorps Volunteer

Serve full-time for a year in organizations and agencies throughout the country, work to fight illiteracy, improve health services, create businesses, increase housing opportunities, or bridge the digital divide. Benefits include an Education Award or an end-of-service stipend.

Community Organizer

Establish and organize community groups to solve social problems in the community. Assess strengths and weaknesses of existing resources and propose changes. Promote cooperation and coordination among government agencies, nonprofit organizations, and other community groups. Conduct research, prepare budgets, and assist in fundraising.

Social Service Caseworker

Help families and individuals secure assistance from social service agencies. Interview clients to understand degree and nature of problems and refer to appropriate community resources. May determine eligibility for financial assistance and/or advocate on clients' behalf to government or nonprofit agencies.

Volunteer Coordinator

Recruit, train, schedule and provide supervision to volunteers at non-profit organizations. Arrange for on-the-job and other required training, supervision and evaluation of volunteers. Serve as liaison between administration, staff, and volunteers.

Youth Organizer

Manage and administer youth and community projects and resources; conduct needs assessment and plan and deliver relevant programs of personal and social education via discussions, arts-based activities, community/environmental projects, residential activities, and outdoor/sports activities.

INTERNATIONAL

Cultural Tour Guide

Plan and organize themed trips that encompass sites and experiences related to the fine arts. Educate travelers, handles special needs, and coordinate transportation. Work for tour company or on freelance basis.

ESL/ESOL Teacher

Provide rigorous and appropriate instruction to international students that supports the acceleration of English and appropriate academic content. Also, serve as a liaison between the student, his/her family and the school, by providing cross-cultural information to all parties that foster positive relationships.

Foreign Service Officer

Analyze and report on political and economic developments, including agricultural trends, humanitarian and social conditions. Identify export markets, negotiate international agreements, and interpret US policies and interests for foreign governments, opinion leaders and publics. Issue visas to foreign nationals, provide development assistance, and arrange cultural exchanges.

Intelligence Officer

A member of the armed forces, police officer or civilian intelligence agency who specializes in the gathering, fusion and analysis of information and intelligence in order to provide advice to their government or another organization.

Peace Corps Volunteer

Peace Corps Volunteers work internationally in the following areas: education, youth outreach, and community development; health and HIV/AIDS; agriculture and environment; business development; and information technology. Within these areas, the specific duties and responsibilities of each Volunteer can vary widely.

MEDIA/PUBLISHING

Copy Editor

Act as liaison between author, editor, and proofreader. Review manuscripts for grammar and style usage. May develop in-house style guide, supervise freelance staff, and handle author queries.

Copywriter

Write articles, bulletins, sales letters, speeches, and other related informative, marketing and promotional material for use by publication or broadcast media to promote sale of goods and services.

Grant Writer

Write and develop grant proposals, which includes conducting needs assessments and matching product needs with available funding. Write progress reports to organization funding the grant. Work for government or non-profit agencies.

Staff Writer

Research and write articles for fine arts magazine. May write article promos, short features, author bios, or photo captions. May work on freelance basis or for one particular magazine.

Travel Writer

Write features with detailed, accurate, timely and up-to-date information regarding destinations, hotels, restaurants, tours, activities, etc, using a variety of sources of information. Involves thorough research and travel.

RESEARCH

Information Broker

Perform research for clients in business, healthcare, government, law, and science. Use Internet, database, and library resources to find specific information. May also analyze information, write reports, and train clients in information retrieval. Often work for consulting firms or on freelance basis.

Institutional Researcher

Write institutional and policy histories; research and report on current issues and long-range trends; edit records; manage archives. Work for government agencies, private corporations, public archives and libraries.

Market Research Analyst

Research market conditions in local, regional, or national areas to determine potential sales of a product or service. May gather information on competitors, prices, sales, and methods of marketing and distribution. May use survey results to create a marketing campaign based on regional preferences and buying habits.

Preservation/Restoration Assistant

Conduct architectural, art, and urban historical research; apply technological and artistic conservations skills; research-related laws and tax issues. Work for specialized preservation services firms.

Social Science Research Assistant

Assist social scientists in laboratory, survey, and other social research. May perform publication activities, laboratory analysis, quality control, or data management.

SOURCES

100 Careers in the Music Business by Tanja L. Crouch. Barron's Educational Series, 2001.

O*Net Occupational Information Network: online.onetcenter.org

UT Fine Arts Career Services: www.utexas.edu/cofa/career

Berklee College of Music: www.berklee.edu/careers