

FSU College of Music: Information on Undergraduate Composition Degree

Please read all of the information below carefully. If you have questions, contact Dr. Evan Jones at ejones@fsu.edu.

The B.M. composition degree is for students interested in composition of contemporary “classical” concert music that explores extended tonal and atonal harmonic languages in traditional and novel forms. Students interested in traditional tonal or popular styles of composing should consider the B.A. in commercial music or jazz. Prospective students should look at both of these curriculums closely as they consider their options and interests. Students in the B.A. program may be able to study composition privately if studio space is available.

Students must have completed or exempted MUT 1111 (Theory I) before taking private lessons in composition. Lessons during the freshman and sophomore year (first semester) are normally with doctoral students and begin in the second semester of freshman year. Exceptional students with prior training in composition may, pending approval, obtain lessons with faculty members immediately.

Any prospective composition student must be admitted to the College of Music and have successfully auditioned on a principal instrument. Students should submit 2–3 compositions for consideration of admission to the composition program. These scores will normally be reviewed the week prior to classes in the Fall and Spring semester, and may be submitted to Longmire 209 the Monday morning of that week. Students will be notified about lessons that week. A list of composition studio assignments will be distributed before classes begin. Students who are denied may seek private instruction on their own and resubmit the following semester.

NOTE: Students may submit their compositions at the time they audition for the College of Music in the Spring when they are applying to the College of Music at FSU. Faculty will review these applications in the spring term. You may mail your portfolio to Dr. Evan Jones, College of Music, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL 32306-1180.

Students are initially admitted as prospective composition majors. Their progress and work in private lessons is evaluated at the end of each term. Students who do not progress well or demonstrate inconsistent effort will not be permitted to continue in the program. Students will normally be placed with a faculty member during the second semester sophomore year if their progress has been viewed favorably. **At the end of the sophomore year, students will meet with faculty to discuss their compositions to date, which are submitted to the faculty for admission to the upper-division composition sequence.** This is equivalent to the sophomore "applied" jury. Students not admitted to the upper-division level should keep in mind that a B.A. in music is a viable and flexible alternative.