

MUSIC STUDIES, MINOR

Requirements for a minor may be completed at any campus location offering the specified courses for the minor. Students may not change from a campus that offers their major to a campus that does not offer their major for the purpose of completing a minor.

Spring 2021 Curricular Update: *The program description, entrance requirements, and program requirements detailed on this page are effective beginning Spring 2021. To learn more about what approved curricular changes take effect in Spring 2021, please visit the Changes to the UG Bulletin page (<http://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/using-this-bulletin/#changestotheugbulletintext>). To view the requirements in effect for Fall 2020, please visit the 2020-21 Undergraduate Bulletin PDF (<http://bulletins.psu.edu/pdf/2020-2021-undergraduate.pdf>).*

Program Description

The minor in music studies provides students the opportunity to conduct focused study on music theory, history and literature. The minor may also serve as an important adjunct to other studies such as speech pathology and audiology, speech communication, or broadcasting. Some students choose to add the music studies minor as a balancing influence to coursework in their majors; others relate music studies directly to their major. For example, a recent Schreyer Honors College history major did her thesis on song during the Civil War. Each student registers for core courses in music theory, history and literature. Students usually opt to focus on one of the three areas in their upper-level courses.

What is Music?

Italian composer Ferruccio Busoni said “music is sonorous air.” A more scientific definition might be “sounds organized in time.” With a history that likely pre-dates language, music is an integral part of all societies for expression, communication and the fostering of community. In the words of philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche, “without music, life would be a mistake.”

You Might Like This Program If...

You have skills and an interest in music theory and music history and would like to continue playing or singing in ensembles while pursuing a degree outside music.