

# Jazz Studies

Jazz studies is a major that offers in-depth study in the history and literature of jazz, improvisation, jazz arranging and composition, jazz theory and pedagogy, applied music lessons in jazz, and performance opportunities in both jazz combos and big bands. Students majoring in jazz studies elect to complete either an emphasis in jazz performance or jazz composition. Upon completion of the program, a student receives a Bachelor of Music degree in Jazz Studies.

## Pursuing Jazz Studies at Ohio State

Students interested in jazz studies should develop performance skills in preparation for the entrance audition. Piano lessons are also recommended, if available.

All students planning to pursue a music major must complete an entrance audition and the Music Achievement Test (MAT). Normally students do this during the senior year in high school on a scheduled Audition Day. Transfer students and students already at Ohio State should also plan to complete an audition and the MAT.

For additional information about auditions, please visit [music.osu.edu](http://music.osu.edu) or contact Catherine Hope-Cunningham, School of Music, 1866 College Road, Columbus, Ohio 43210-1170, (614) 292-2870, e-mail: [music-ug@osu.edu](mailto:music-ug@osu.edu).

Acceptance into a music performance degree is contingent upon approval of the applied music faculty.

## Jazz Studies Requirements

Core courses:

- Music theory
- Music aural training
- Music technology
- Music history and world music
- Large and small ensembles
- Minor applied music

Required major courses:

- Applied music
- Jazz improvisation
- Jazz theory and history
- Jazz scoring
- Advanced theory courses
- Junior and senior recitals

## Educational Objectives

Students majoring in jazz studies will achieve the following learning outcomes:

- Students must demonstrate achievement of professional, entry-level competence in the area of specialization,

including significant technical mastery, capability to produce work and solve professional problems independently, and a coherent set of artistic/intellectual goals that are evident in their work.

- Students will engage in applied studies each quarter that will provide appropriate skills, knowledge, and experience to prepare students for graduate programs and professional careers in the field. They will represent an understanding of a wide range of historical styles and periods.
- Students will complete courses in music theory, music history, and area-specific literature and pedagogy that will provide appropriate skills, knowledge, and experience to prepare them for professional careers in the field. These courses will represent an understanding of a wide range of historical styles and periods.
- Students must have the ability to communicate musical ideas, concepts, and requirements to professionals and lay persons related to the practice of the major field. Such communication may involve musical, oral, written, and visual media.
  - Students will complete curricular requirements that include courses designed to develop oral and written communication skills.
  - Students will gain knowledge and experience in pedagogical methodologies in their area of specialization.
- Students will gain an understanding of the nature of the music field in the professional world, particularly related to organizational structures, work ethics, technological resources, and entrepreneurial skills required for advancing their careers.
  - Students will complete a required course in music technology and will prepare numerous assignments in music theory and music history courses employing a wide range of software and web-based sources and skills covered in this course.
  - Students will build workplace skills through independent studies with applied faculty and ensemble directions.
- Students must gain experiences in general studies sufficient to prepare them for a range of career options.
  - Students will gain skills sufficient for clear and effective verbal and written communication.
  - Students will include a broad range of general studies courses in their curricula appropriate for complementing degree requirements that address their specific music concentrations.

**For more information, check these web sites:**

**School of Music:** [music.osu.edu](http://music.osu.edu)

**Arts and Humanities:** [artsandhumanities.osu.edu](http://artsandhumanities.osu.edu)

**Ohio State:** [osu.edu](http://osu.edu)

**Admissions:** [undergrad.osu.edu](http://undergrad.osu.edu)

**Multicultural Center:** [multiculturalcenter.osu.edu](http://multiculturalcenter.osu.edu)

**First Year Experience Program:** [fye.osu.edu](http://fye.osu.edu)

## Curriculum Sample

This is a sample list of classes a student will take to pursue a degree in Jazz Studies. Since university students need more than a specific education in a narrow field, they also will take classes to complete the General Education Curriculum (GEC). The GEC will allow students to develop the fundamental skills essential to collegiate success across major programs. Course work options satisfying the GEC often come from a variety of academic areas of study allowing students to tailor their GEC toward their interests. Note: This sample represents one of several possible paths to a degree in Jazz Studies. Consult the school web site, [music.osu.edu](http://music.osu.edu), for details on each specific track.

Freshman Year:	
Music History	1
Music Theory I-III	9
Music Aural Training I-III	6
Music Technology	3
Jazz Improvisation	6
Large Ensembles	3
Lessons on principal instrument	6
Secondary Piano	3
GEC (English composition)	5
GEC (mathematics)	5
GEC (social sciences)	5
Arts Survey	1
Freshman Seminar	1
<b>Total hours</b>	<b>54</b>

Sophomore Year:	
Music Theory IV-VI	9
Music Aural Training IV-VI	6
Music History I-III	9
Large Ensembles	3
Jazz Theory and History	5
Jazz Improvisation	3
Lessons on traditional instrument	6
Lessons on principal instrument	6
Jazz Keyboard	2
GEC (second writing course)	5
<b>Total hours</b>	<b>54</b>

Junior Year:	
Music Form & Analysis	3
Jazz Ensemble Scoring	3
Survey of Jazz Styles	3
Large Ensembles	3
Lessons on principal instrument	12
GEC (historical survey)	5
World Music courses	6
GEC (integrated arts or studio)	5
GEC (natural sciences)	5
GEC (quantitative analysis)	5
Conducting	2
<b>Total hours</b>	<b>52</b>

Senior Year:	
Lessons on traditional instrument	2
Senior recital	1
Applied performance electives	4
Jazz Ensemble Scoring	3
Advanced Jazz Improvisation	3
Jazz Ensemble Techniques	3
Survey of Music Industry	3
Composition	3
Large Ensembles	3
GEC (literature)	5
GEC (social sciences)	10
GEC (natural sciences)	10
<b>Total hours</b>	<b>50</b>

## Co-Curricular Opportunities

Ohio State offers many opportunities for students to learn and grow outside of the classroom. These range from cooperative education (co-op) and internships to study abroad programs to student organizations. Co-ops and internships place students in professional environments while they are Ohio State students. Ohio State offers more than 100 study abroad programs in 40 countries around the world. In addition, there are hundreds of student organizations on campus to meet the interests of a diverse student population.

These opportunities enable students to gain valuable work experience, learn about other cultures, and take on leadership roles before they enter the workforce. All of these experiences enhance learning and may provide an advantage in the job market.

## Honors & Scholars Opportunities

Ohio State offers the Honors and Scholars programs to create an environment of intellectual support and stimulation within a close-knit community of high-ability undergraduate students. Through these programs, students have access to smaller classes, undergraduate research opportunities, close working relationships with faculty, priority scheduling, and unique housing options.

Honors and Scholars programs represent great opportunities to be part of a smaller community within a large university. Good candidates for these programs will receive additional information after admission to the university. Visit [honors-scholars.osu.edu](http://honors-scholars.osu.edu) to learn more about the Honors and Scholars program.

## Career Prospects in Jazz Studies

Students in jazz studies have a variety of career opportunities. Some graduates begin playing professionally either as a soloist or in a group following their collegiate experience. Other opportunities include studio work as performers and writers, or freelance work. In addition, some graduates move into business and industry or other music-related careers.

Those interested in pursuing a professional career as a performer usually continue directly into graduate study upon completion of the undergraduate degree. The same is true of students interested in securing a position as a jazz studies teacher at a college or university.

## More About Jazz Studies

The School of Music's performing ensembles have received national and international recognition over the years. The Jazz Ensemble performed at the Montreux International Jazz Festival in 1975, 1978, 1986, 1996, and 2001. The Jazz Ensemble also appeared at the Mexico City International Jazz Festival in 1990 and the North Sea Jazz Festival in 1986, 1996, and 2001. This group recently completed a European tour, and frequently performs in venues throughout the United States.

**Revised August 2009.** For the most up-to-date information on the jazz studies program, please visit [music.osu.edu](http://music.osu.edu).

## Contact information:

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