

THEORY MAJOR (B.MUS.) (124 CREDITS)

Offered by: Music Research (Schulich School of Music)
Degree: Bachelor of Music
Program credit weight: 124

Program Description

The Bachelor of Music (B.Mus.); Major Theory program requires 124 credits and features coursework centered in the development of models and methods of musical languages. How specific pieces of music are put together and how this may be generalized to relate to the way other pieces of music are composed. Theory incorporates a combination of writing skills and analysis. Specialization in such subjects as the application of mathematical models to music analysis and Renaissance-style counterpoint.

Note: For information about Fall 2025 and Winter 2026 course offerings, please check back on May 8, 2025. Until then, the "Terms offered" field will appear blank for most courses while the class schedule is being finalized.

Program Prerequisites - Freshman Program (32 credits)

32 credits selected as described below, in consultation with the Program Adviser:

- 22 credits of Prerequisite Courses
- 4 credits of Large Ensembles
- 6 credits of Non-Music Electives

Prerequisite Courses

22 credits, select all of the courses below:

Note: Students who can demonstrate through auditions, placement tests or equivalencies that they have mastered the material in any of the courses below will be exempt from them and may proceed to more advanced courses.

Expand allContract all		
Course	Title	Credits
MUHL 186	Western Musical Traditions.	3
MUIN 180	BMus Practical Lessons 1.	3
MUIN 181	BMus Practical Lessons 2.	3
MUPD 135	Music as a Profession 1.	1
MUSP 140	Musicianship Training 1.	2
MUSP 141	Musicianship Training 2.	2
MUSP 170	Musicianship (Keyboard) 1.	1
MUSP 171	Musicianship (Keyboard) 2.	1
MUTH 150	Theory and Analysis 1.	3
MUTH 151	Theory and Analysis 2.	3

Required Courses (25 credits)

Theory

Expand allContract all		
Course	Title	Credits
MUTH 250	Theory and Analysis 3.	3
MUTH 251	Theory and Analysis 4.	3
MUTH 350	Theory and Analysis 5.	3

Musicianship

Expand allContract all		
Course	Title	Credits
MUSP 240	Musicianship Training 3.	2
MUSP 241	Musicianship Training 4.	2
MUSP 346	Post-Tonal Musicianship.	2

Music History

Expand allContract all		
Course	Title	Credits
MUHL 286	Critical Thinking About Music.	3

Performance

Expand allContract all		
Course	Title	Credits
MUIN 280	BMus Practical Lessons 3.	2.5
MUIN 281	BMus Practical Lessons 4.	2.5
MUIN 283	BMus Concentration Final Examination.	1

Professional Development

Expand allContract all		
Course	Title	Credits
MUPD 235	Music as a Profession 2.	1

Complementary Courses (40 credits)

Theory

6 credits selected from:

Expand allContract all		
Course	Title	Credits
MUTH 202	Modal Counterpoint 1.	3
MUTH 204	Tonal Counterpoint 1.	3
MUTH 302	Modal Counterpoint 2.	3
MUTH 304	Tonal Counterpoint 2.	3

6 credits selected from:

Expand allContract all		
Course	Title	Credits
MUTH 321	Topics in Tonal Analysis.	3
MUTH 322	Topics in Post-Tonal Analysis.	3

MUTH 426	Topics in Early Music Analysis.	3
MUTH 541	Topics in Popular Music Analysis.	3

6 credits selected from:

Expand allContract all

Course	Title	Credits
MUTH 526	Methods in Tonal Theory and Analysis.	3
MUTH 528	Schenkerian Theory and Analysis.	3
MUTH 529	Proseminar in Music Theory.	3
MUTH 538	Mathematical Models for Musical Analysis.	3

12 credits selected from courses not taken above and the following:

Expand allContract all

Course	Title	Credits
MUCO 575	Topics in Composition.	3
MUTH 539	Topics in Advanced Writing Techniques.	3

Music History

6 credits from courses with a prefix of MUHL or MUPP.

Performance

4 credits selected from:

Expand allContract all

Course	Title	Credits
MUEN 563	Jazz Vocal Workshop.	2
MUEN 572	Cappella Antica.	2
MUEN 573	Baroque Orchestra.	2
MUEN 587	Cappella McGill.	2
MUEN 590	McGill Wind Orchestra.	2
MUEN 592	Chamber Jazz Ensemble.	2
MUEN 593	Choral Ensembles.	2
MUEN 594	Contemporary Music Ensemble.	2
MUEN 595	Jazz Ensembles.	2
MUEN 597	McGill Symphony Orchestra.	2

Elective Courses (27 credits)

9 credits of non-Music Electives.

18 credits of free Electives.