

Degree Path: B.A. in Music Piano Performance

College of Music and Communication Arts

Freshman Year

Fall Semester	13 hours
GES 1122	Strategies for Student Success ∞
ENG 1113	Composition and Rhetoric I ◇
MTH 1113/1123	(Math option) ∞
MAP 1XX1	Applied Music ∞
MUE 1XX1	Music Ensemble ∞
MAP 1000	Recital Attendance ∞
BIB/REL/THE	(Bible Core option) ∞

Spring Semester	16 hours
ENG 1123	Composition and Rhetoric II ∞ (prereq: ENG 1113)
HIS 1113	American History I ∞
PSY 1163	Introduction to Psychology ∞
MAP 1XX1	Applied Music ∞
MUE 1XX1	Music Ensemble ∞
MAP 1000	Recital Attendance ∞
PED 2232	Wellness & Lifestyle ∞
BIB/REL/THE	(Bible Core option) ∞

Sophomore Year

Fall Semester	15 hours
BIO 1113/PHY 1113	(Science option) ∞
MUS 1114	Music Theory I ◇ (prereq: Pass Music Theory Placement Assessment)
MAP 1XX1	Applied Music ∞
MUE 1XX1	Music Ensemble ∞
MAP 1000	Recital Attendance ∞
XXX XXXX	(General Elective Course option 1)
BIB/REL/THE	(Bible Core option) ∞

Spring Semester	16 hours
COM 1143	Fundamentals of Speech Communication ∞
GOV 2213	National and State Government ∞
MUS 1124	Music Theory II ◇
MAP 1XX2	Applied Music ∞
MUE 1XX1	Music Ensemble ∞
MAP 1000	Recital Attendance ∞
MAP 2000	Piano Proficiency ***
BIB/REL/THE	(Bible Core option) ∞

Junior Year

Fall Semester	17 hours
MUS 2231	Accompanying ∞
MUS 2214	Music Theory III ◇
MUS 3322	Instrumental Conducting ◇ (MUS 3312, if preferred, is spring only) (prereq: MUS 1124)
MUS 3352	Form and Analysis ◇ (prereq: MUS 2224)
MUS 3373	Music History I ◇ (prereq: MUS 2224)
MAP 3XX1	Applied Music ∞
MUE 1XX1	Music Ensemble ∞
MAP 1000	Recital Attendance ∞
BIB/REL/THE	(Bible Core option) ∞

Spring Semester	16 hours
ENG 2273/2243	(English option) ∞/◇ (ENG 2233, if preferred, is fall only) (prereq: ENG 1123)
MUS 2231	Accompanying ∞
MUS 2224	Music Theory IV ◇
MUS 3383	Music History II ◇
MAP 3XX1	Applied Music ∞
MUE 1XX1	Music Ensemble ∞
MAP 1000	Recital Attendance ∞
MAP 3200	Junior Recital ***
BIB/REL/THE	(Bible Core option) ∞

Senior Year

Fall Semester	13 hours
MUS 3333	Church Music History ◇
MUS 4164	Piano Literacy and Pedagogy ◇ (Course offered as needed) (prereq: MUS 2214)
MAP 1XX1	Applied Music (Voice/Instrumental) ∞
MAP 3XX2	Applied Music ∞
MUE 1190	Music Ensemble ∞
MAP 1000	Recital Attendance ∞
XXX XXXX	General Elective Course

Spring Semester	14 hours
MAP 1XX1	Applied Music (Voice/Instrumental) ∞
MAP 3XX1	Applied Music ∞
MUE 1190	Music Ensemble ∞
MAP 1000	Recital Attendance ∞
MUS 2322	Intro to Music Composition ◇
MUS 4493	Music Internship ***
MAP 4010	Senior Recital ***
XXX XXXX	General Elective Course
XXX XXXX	General Elective Course

Please Note:

- This plan is one example of how to complete the degree in 4 years. It assumes no transfer credit and no developmental coursework. It will work for some, but not for all.
- You can meet with your scheduler, program coordinator, or department chair to plan around your circumstances and develop your personal degree path. Degree requirements and offerings are subject to change, so consult advisors for on-going updates.
- Course Offering Codes:

∞ every fall and spring semester	◇ every year only fall/spring/summer (as listed)
* only that semester in odd years	** only that semester in even years
*** to be taken <i>only</i> in specified semester	∞/◇ offering differs in order listed

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OVERVIEW

The music performance program is designed to prepare students for music ministry within the church, to prepare students to engage in the performing industry, and to prepare students to teach in private studios or public classrooms around the world.

IMPORTANT PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS TO NOTE:

- Piano Placement Assessment is given to determine piano readiness. Students will be placed in Class Piano I, II, III, or IV depending on their individual level.
- Voice Placement Assessment is given to determine vocal readiness. Students desiring to register for private voice lessons will enroll in Class Voice and take the Voice Placement Assessment the first day of class each semester. Those who pass the VPA will be permitted to enroll in MAP 1211 Applied Voice.
- Theory Placement Assessment is given to all incoming music students to determine theory readiness. Students will register for Fundamentals of Music and take the TPA the first day of class in the fall semester. Those who pass the TPA will be permitted to enroll in MUS 1114 Music Theory I.
- All music majors are required to pass the Piano Proficiency Exam. The PPE is to be attempted at the end of the sophomore year.
- All music majors are required to pass the Proficiency Exam of their major applied area before enrolling in the upper level of applied study. Students must register for the Proficiency Exam the semester in which it is attempted.
- Each applied music student shall participate in at least one studio or one general recital each semester.
- All performance majors are required to give a Junior Recital (MAP 3200) and a Senior Recital (MAP 4000).
- All applied music students are required to enroll in MAP 1000 Recital Attendance and satisfactorily complete six semesters for graduation.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Arranger, arts administrator, choir director, church musician, composer, concert promoter, conductor, music publisher, music pastor, music teacher, performing/recording artist, private studio owner, studio musician, talent manager, touring manager, voice-over artist, worship leader, etc.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Nelson strives to present a quality music program for its students inclusive of performances, opportunities, and instruments. On April 28, 2011, Nelson was publicly awarded the status of "All Steinway School" joining an elite list of conservatories, colleges, and international schools of distinction. Students are now able to practice and perform on high quality pianos throughout their studies at the University.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

GENERAL EDUCATION STUDIES 60 Hours

General Education: 14 hours

- COM 1143 Fundamentals of Speech Communication
- ENG 1113 Composition and Rhetoric I
- ENG 1123 Composition and Rhetoric II
- GES 1122 Strategies for Student Success

ENG 2273 Introduction to Literature

ENG 2233 American Literature through the Civil War

ENG 2243 American Literature after the Civil War

Social/Behavioral Sciences: 9 hours

- GOV 2213 National and State Government
- HIS 1113 American History I
- PSY 1153 Introduction to Psychology

Natural Science/Mathematics: 6 hours

- 3 hours from the following:
BIO 1113 Biological Sciences **OR**
PHY 1113 Physical Science
- 3 hours from the following:
MTH 1113 College Mathematics **OR**
MTH 1123 College Algebra

Humanities/Fine Arts: 11 hours

- 5 hours from MAP 1000 Applied Primary Area
- 6 hours from MUE – Music Ensembles (at least one qualified ensemble every semester of full-time enrollment; does not include MUE 1231 Ministry Ensemble)

Physical Education: 2 hours

- PED 2232 Wellness and Lifestyle

General Biblical Studies: 18 hours

- BIB 1223 The Church in Ministry and Mission
- BIB 2213 Bible Study
- REL 1133 Authentic Christianity
- REL 1173 Introduction to Biblical Literature
- THE 2113 Introduction to Theology and Apologetics
- THE 2333 Pentecostal Doctrine and History

MAJOR STUDIES 47 Hours

Music Core: 34 Hours

- MUS 1114 Music Theory I
- MUS 1124 Music Theory II Δ
- MUS 2214 Music Theory III Δ
- MUS 2224 Music Theory IV Δ
- MUS 2322 Introduction to Music Composition
- MUS 3312 Choral Conducting **OR**
MUS 3322 Instrumental Conducting
- MUS 3333 Church Music History
- MUS 3352 Form and Analysis
- MUS 3373 Music History I
- MUS 3383 Music History II Δ
- MUS 4493 Music Internship

Piano Track: 13 Hours

- MAP 1000-level Applied Music (not piano – 2 hours)
- MAP 3000-level Applied Piano (5 hours)
Requires successful completion of MAP 2000 before.
- MUS 2231 Accompanying (2 semesters)
- MUS 4164 Piano Literacy and Pedagogy

MINOR STUDIES/GENERAL ELECTIVES 13 HOURS

- 13 hours of student's choice

TOTAL PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS 120 Hours

Δ Sequentially numbered courses have preceding numbered course as prerequisite requirement.

- 3 hours from the following:
Your Department Chair:
Dr. Tyrone Block
tbblock@nelson.edu

Revised on 06/30/2026

