What is your primary interest in Music?

Courses

The Department offers text-based, sociological/historical inquiry courses, e.g. music survey/history courses, and notation-based music theory/composition courses. Most academic Music courses count towards the VPA distribution.

Considering a Music major?
We strongly recommend taking a Music course your first semester, specifically MUS 1401 or 2403 if you are interested in the Theory/Composition track.

Have you taken the Music Theory Placement Exam?

- Yes: Request the recommended course during registration:
  - MUS 1051
  - MUS 1401
  - MUS 2403

- No: Log into Blackboard as soon as possible, complete the Music Theory Placement exam, and return to Professor Frank Mauceri
  - Gibson Hall 207
  - fmauceri@bowdoin.edu

Lessons

Private Lessons:
Individual Performance Studies are open to any entering student at the beginning level (18xx) and at the intermediate level (28xx), to those who have 3+ years of experience and basic technical facility on their instrument.

There is a fee for lessons, but students who receive financial aid will not be charged.

Sign Up for Lessons:
Students interested in lessons should email the Music Department Coordinator:
- Clare MacKenzie,
  - cmacken2@bowdoin.edu

The last day to sign up for lessons is one week from the start of classes. Space is limited.

Ensembles

Most participants in music ensembles are not Music majors or minors, so any student with interest should consider participating!

Two semesters of an ensemble (taken for credit) will fulfill the VPA distribution requirement.

Non-auditioned Ensembles:
- MUS 2701 West African Music Ensemble
- MUS 2705 Middle Eastern Music Ensemble
- MUS 2751 Concert Band

Auditioned Ensembles:
- MUS 2711 Jazz Combos
- MUS 2721 Chamber Ensembles
- MUS 2731 Orchestra
- MUS 2741 Chamber Choir
- MUS 2745 Chorus

Don’t forget to register for your approved ensembles in Polaris!

Request the recommended course during registration:
- MUS 1051
- MUS 1401
- MUS 2403

Credit for Ensembles and Lessons:
All ensembles and lessons are graded on a Credit/D/Fail basis and may be taken for 0.5 credits per semester; and up to 6.0 full credits, in any combination between ensembles and lessons, may be applied towards the 32.0 credits required for the Bowdoin degree.

A typical musically inclined student at Bowdoin will take four academic courses, one half-credit ensemble, and one half-credit lesson for a total of 5.0 credits for the semester. This is not an overload requiring special permission, but should be considered thoughtfully with the academic advisor before registration.

Contingent upon director approval, students may participate in ensembles on a non-credit basis.

First-Year Student Registration Tip Sheet