Scholarships in music are available through an audition for both majors and non-majors.

For more information on Music at UIC, including information on scholarship auditions, visit our website.

FAQs

Does UIC have a music department?
Yes, UIC has a vibrant and active School of Theatre & Music.

I am not a music major, can I participate in an ensemble?
Of course. All ensembles are open to all UIC students.

Do I have to audition for the ensembles?
With the exception of Jazz Ensemble and Chamber Choir, ensemble auditions are only meant for placement within the ensemble. You do not need to audition in order to register.

Are ensembles classes? Do I get a grade?
Each ensemble is a graded course worth one credit. This credit will count toward elective credits for your degree.

I am pre-med and heard I cannot major in music. Is that true?
Absolutely not! We have many students pursuing a music degree while continuing their pre-professional studies.

If I want to be a music major, do I have to audition?
For the BM in Performance or Jazz Studies, yes. For the BA in Music, no.

Can I take lessons through the university?
No. Unfortunately at this time we cannot offer lessons to non-majors, but we can help you find lessons outside the university.
MAJORS

The Department of Music offers three degrees:

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN MUSIC
Students gain a strong foundation in music theory, history, and literature.

BACHELOR OF MUSIC IN PERFORMANCE
Students build upon the foundations of music with weekly lessons by leading professional Chicago musicians. Audition required.

BACHELOR OF MUSIC IN JAZZ STUDIES
Designed for students looking for careers as professional jazz musicians, this degree focuses on the fundamentals of jazz music. Audition required.

Students may double major with any of the three degrees. Students may also participate in pre-professional programs, the Honors College, and many other programs offered on campus.

Current UIC students looking to transfer into one of the above degrees should fill out an Inter-College Transfer Form at the Student Affairs Office within the College of Architecture, Design, and the Arts located on the second floor of Jefferson Hall.

MINOR

The music minor requires 21 credits through courses in Music Theory, Ear Training, Keyboard Skills, History, and Literature. To apply for the music minor, please visit the School of Theatre & Music Main Office, ETMSW Building, room L017.

A theory diagnostic test must be taken unless the student has received an “A” in MUS 107

COURSES

The following are general education music courses available to all students on campus. For other music courses, priority is given to majors and minors.

MUS 100 | Introduction to Music
3 credits
Creative Arts

MUS 107 | Fundamentals of Music Theory
3 credits
Creative Arts

MUS 114 | Jazz History
3 credits
Creative Arts or Understanding the Past

MUS 118 | American Popular Music
3 credits
Creative Arts or Understanding the Past

MUS 127 | Latin American Music
3 credits
Creative Arts, Cultural Diversity, or World Cultures

MUS 227 | Music Cultures of the World
3 credits
Creative Arts, Cultural Diversity, or World Cultures

MUS 240 | Music, Gender, and Culture
3 credits
Creative Arts or Individual and Society

Private Lessons
MUS 180/182 and 280/282 are only available to majors.

ENSEMBLES

Ensembles listed below are open to all students on campus. Some may require entrance auditions or placement auditions. Auditions occur the first week of the semester. All ensembles are one-credit courses.

MUS 150 | Vocal Jazz Ensemble
Meeting time determined by instructor
May not be offered every semester

MUS 151 | Section 1 | Wind Ensemble
TR 3:30–5:30PM

MUS 151 | Section 2 | University Band
M 6:45–8:00PM

MUS 153 | University Choir
MWF 12:00–12:50PM

MUS 154 | Chamber Choir
TR 1:00–3:00PM

MUS 155 | Women’s Choral Ensemble
TR 11:00AM–12:15PM

MUS 156 | Pep Band
T 5:30–7:00PM
Additional meeting times will be arranged for performances preceding the start of the basketball season.

MUS 157 | String Orchestra
MW 5:00–6:30PM

MUS 159 | Jazz Ensemble
MF 2:00–4:00PM
Additional sectional times arranged.