

Songwriting

Bachelor of Music

Catalog Year: 2025F Program Code: BM4.SONG

This grid is meant to be used as a planning aide. It does not need to be followed exactly as written. Please consult with a student success advisor and your department chairs with any questions.

Study Abroad - please contact your major chair or studyabroad@berklee.edu.

Study Ahead - please contact your major chair or studyabroad@berklee.edu.		SEMESTERS							
Course Number	Course Title	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
SONGWRITING MAJOR CORE: 19 Credits Required									
SW-110	Songwriting Foundations		2						
SW-115 or SW-116	Essential Keyboard for Songwriting or Essential Guitar for Songwriters	1							
SW-211 & SW-212	Songwriting 1 & 2 (must be taken with Lyric Writing 1 & 2)			2	2				
SW-221 & SW-222	Lyric Writing 1 & 2 (must be taken with Songwriting 1 & 2)			2	2				
SW-161, SW-181, or SW-191	Introductory DAW Class		2						
SW-261, SW-281, or SW-291	Advanced DAW Class			2					
SW-335	The Business of Songwriting				2				
SW-231	Arranging for Songwriters					2			
CHOOSE ONE TRACK - 12 Credits Required									
Performer									
SW-236 or SW-238	Guitar Techniques for the Songwriter or Keyboard Techniques for the Songwriter					2			
SW-370 or SW-371	Strategies for the Songwriter/Performer or Singer/Songwriter Workshop						2		
	Major Electives*							2	2
SW-390	Senior Seminar in Songwriting: Songwriter-Performer							2	
SW-490	Directed Study in Songwriting: Songwriter-Performer								2
Producer									
SW-383	Advanced Skills for the Producer-Songwriter					2			
SW-374 or SW-425	Vocal Production for Songwriters or Multi-DAW Workflows for the Songwriter/Producer						2		
	Major Electives*							2	2
SW-391	Senior Seminar in Songwriting: Songwriter-Producer							2	
SW-491	Directed Study in Songwriting: Songwriter-Producer								2
Topline									
SW-321 or SW-372	Advanced Lyric Writing 1 or Topline 2 for Songwriters and Producers					2			
SW-311, SW-421, or SW-472	Advanced Songwriting, Advanced Lyric Writing 2 or Topline 3 for Songwriters and Producers						2		
	Major Electives*							2	2
SW-393	Senior Seminar in Songwriting: Songwriter-Topliner							2	
SW-493	Directed Study in Songwriting: Songwriter-Topliner								2
Sync									
SW-363	Songwriting for Film and TV					2			
SW-241, SW-273, or SW-461 (Choose 2)	Survey and Application of Popular Song Styles, Music Supervision: Selecting and Licensing Music for Media, or Writing the Film Musical (Choose 2)						2	2	
	Major Electives*							2	
SW-394	Senior Seminar in Songwriting: Songwriter-Sync							2	
SW-494	Directed Study in Songwriting: Songwriter-Sync								2
Musical Theater									
SW-345	Musical Theater Writing 1					2			
SW-445	Musical Theater Writing 2						2		
	Major Electives*							2	2
SW-399	Senior Seminar in Songwriting: Musical Theater							2	
SW-499	Directed Study in Songwriting: Musical Theater								2
* Major Electives: SW-2xx (or higher) not already completed, AR-201, CW-141, CW-171, CW-216, CW-218, ENDS-406, ENPP-205, ENPP-401, ENVC-261, HR-325, ILGT-115, ILVC-210, IN-495, ISVC-111, ISVC-112, LENG-318, LENG-331, MB-211, MP-113, MP-114, MP-205, MP-231, MP-305, MTEC-323, MTI-309, MTI-310, PST-351, PST-352, PST-451, PST-471, or PW-468.									
Note: P1xx-311 and P1xx-312 (1 credit each) on the student's principal instrument (or on guitar, voice or piano as a secondary instrument) may be taken as major electives. A total of 2 credits of additional ensembles (ENxx) and/or labs (Lxx) may be required with the additional private instruction. If these additional lessons are taken on the principal instrument, then successful completion of the corresponding proficiency is required. If taken on a secondary instrument, the lesson will be unlevleled and will not require a proficiency.									
MAJOR-SPECIFIC CORE MUSIC AND LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES - 22 Credits Required									
ET 211, ET-223, or ET-231	Ear Training 3, Ear Training 3 Entering, or Solfege 1		2						
ET-212, ET-224, or ET-232	Ear Training 4, Ear Training 4 Entering, or Solfege 2			2					
COND-211 or COND-216	Conducting 1 or Conducting 1 with Live Keyboard			1					
COND-212 or COND-217	Conducting 2 or Conducting 2 with Live Keyboard					1			
LMSC-xxx	Mathematics/Natural Sciences: Any 3-credit, 200 level or above LMSC course					3			
LSOC-xxx or ASOC-xxx	Social Science							3	
MHIS-201, MHIS-202, or MHIS-203	History of Music in the European Tradition						2		
MHIS-3xx	Music History Elective (level 300 or higher)							2	
Lxxx-xxx or Axxx-xxx*	Liberal Arts and Sciences/Africana Studies Electives*								3
* Any three credit courses from the following categories: AFST, AHIS, AHUM, ASOC, AMAS, LENG, LMSC, LHIS, LSOC, LVIS, LMAS, LFRN, LIPN, LHUM, LPHL, or LSPN.									
CORE MUSIC - 35 Credits Required									
Performance									
P1xx-111	Private Instruction - Level 1 (50 minutes)	2							
P1xx-112	Private Instruction - Level 2 (50 minutes)		2						
P1xx-211	Private Instruction - Level 3 (30 minutes)			1					
P1xx-212	Private Instruction - Level 4 (30 minutes)				1				
ILxx	Instrumental Labs					1	1		
ENxx	Ensembles	1	1	1	1				
Non-Performance									
PW-111	Music Application and Theory	4							
AR-111 or AR-123	Arranging 1 Entering or Arranging 1 Continuing		2						
HR-112 or HR-114	Harmony 2 or Harmony 2 Entering			2					
HR-211, HR-213, or HR-215	Harmony 3, Harmony 3 Entering, or Harmony 3 Intensive				2				
HR-212, HR-214, or HR-216	Harmony 4, Harmony 4 Entering, or Harmony 4 Intensive					2			
ET-111	Ear Training 1	2							
ET-112 or ET-123	Ear Training 2 or Ear Training 2 Entering		2						
CM-211	Tonal Harmony and Composition 1				2				
CM-212	Tonal Harmony and Composition 2					2			
CP-210	The Art of Counterpoint 1						3		
Students should enroll in an ensemble (ENxx) and private instruction (P1xx) during their first four full-time semesters. Two credits of performance studies (P1xx), excluding PSH, PST, & PSEM, may replace two credits of ensembles or labs. Additional P1xx courses, excluding PSH-xxx, may be taken as general electives or major elective credits, depending on major.									
LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES & AFRICANA STUDIES - 24 total LAS/AFST Credits Required									
MTEC-111 or MTEC-122	Introduction to Music Technology or Accelerated Introduction to Music Technology	2							
LENS-10x	Engaging Seminar	2							
LHUM-400	Professional Development Seminar					2			
LENG-111	Introduction to College Writing	3							
LENG-223	Literature Topics			3					
LHIS-xxx or AHIS-xxx	History							3	
AFST-221	Global Afrodiasporic Musics		3						
LVIS-xxx	Visual Studies								3
LMAS-xxx or AMAS-xxx	Music and Society								3
English as a Second Language - An assessment is required for all non-native English speakers. Students may be required to complete ESL courses based on the results of the assessment, which will apply as liberal arts and sciences electives or general electives.									
GENERAL ELECTIVES: 8 Credits Required									
SEMESTER CREDIT TOTALS - ->		16	15	16	16	15	14	14	14
Total Required Credits		8							