

School of Music Illinois State University

Bachelor of Music in Composition

Program Objectives

The objectives of the BM in Theory-Composition degree program are to assist students to:

- Develop the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values of someone trained in music theory and composition;
 - Produce and discuss analytical work;
 - Demonstrate the relationship between theory and composition (including original and imitative composition, experience with acoustic and electronic media);
 - Demonstrate the relationships among musical structure, aesthetic effect, and cultural context;
 - Demonstrate a basic understanding of music of all historical periods and styles of music;
 - Demonstrate skills and competencies in musical performance in applied study and ensembles.
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Assessment of Student Outcomes

The BM in Composition degree program has a number of assessments all students must pass before they can graduate.

- A most critical initial step is that all students desiring to enter BM programs must first be admitted to the School of Music in some performing medium. It is at this point that a “casual” music student would be eliminated. Only students demonstrating sufficient performance skills and also promise for future growth are admitted to the program.
 - Subsequently, all students must progress successfully through the core curriculum at the freshman and sophomore levels. In addition, students must show progress in their applied music studies.
 - At the conclusion of their second year all students take the Senior College Exam, a comprehensive music test. The test assesses an appropriate level of mastery of aural dictation, music literature, sight singing, and performance. Failure in one or more areas means that the student will have to re-take the part(s) of the exam failed. Students are given two opportunities to pass this examination. If they fail, they are dismissed from the BS in Music program.
 - Students are expected to present a recital of their own compositions, with prior approval of the composition faculty.
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