Degrees Available at SIUE

- Bachelor of Arts, Music (specialization available in the following)
  - Music History and Literature
- Bachelor of Music (specializations available in the following)
  - Jazz Performance
  - Music Business
  - Music Education - Professional Educator Licensure (K-12) option
  - Music Performance
  - Music Theory and Composition
  - Musical Theater

Music at SIUE

The Department of Music is an accredited member of the National Association of Schools of Music.

Faculty in the Department of Music believe students in undergraduate academic programs in music should receive a comprehensive musical background that includes cultural knowledge through the general education program, individual performance, ensemble performance, scholarly studies in music theory and history/literature, and where applicable, teacher education courses. The intent is to develop skilled and informed musicians, able scholars, and excellent and enthusiastic teachers.

The Bachelor of Music curriculum prepares students for professional careers and advanced graduate study in music performance and music education. The Bachelor of Arts, designed for students who wish to specialize in music within a liberal arts curriculum, may serve as the foundation for advanced studies in music.

A full calendar of concerts and recitals by guest artists, faculty and students offer an excellent and diverse program of cultural events for the enjoyment of the University community and residents of the metropolitan area.

Admission Requirements

Students seeking admission to any degree program in music must perform an acceptable audition prior to admission.

Students are not permitted to register for private lessons until they complete the audition requirement. To schedule an audition, please complete the online music audition application at siue.edu/artsandsciences/music/audition-scholarships/index.shtml, or call the Music Department at 618-650-3900. Transfer students must take a placement test in music theory (written and aural) and class piano. Students interested in pursuing any academic program in music are advised to declare their major upon entry to the University through the Office of Academic Advising.

Graduation Requirements

- Complete all specific program requirements
- Complete all University requirements including:
  - All general education requirements
  - A minimum of 120 credit hours
  - At least 30 of which must be completed at SIUE
  - At least 60 of which must be completed at a regionally accredited four-year institution
  - A minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0
  - Bachelor of Arts: one year of the same foreign language
- File an application for graduation by the first day of the term in which you plan to graduate
Music History and Literature
Music history is an ideal specialization for students who not only want to perform music, but are also interested in the development of musical styles, genres, and how these relate to developments in the arts, history and society. Students explore major works, composers and prominent performers in the European and American concert traditions, as well as interconnections with other traditions such as world and folk music. Students hone their critical skills in music research, analysis, writing, listening and musical thought.

SIUE’s music history faculty members are musicians whose scholarly work has been published and presented nationally and internationally. As such, they are able to provide students with the benefits of their broad experience in both classroom instruction and musicological research. Class sizes are kept small and faculty members are able to offer students ample personalized instruction.

Many students specializing in music history continue their studies at the graduate level. They find work as musicologists, music librarians, music journalists, music publicists and promoters, and gain valuable training as music educators, particularly in the ability to teach music history effectively.

Music Performance
Students specializing in music performance develop their musicianship and technique through the study and performance of music from various periods and genres. They become familiar with the many aspects of the performance profession, and receive the preparation to apply for continued study in master’s programs at numerous quality institutions. Career opportunities include performing in orchestras, studio orchestras, jazz groups, choruses, operas, oratorios, and musical theater, as well as private studio teaching.

Music Education
The Bachelor of Music with a specialization in music education broadens and strengthens students’ musicianship while preparing them to teach in America’s public and private schools. This comprehensive, rigorous program provides knowledge, skills and experiences that help students understand teaching, learning and assessment thoroughly, while enabling them to design appropriate experiences for learners at any level of music instruction. Students complete this program as skilled and informed musicians, able scholars and competent and enthusiastic teachers, prepared for a professional career or graduate study.

Jazz Performance
The jazz performance specialization blends a liberal arts education with the intensive training needed to develop into a professional musician working in jazz and popular music. Students work toward fundamental mastery of their instruments and develop professional skills in both small group and studio/large ensembles. Time, feel, sound, the blues, improvisation and high-level interaction are all major areas of focus. Students have many opportunities to perform and experience great performances on and off campus. SIUE is just minutes away from the thriving musical culture in St. Louis, a city that has played a key role in the development of the blues, ragtime, jazz, rock ’n’ roll and hip hop. Jazz musician and producer Quincy Jones once stated that jazz is the classical music of pop. Quincy’s statement rings true as many of our graduates have gone on to work in jazz, as well as all areas of popular music. Other common career paths include freelance musician, musical director, producer, composer, arranger, and educator.

Music Business
With the digital medium ever morphing and advancing, the music business paradigm is constantly changing. In the midst of this change, business fundamentals remain constant. SIUE provides an atmosphere where students can create and collaborate. The University’s state-of-the-art recording facility gives students a look into the recording-making business and process. Students are given a chance, in simulation, to budget, produce, market, and promote their products. The curriculum covers topics such as music copyright, publishing, management, record labels, arts administration, scoring, music products, and much more.

The Department of Music’s experience and associations help our students become confident in the opportunities that exist in their prospective fields. On- and off-campus internships are available for students to fulfill degree requirements and facilitate networking for further career training.

Our music business students have gone on to work in all of the major music markets as interns and in permanent positions. Many have also returned to SIUE to provide our students with insights into the current state of the music industry.

Music Theory and Composition
The theory and composition specialization at SIUE allows students to gain experience in creating their own music and in understanding and explaining the principles and structures of music. In addition to the core curriculum, students specializing in theory and composition take advanced courses in analysis, arranging, and modern music, as well as private lessons in composition. Over four years, our students build a portfolio of their music while working directly with faculty and guest artists, and receive opportunities every semester to hear their music performed. Classes in music theory and composition are taught exclusively by full-time professors, and composition lessons are always one-on-one with a professor.

The focus of this specialization is to prepare students for graduate study or immediate employment, with a nearly 100% placement rate. The rigorous curriculum emphasizes fundamentals of form, harmony, orchestration, notation and musicianship applicable to any style or genre of music, from traditional concert music to film and game music.

Our graduates have gone on to advanced study at many prestigious schools, such as Michigan State University, Florida State University, the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory, the University of Nebraska - Lincoln, the University of Oklahoma, and the Roosevelt College Film Scoring program. Others have chosen employment as a librarian and arranger with The Muny in St. Louis, as a teacher or staff member with local school music programs, and as a freelance artist.

In addition to the standard audition process for all music majors, theory and composition students should submit a portfolio of one to three works directly to Dr. Kim Archer. Please contact Dr. Archer at 618-650-3532 for more information.

Musical Theater
The Departments of Music and Theater and Dance collaborate to provide a stimulating curriculum including courses in acting, singing and dance taught by faculty in both departments. Students at SIUE take advantage of performance opportunities in musicals, operas, operettas, plays, vocal ensembles, dance concerts and student organizations.

Musical theater thrives at SIUE in the summer months as well. Every summer, SIUE Summer Showbiz produces professionally cast musicals under the direction of SIUE faculty. The Department of Music also hosts a week-long Musical Theater Workshop in the summer. The workshop provides participants with an in-depth experience of professional musical theater training in voice, dance, audition technique and monologue selection.

Students specializing in musical theater are trained in the central principles and performance skills necessary for a career in the theater or entertainment industry. These skills are then developed and cultivated through performance opportunities. Career possibilities include working as an actor, singer, dancer, choreographer, director or fine arts teacher.