

MUSIC: GENERAL

Program Description

The Associate in Arts degree in Music is a comprehensive course of study preparing the student to transfer to a four-year institution in music or a music related field, or to enter the music industry or a related field upon completion. Foothill's Music Department offers a wide variety of courses to satisfy the diverse interests and needs of its students. In addition to core courses in comprehensive musicianship and history/literature, the department also offers courses such as Music of American Cultures, Music & Media: Hendrix to Hip-Hop, and many others. The department's award-winning faculty are active as composers, authors, performers, arrangers, and publishers in the Bay Area and throughout the U.S. The department has some of the newest and most comprehensive facilities in the country. Our performance facilities have been newly renovated and all of our classrooms are equipped with Steinway pianos and/or top of the line sound reinforcement/multimedia delivery systems. The Interdisciplinary Electronic Arts Center has many new features such as a new media classroom with MIDI keyboard stations fully equipped with the latest in recording and sound production design.

Learn more about the program on the [Music website](#).

Program Learning Outcomes

- Through the study of music history/literature, students examine music masterpieces from multiple eras and cultures, synthesizing information and making judgments as they evaluate how music reflects individual composers' lives, as well as the contemporary social/historical context in which the compositions were created and performed.
- Through music theory/composition, students analyze the structure of music and learn to create their own original works satisfying specific and complex compositional requirements.
- Through music performance, students learn how to apply and express their historical, theoretical, and artistic understandings in a presentation addressing an appropriate audience.
- Using this three-lens framework, students increase their community/global consciousness as they learn to appreciate how music is a potent tool for understanding individual and cultural uniqueness within the larger context of our common humanity.

Career Opportunities

Career prospects in the music industry are diverse and abundant. With the advent of digital music delivery systems and alternative media, music is an integral part of the media revolution. Students have the opportunity to enter the industry in a variety of positions directly and indirectly related to this media revolution. Careers are not localized: due to the growth of new media and the communication available via the internet, opportunities exist in many locations.

Award Type(s)

- AA = Associate in Arts Degree
- CA = Certificate of Achievement

Units Required

- Major: 43
- Certificate(s): 25

Associate Degree Requirements

A minimum of 90 units is required¹ to complete the associate degree, including:

- Core and support courses for the major (43 units total)
- Completion of one of the following general education patterns:
 - Foothill College General Education
 - **Summer Session 2025 only**—CSU General Education Breadth (CSU GE Breadth)²
 - **Summer Session 2025 only**—Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC)²
 - **Beginning Fall Quarter 2025**—California General Education Transfer Curriculum (Cal-GETC)³

¹ Additional elective course work may be necessary to meet the 90-unit minimum requirement for the associate degree.

² Summer Session 2025 is the final term during which CSU GE Breadth and IGETC may be used. Please see a counselor for more information.

³ Cal-GETC begins in Fall Quarter 2025. Please see a counselor for more information.

Note: A grade of "C" (or "P") or better is required for all core and support courses used for the degree or certificate. In addition, the student must obtain a minimum GPA of 2.0.

Refer to the Associate in Arts & Associate in Science Degree Requirements page for complete information about graduation requirements and catalog rights.

Core and Support Courses

Code	Title	Units
Core Courses		
Select seven courses from the following:		35
MUS 2A	GREAT COMPOSERS & MUSIC MASTERPIECES	
	or MUS 2AH HONORS GREAT COMPOSERS & MUSIC MASTERPIECES	
MUS 2B	GREAT COMPOSERS & MUSIC MASTERPIECES	
	or MUS 2BH HONORS GREAT COMPOSERS & MUSIC MASTERPIECES	
MUS 2C	GREAT COMPOSERS & MUSIC MASTERPIECES	
	or MUS 2CH HONORS GREAT COMPOSERS & MUSIC MASTERPIECES	
MUS 2D	WORLD MUSIC: ROOTS TO CONTEMPORARY GLOBAL FUSION	
MUS 3A	THEORY & MUSICIANSHIP I	
MUS 3B	THEORY & MUSICIANSHIP II	
MUS 3C	THEORY & MUSICIANSHIP III	
Support Courses		
Select eight units from the following:		8
MUS 1	INTRODUCTION TO MUSIC	
MUS 2F	HISTORY OF AMERICAN MUSICAL THEATRE	
MUS 8	MUSIC OF AMERICAN CULTURES	
	or MUS 8H HONORS MUSIC OF AMERICAN CULTURES	
MUS 9B	MUSIC & MEDIA: HENDRIX TO HIP-HOP	
MUS 10	MUSIC FUNDAMENTALS	
MUS 11B	FUNK, FUSION & HIP-HOP	

MUS 11E	HISTORY OF ELECTRONIC MUSIC: 1970-PRESENT
MUS 12A	BEGINNING CLASS PIANO
MUS 12B	INTERMEDIATE CLASS PIANO
MUS 12C	ADVANCED CLASS PIANO
MUS 13A	CLASS VOICE I
MUS 47A	INTRODUCTION TO MUSICAL THEATRE PRODUCTION
	or THTR 47A INTRODUCTION TO MUSICAL THEATRE PRODUCTION
MUS 47B	INTERMEDIATE MUSIC THEATRE PRODUCTION WORKSHOP
	or THTR 47B INTERMEDIATE MUSIC THEATRE PRODUCTION WORKSHOP
MUS 47C	ADVANCED MUSIC THEATRE PRODUCTION WORKSHOP
	or THTR 47C ADVANCED MUSIC THEATRE PRODUCTION WORKSHOP
MUS 47D	ADVANCED MUSIC THEATRE PRODUCTION WORKSHOP II
	or THTR 47D ADVANCED MUSIC THEATRE PRODUCTION WORKSHOP II
MUS 48B	SINGING TECHNIQUE FOR MUSICAL THEATRE
	or THTR 48B SINGING TECHNIQUE FOR MUSICAL THEATRE
MUS 48C	MUSICAL THEATRE REPERTOIRE FOR SINGERS
	or THTR 48C MUSICAL THEATRE REPERTOIRE FOR SINGERS
Total Units	43

Certificate Requirements

Certificate of Achievement in Music History and Literature

• Units: 25

Code	Title	Units
MUS 2A	GREAT COMPOSERS & MUSIC MASTERPIECES	5
	or MUS 2AH HONORS GREAT COMPOSERS & MUSIC MASTERPIECES	
MUS 2B	GREAT COMPOSERS & MUSIC MASTERPIECES	5
	or MUS 2BH HONORS GREAT COMPOSERS & MUSIC MASTERPIECES	
MUS 2C	GREAT COMPOSERS & MUSIC MASTERPIECES	5
	or MUS 2CH HONORS GREAT COMPOSERS & MUSIC MASTERPIECES	
MUS 2D	WORLD MUSIC: ROOTS TO CONTEMPORARY GLOBAL FUSION	5
MUS 8	MUSIC OF AMERICAN CULTURES	5
	or MUS 8H HONORS MUSIC OF AMERICAN CULTURES	
Total Units		25