

# MUSIC

## What can I do with this degree?

### AREAS

### EMPLOYERS

### STRATEGIES

#### EDUCATION

Teaching

Daycare centers  
Elementary and secondary schools  
Private schools  
Recreation centers  
Colleges and universities  
Conservatories

Acquire teaching certificate for public school teaching.  
Gain experience working with children through volunteer or part-time work experiences.  
Graduate degree required to teach in higher education.  
Specialize in an area such as music, music theory, composition, music history, etc.  
Performance skill on one instrument or voice required.  
Develop business relationships with schools and/or music stores to increase client base.

Private Lessons

Studios  
Self-employed

#### PERFORMANCE

Instrumental  
Vocal

Armed Forces bands and orchestras  
Symphony orchestras  
Small ensembles  
Rock or jazz groups  
Dance bands  
Concert soloist  
Clubs and restaurants  
Church choirs  
Community choral groups  
Opera chorus or soloist  
Musical theaters  
Ballet productions  
Recording industry  
Radio, television, and motion picture industries

Develop musical talent and skill.  
Obtain formal training to acquire necessary skills, knowledge, and ability to interpret music.  
Ambition and showmanship are important.  
Join campus bands and choruses, church choirs, and other performing acts.  
Seek competitions, apprenticeship programs, and workshops to gain experience and recognition.  
Opportunities are very limited. Most performers have other careers.  
Auditions are generally required.

#### COMPOSING/ARRANGING

Composing  
Arranging

Self-employed  
Record companies  
Publishers  
Muzak  
Motion picture and television industries  
Production companies

Knowledge of composition, harmony, arranging, and theory are important.  
Learn how to use electronic instruments and synthesizers.  
Develop computer and desktop publishing expertise.  
Skill on one or more instruments and voice are necessary.  
Seek grants and awards through foundations.  
Very few musicians earn living through composing.

**AREAS**

**EMPLOYERS**

**STRATEGIES**

**CONDUCTING**

Choirs  
Choral groups  
Symphonies  
Opera  
Armed Forces bands and orchestras

Develop superior musicianship and leadership.  
Acquire extensive experience in performing groups.  
Opportunities extremely limited.  
Gain acceptance into a conductor-training program or related apprenticeship.

**MUSIC THERAPY**

Hospitals: general and psychiatric  
Special education facilities  
Mental health centers  
Nursing homes  
Correctional facilities  
Private practice  
Outpatient clinics

Take courses in psychology, social work, or education.  
Earn a master's degree in music therapy and seek certification.  
Volunteer in a rehabilitation setting.  
Must demonstrate a genuine interest in helping people.

**MUSIC LIBRARIES**

Colleges and universities  
Conservatories  
Public libraries  
Radio and television stations

Develop computer and research skills.  
Gain thorough knowledge of music and musicology.  
Earn master's degree in library/information science.

**RECORDING INDUSTRY**

Publishing and Editing  
Producing  
Recording  
Engineering  
Manufacturing  
Talent Acquisition  
Promotion/Media Relations  
Publicity  
Administration  
Marketing and Sales  
Product Management

Production recording studios (most located in New York City, Los Angeles, and Nashville)

Complete an internship at a record company.  
Take business courses to work in management or administration.  
Journalism, public relations, and communication classes helpful for work in areas of promotion.  
Gain sales experience for marketing. Must interact well with people and develop persuasion tools.  
Knowledge of electronics, audio engineering, and recording knowledge required for production.  
Work or volunteer at a campus or local radio station.  
Join organizations involved with bringing events and entertainment to campus.  
Work at a retail record store to learn about the industry.

## AREAS

## EMPLOYERS

## STRATEGIES

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

Music and Program Direction  
On Air Performance  
Promotion  
Voice Overs  
Copyright/Clearance Administration  
Music License Administration  
Music Editing, Production, and Composing  
Sound Mixing  
Post Production  
Research

Radio and television stations  
Virtual reality sound environments  
e.g. Internet sites, software creators

Take classes in communications, broadcasting, or journalism.  
Work at on-campus radio station.  
Complete an internship at a television or radio station.  
Develop computer-related skills such as software development and programming.

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

Sales  
  
Music Journalism  
  
Law

Music shops  
Record stores  
Instrument manufacturers  
Music-related publications  
Magazines and newspapers  
Entertainment law firms

Get sales experience. Work in a retail music outlet.  
Take courses in journalism and English.  
Write articles for campus newspaper.  
Earn law degree.

### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

- Finding positions in the music industry requires a combination of talent, training, connections and some luck. Perseverance is required!
- Develop competencies in business management, computers, marketing, or other areas to broaden range of employment possibilities.
- Develop a variety of skills. Become "multitalented."
- Confidence, personality, a positive attitude, and a love of music are important to success.
- Need basic tools of self-promotion.
- Some jobs may require you to join unions or guilds.
- Performers often travel frequently and must be flexible regarding their work schedules.
- Gain experience working for a music publisher or other businesses in the entertainment industry.
- Majoring in music provides students with a sense of aesthetics and an understanding of human expression valuable to many employers.