Program Overview
The department of fine and performing arts is an integral part of Saint Louis University. In the arts, one finds truth, beauty and the celebration of God’s creation. Because the arts reflect the world around us, they provide an excellent opportunity to study humanity, aesthetics and cultural values together with theory and practice.

The music program at Saint Louis University awards a B.A. degree in music, with an emphasis on music performance or music studies. This liberal arts degree enables SLU graduates to pursue further degrees in music performance, music education or musicology at other institutions. In addition, the music program offers performance and study opportunities for all interested SLU students through private lessons, studio classes, courses in music theory and literature, and participation in ensembles. Every semester, the program presents a varied series of concerts, recitals, lectures and masterclasses by students, faculty and guest artists. All concerts and recitals are free and open to the public.

The music program is located in Xavier Hall and contains classrooms, teaching studios, rehearsal spaces and practice rooms available to currently enrolled music students. SLU will soon be an “all Steinway school,” gradually replacing its old instruments with an armada of new Steinway pianos over the coming years.

Popular performing ensembles accessible to the entire SLU community include the University Chorale, Mastersingers, String Orchestra, Concert Band, Pep Band and Jazz Ensemble, as well as smaller ensembles for guitarists, pianists and string quartets.

Additional performance opportunities for advanced student musicians include the Saint Louis Youth Orchestra, Symphony Chorus, Union Avenue Opera, Winter Opera Saint Louis and the American Kantorei.

Curriculum
All prospective music majors must audition for admission to the program, as well as for all scholarships. Admission is based on musicianship, talent and background training. At the end of the second semester of study at SLU, students are advised into either the music performance or music studies emphases.

The music curriculum provides a solid background in theory, history and performance, as well as participation in University vocal or instrumental groups. All classes, lessons and ensembles are open to the entire SLU community, regardless of major.

Both options require a minimum of 36 credit hours in music courses for graduation. However, the music performance emphasis requires 16 credit hours of applied music lessons on the major instrument, leading to the performance of solo junior and senior recitals. In the music studies emphasis, students also pursue a second major or minor in another field. This emphasis requires a research methods course in the junior year, leading to the writing and presentation of a research capstone in the senior year.

Music students must also complete the required College of Arts and Sciences core curriculum, taking courses in world history, literature, foreign languages, science, mathematics, philosophy, social science and theology.

Students pursuing a minor in music must complete 21 music credit hours and participate in a performance ensemble for three semesters.

About the Faculty
The music faculty comprises 25 full-time and adjunct professors, all with advanced degrees and active performance careers in the St. Louis metropolitan area. Specialties of the faculty include American musical styles, music history, theory and composition, piano performance, vocal coaching, women composers, conducting and choral literature.
Admission Requirements

Freshman: All applications are thoroughly and carefully reviewed. Solid academic performance in college preparatory coursework is a primary criterion in reviewing a freshman applicant’s file. College admission test scores (ACT or SAT) are used as an additional indicator of the student’s ability to meet the University’s academic requirements and to qualify the student for certain University scholarship programs. To be considered for admission to any Saint Louis University undergraduate program, the applicant must be approaching graduation from an accredited high school or have an acceptable score on the General Education Development (GED) test.

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Transfer: Applicants must be a graduate of an accredited high school or have an acceptable score on the GED. An official high school transcript and official test scores are required only of those students who have attempted fewer than 24 transferable semester hours (or 30 quarter hours) of college credit. Those having completed 24 hours or more of college credit need only submit a transcript from previously attended college(s). In reviewing a transfer applicant’s file, the office of admission holistically examines the student’s academic performance in college-level coursework as an indicator of the student’s ability to meet the academic rigors of Saint Louis University.

Internships and Careers

During their time in the music program, students have found positions at summer music camps, interned at musical theatre and opera companies, worked in local box office venues, taught private lessons and performed in venues across St. Louis.

Graduates of the Saint Louis University music program have gone on to graduate study and careers in music management and business, music education, performance, church music and music therapy.

Scholarships and Financial Aid

Music scholarships are awarded by audition only. Scholarships include the Talent Scholarship and the Fr. Guentner Award (majors only) and Ensemble Section Leader Award (all students).

Live auditions are scheduled in November and February, but students may request auditions at other times. Students may also opt to submit a video audition online through Acceptd at getacceptd.com. Visit the music program online at slu.edu/x14267.xml for further scholarship information.

For information on other scholarships and financial aid, visit the student financial services office online at finaid.slu.edu.