The uniquely American energy and artistry of Jazz is an integral part of UMD’s Department of Music, where the Bachelor of Music (B. Mus.) degree in Jazz Studies builds on the core curriculum of music theory, history, literature, and applied study but also allows students to participate in performance ensembles and additional coursework that focus on composing, arranging, analyzing, and teaching of jazz music.

Why UMD

UMD hits all the high notes

• Mentored by faculty who are active recording artists themselves, this program of study prepares students for the every-changing vocational possibilities for the contemporary musician, including but not limited to graduate-level professional training or professional engagements. Jazz Studies students at UMD will enjoy numerous performance opportunities as a member of large and small jazz ensembles not only on campus, but also within the thriving music scene of Duluth.
• Learn, practice, and perform with students from 15 different states and 4 continents in beautiful Weber Music Hall, a dedicated Department of Music facility that is recognized across the country for its top-tier acoustics.
• The Department of Music at the University of Minnesota Duluth is proud to be a fully accredited member of NASM, the National Association of Schools of Music.

Acquired Skills

Music training hones the following skills that are applicable to any career:

• Self-discipline & persistence
• Problem-solving
• Entrepreneurship
• Confidence
• Research techniques
• Ability to synthesize feedback/constructive criticism

The National Association of Schools of Music (NASM), which accredits UMD’s Music programs, ensures that our program addresses specific Jazz Studies competencies.

Career Possibilities

UMD Music graduates continue on to graduate school to further their research or enjoy many different careers as professional performers, music educators, composers, conductors, music therapists, instrument repair technicians, music librarians, and sound editors, to name just a few.

Additionally, as a complement to any other field of work, a study in music opens the pathways to creative thinking, sharpens skills in collaboration and the ability to listen, and develops a way of thinking that weaves together disparate ideas.

Playing music also trains individuals to focus on the present and the future simultaneously. For these reasons and more, music is highly regarded as a complementary background for students pursuing careers in many other areas.
Scholarships

Admission to Music programs is based upon standard UMD admission guidelines, as well as an audition (see details below in Requirements). Music majors can compete for several different talent-based scholarships at the time of their initial audition, and several of the music scholarships are renewable each year for continuing students.

Student Clubs

Student clubs in the Department of Music vary each year according to interests but may include Mu Phi Epsilon, Music Student Association, and the National Association for Music Education.

Requirements

All Music majors at UMD are required to audition for admission to the program. Auditions are typically held on several Saturdays each spring prior to fall admission but may also be arranged at other times. Current information about the audition process and preparation is found on the Music website.

Students must maintain grades of C- or better in all courses required in the major.

All UMD Music majors are strongly encouraged to bring a laptop as specified on the School of Fine Arts page for Technology Requirements.