

Music Therapy, BS

Department: Music Department
College: Caine College of the Arts

Overview

About This Degree

Utah State offers the only music therapy program in the state of Utah, and the program is one of only five in the western United States. USU employs top music therapy educators who attract students from around the world. USU music therapy graduates have a 100% pass rate on the national board certification exam and 100% job placement, as music therapists are in high demand across the nation. Graduates also have excellent internship placement at nationally competitive sites throughout the country.

A degree in music therapy prepares students for an established healthcare profession that uses music to address the physical, emotional, cognitive, and social needs of individuals of all ages. Music therapists can improve the quality of life for people who are healthy as well as children and adults with illnesses or disabilities. They help others manage stress, alleviate pain, express feelings, enhance memory, improve communication, and improve health through music therapy practices.

Students who apply for the music therapy program must be proficient in at least one musical instrument. Once they are in the program they will take additional courses in piano, voice, and guitar in order to make them well-rounded musicians who can use various forms of music in their profession.

Students receive a **BS** by completing all required courses in the major.

Career Options

Graduates from the program can pursue careers as music therapists in the following areas:

- Hospitals
- Schools
- Special education programs
- Assisted care centers
- Nursing homes
- Centers for developmentally/intellectual disabled
- At-risk youth residential centers
- Eating disorder programs
- Residential hospice programs
- State institutions
- Substance-abuse/dual diagnosed programs
- Support groups
- Psychiatric hospitals
- Daycare centers

[Career Services](#) provides counseling and information on hundreds of job and internship opportunities and even helps students apply and interview.

What it takes

Admissions Requirements

In addition to Utah State University's [admissions requirements](#), the music therapy program has additional requirements:

- **Freshmen:** New freshmen admitted to USU in good standing qualify for admission as pre-majors.
- **Transfer Students:** Transfer students from other institutions need a 2.75 cumulative GPA to qualify, and students transferring from other USU majors need a 2.75 cumulative GPA in order to qualify for this major.
- To become a music therapy major, students must complete the following:
 - A required audition, which usually takes place the February before the student's freshman year
 - Other prerequisite coursework as determined by the department

International students have [additional admissions requirements](#).

Major Requirements

[Click here](#) to see course requirements for the **Bachelor of Science**.

Contact

Advising

All new USU students participate in a [New Student Orientation](#) program, where they receive detailed information about major requirements, registering for classes, and other important advising information.

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Get Involved

Professional Organizations, Honor Societies, and Clubs

American Music Therapy Association: This organization seeks to continue to develop progressive music therapy to help with rehabilitation, special education, and community settings. AMTA is committed to the advancement of education, training, professional standards, credentials, and music therapy research.

Certification Board for Music Therapists: This board encourages music therapy graduates to become certified. The board strives to have ongoing education for certified music therapists to keep them well educated.

Utah Association of Music Therapists: This association promotes the growth of music therapy as a profession in the state of Utah, provides a professional support group for music therapists in Utah, and encourages ongoing education of music therapy by providing speakers, workshops, and other special projects. UAMT supports the aims and objectives of the AMTA.

Western Region American Music Therapy Association: This is a regional chapter of the American Music Therapy Association.

Utah State University Music Therapy Student Association: This club allows students to share information on available music careers, find unique opportunities, and enjoy guest speakers.

Labs, Centers, Research

With the second oldest [undergraduate research](#) program in the nation, USU offers students a wide range of opportunities to gain hands-on research experience. The [Undergraduate Research and Creative Opportunities](#) program allows students to apply for grants and receive funding. USU's [Honors Program](#) prepares students for excellent graduate programs by helping them build relationships with professors, participate in research projects, take smaller, more intensive classes, and develop leadership skills.

Bear River Activity and Skills Center: This center is designed to support adults with disabilities by teaching them the skills necessary for independence. In addition, BRASC focuses on providing consumers with activities that encourage community inclusion.

Black Box Theatre: The Black Box Theatre is a 90-seat studio/laboratory venue.

Caine Lyric Theatre: The Caine Lyric Theatre is located in downtown Logan. The 378-seat proscenium theatre, listed on the Utah State Historical Register (1913), is home to the Old Lyric Repertory Company and hosts USU Opera program performances.

Center for Persons with Disabilities: The CPD is a nationally recognized research center that joins the expertise of researchers and faculty with community partners to address the most difficult challenges facing persons with disabilities and their families. Research addresses issues that cross fields ranging from biomedicine to education. In clinical experiences, learners join teams of professionals, family members, and individuals with disabilities to deliver services and supports.

Edith Bowen Laboratory School: EBLS is one of Utah's charter schools, offering services to more than 300 students grades K-5. The school, in cooperation with Utah State University, trains more than 200 pre-service teachers preparing to become professional educators, as well as supporting several other departments/colleges on campus, including special education, physical education, music, psychology, and business. Because the school is funded through state funds and donations, no tuition is charged to students.

Kent Concert Hall: The Kent Concert Hall, located in the Chase Fine Arts Center, seats 2,168 patrons in five orchestra sections and five balcony sections. It has a proscenium stage and an apron that can be removed to reveal the orchestra pit at the front of the stage. The Kent Concert Hall is most specifically designed for orchestra programs and features a full-stage acoustical shell as part of the standard-stage setup.

Manon Caine Russell Kathryn Caine Wanlass Performance Hall: The Performance Hall is a 20,000-square-foot building that serves USU, the Cache Valley community, and the Intermountain region. The venue features a 400-seat performance hall, a stage for up to 22 performers, and a lobby with glass windows overlooking a plaza. The hall's intimate scale is ideal for small acoustical performances, such as chamber music, vocal and instrumental concerts, recitals, readings, and lectures.

Sound Beginnings of Cache Valley: Sound Beginnings is an early intervention and preschool program located on the USU campus, providing services to children who are deaf or hard of hearing and their families. The focus of this program is for children with hearing loss to receive early intervention services that emphasize the development of spoken language. Sound Beginnings serves children from birth through age six through a variety of program options that are designed to increase auditory awareness and speech, language, and academic development.

Youth Conservatory: The Youth Conservatory serves as a lab program for USU piano pedagogy students to hone their teaching skills and receive faculty guidance in applied teaching situations. More than 300 pianists, ages 4–18, of varying abilities and backgrounds, come to the Chase Fine Arts Center for piano lessons and musicianship classes each week.