

**The Chinese University of Hong Kong
Department of Music**

Guidelines to stream selection (revised 01/2024)

Introduction

The B.A. programme in Music has four study streams: composition, pedagogy, performance, and research. In the first two years of study, students take faculty package and core courses, which provide the groundwork for later specialization. Students are strongly recommended to consult their academic advisors, stream coordinators, and other teachers to plan their stream selection.

Students in the 4-year programme may select any of the four streams at the end of Year 2. Those who go on overseas exchange in Year 3 should ensure that they take the equivalent stream-specific courses at the exchange institution in order to apply for transfer credits or course substitution upon return.

Senior-year entry students may select research or pedagogy streams at the end of Year 1. Performance stream is not an option, while application to the composition stream may be considered on an exceptional basis.

The mechanism for streaming is as follows:

1. By the end of March in Year 2 (4-year programme)/Year 1 (Senior-year entry), students declare their first and second choices of study stream.
2. After second semester academic results become available, the stream coordinators assess each student's suitability for his/her preferred study stream based on specific criteria (see below for details)
3. In late May/early June, the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee meets to finalize students' assignments to study streams.
4. Students are informed in early June.

Checklist of Entry Requirements and Supporting Documents

Students are advised to provide supporting documents for both first and second choice of streams.

	Composition	Pedagogy	Performance	Research
Entry requirements	Minimum grade of B in MUSC 2262 <i>Advanced Harmonic Practice</i> , or a portfolio of compositions for consideration by composition faculty	Personal statement and writing sample	Minimum grade of B+ in the streaming jury exam and endorsement from applied music teacher	Personal statement and writing sample

Composition Stream

In the composition stream, students explore their creativity through writing music for a wide variety of instruments, voices, and the electronic medium. Course work provides students with the technical and theoretical foundation that will enable them to develop a unique personal voice. Completion of this stream may lead to graduate studies in composition or to other creative endeavours.

Courses and study path

4-year programme

Year 3, Term 1:	MUSC3343 Composition I
Year 3, Term 2:	MUSC3353 Composition II*
Year 4, Term 1:	MUSC3363 Composition III*
Year 3 or 4:	One elective course

(* = capstone courses)

List of supporting courses

MUSC3323 Counterpoint: Tonal and Modern
MUSC3333 Orchestral Techniques
MUSC3373 Scoring for Film and Television
MUSC3383 Electronic Music
MUSC3712 Composition Special Topic I
MUSC3722 Composition Special Topic II
MUSC3732 Composition Special Topic III
MUSC3742 Composition Special Topic IV

Entry requirements

1. For admission to MUSC3343 Composition I, students (4-year programme) need to obtain a Grade of 'B' or higher in MUSC2262 Advanced Harmonic Practice (core course in year 2, term 2), OR submit a portfolio of compositions for consideration by composition faculty on a case-by-case basis.
2. Composition stream is not a default option for Senior Entry students. Students who have a serious interest in this stream should declare their intention upon admission to the programme (Year 1, term 1) and consult compositional faculty about alternative entry requirements.

Pedagogy Stream

The pedagogy stream provides students with opportunities to explore the world of music education. Students will undertake an extended independent research project under the guidance of a Music faculty member. Possible research areas may include but are not limited to: one-on-one or group instrumental/vocal teaching; classroom music teaching in schools; aural or musicianship training; evaluation or development of teaching materials; questions and issues of promoting music to specific communities and groups; or music therapy. This stream is the first choice for students who wish to pursue careers in studio teaching or, after postgraduate studies, as music teachers in primary or secondary schools.

Courses and study path

<u>Four-year programme</u>	<u>Senior-year entry</u>	
Year 3, Term 2	Year 1, Term 2	MUSC4243 Research Methods in Music
Year 4, Term 1:	Year 2, Term 1	MUSC4513 Senior Pedagogy Project I*
Year 4, Term 2:	Year 2, Term 2	MUSC4523 Senior Pedagogy Project II*
Year 3 or Year 4:	Year 1 or Year 2	One elective course

(* = capstone courses)

List of supporting courses

MUSC2543	Conducting
MUSC3502	Vocal/Instrumental Pedagogy
MUSC3533	Piano Pedagogy
MUSC3912	Music Pedagogy: Special Topic I
MUSC3922	Music Pedagogy: Special Topic II
MUSC3932	Music Pedagogy: Special Topic III
MUSC3942	Music Pedagogy: Special Topic IV

Entry requirements

Students need to submit:

1. A personal statement of 400-500 words outlining their research interest, career goals, and preliminary ideas for a project topic.
2. A writing sample (such as an assignment from a course they have taken).

Performance Stream

The performance stream provides training for students to develop their performing skills in the context of comprehensive music study. It is designed especially for students who are interested in postgraduate training in performance, and for those who will become music teachers and professionals in the area.

Courses and study path

Year 3, Term 1	MUSC 3012 Applied Music XIII
Year 3, Term 2	MUSC 3022 Applied Music XIV
Year 4, Term 1	MUSC 4000 Senior Recital Preparation*
Year 4, Term 2	MUSC 4003 Senior Recital*

(* = capstone courses)

Entry requirements

1. To enrol in the performance stream, students must earn a minimum grade of B+ in the streaming assessment jury examination in the second year. For this jury, students should prepare pieces in contrasting styles to demonstrate their technical mastery and musical understanding of the repertoire. Based upon the assessment of the jury examiners, students will be ranked in order of priority for the stream, and the top-ranked students will be accepted into the stream.
2. Students must also provide a signed endorsement from their Applied Music teachers.

Research Stream

The research stream prepares students to undertake an extended independent research thesis under the supervision of a Music faculty member. Possible research areas may include but are not limited to: repertoire-, composer-, or style-based analyses; structural, aesthetic, or critical theory; historical, sociocultural, anthropological, philosophical, or other thematic and contextual studies of musical practices; archival research; ethnographic fieldwork on specific communities or groups; or interdisciplinary scholarship, applications, and debates. This stream is the first choice for students who are interested in the scholarly study of music.

Courses and study path

Four-year programme

Year 3, Term 2

Year 4, Term 1:

Year 4, Term 2:

Year 3 or Year 4:

(* = capstone courses)

Senior-year entry

Year 1, Term 2

Year 2, Term 1

Year 2, Term 2

Year 1 or Year 2

MUSC4243 Research Methods in Music

MUSC4813 Senior Thesis I*

MUSC4823 Senior Thesis II*

One elective course

Supporting courses

Selected MUSC courses in study areas “Music, History, and Culture” or “Theory, Analysis, and Composition” at 3000 or above level. See study scheme for full details.

Entry Requirements

Students need to submit:

1. A personal statement of 400-500 words outlining their research interest, career goals, and preliminary ideas for a thesis topic.
2. A writing sample (such as an assignment from a course they have taken).