

COMMERCIAL MUSIC, BACHELOR OF ARTS (BA)

Coming in Summer/Fall 2026

The Bachelor of Arts in Music at Slippery Rock University is a flexible **non-auditioned** degree designed for students who want to shape their own path in today's music industry. Students build a strong musical foundation while choosing one of two programs that align with their interests and career goals.

- **BA in Commercial Music** – Focus on contemporary music-making through experiences in popular styles, audio/video production, entrepreneurship, and digital media. Students develop practical skills for careers in today's commercial music industry. In addition to taking the "music core" of theory, ear training, history, and ensembles, students will also study:
 - Audio Production I
 - Audio Production II
 - Video Production
 - Social Media
 - Music Production & Promotions I, II, III

Program Learning Outcomes

- **P01: Musical Analysis and Interpretation:** Students will demonstrate the ability to analyze and interpret the structural, theoretical, and historical elements of music both visually and aurally. (UO#2, UO#6)
- **P02: Performance Proficiency:** Students will perform on their primary instrument or voice type with technical mastery, artistic expression, and stylistic awareness across various genres and historical periods. (UO#5, UO#6)
- **P03: Collaborative Musicianship:** Students will collaborate effectively in musical ensembles and other group settings, demonstrating leadership, cooperation, and ensemble techniques to achieve shared creative goals. (UO#5, UO#7)
- **P04: Creative Musicianship:** Students will utilize creativity in composition, arrangement, improvisation, and performance, applying these skills in interdisciplinary and professional contexts such as performance, instruction, music business, or production. (UO#6, UO#5)
- **P05: Cultural and Historical Literacy:** Students will explore and appreciate music from different historical periods, cultures, and composers, recognizing the influence of social, cultural, and historical factors on music. (UO#6, UO#9)
- **P06: Technological Proficiency:** Students will utilize digital tools and platforms to enhance music performance, composition, analysis, and instruction, demonstrating adaptability in using technology in diverse professional settings. (UO#2, UO#6, UO#10)
- **P07: Communication and Critical Thinking:** Students will communicate ideas effectively in oral, written, and digital formats, and apply critical thinking in the analysis and discussion of music and its interdisciplinary connections. (UO#1, UO#2)

Related Links

Commercial Music, BA Program Page (https://www.sru.edu/programs/undergrad-music/#tab_sec1)

Professional Licensure/Certification Page (<https://www.sru.edu/students/student-consumer-information/professional-licensures/>)

Curriculum Guide

GPA Requirement

Major GPA: 2.0 or higher

Overall GPA: 2.0 or higher

Summary*

Code	Title	Hours
	Rock 2 Studies Requirements	42
	Modern Language Requirement	0-9
	Other Basic Requirements	0-3
	Major Requirements	42
	Electives	36

* All undergraduate degree programs require a minimum of 120 credits. Some courses meet multiple requirements, but are only counted once toward the 120 credit total required to graduate.

Rock Studies 2 Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
The Rock		
SUBJ 139	Foundations of Academic Discovery ¹	3
ENGL 102	Critical Writing	3
ENGL 104	Critical Reading	3
MATH 117	Quantitative Reasoning	3
Select one of the following:		3
COMM 200	Civil Discourse: Theory & Practice	
PHIL 110	Ethics and Civil Discourse	
POLI 235	Civil Discourse and Democracy	
Subtotal		15
Integrated Inquiry		
<i>Creative and Aesthetic Inquiry</i>		
Select 3 Credits (https://catalog.sru.edu/undergraduate/rock-studies/rock-studies-program/)		3
<i>Humanities Inquiry</i>		
Select 3 Credits (https://catalog.sru.edu/undergraduate/rock-studies/rock-studies-program/)		3
<i>Social Science Inquiry</i>		
Select 3 Credits (https://catalog.sru.edu/undergraduate/rock-studies/rock-studies-program/)		3
<i>Natural Sciences Inquiry</i>		
SCI 101	Science of Life	3
<i>Physical Sciences Inquiry</i>		
SCI 102	Understanding the Physical World	3
Subtotal		15
Thematic Thread		
Select 12 Credits (https://catalog.sru.edu/undergraduate/rock-studies/rock-studies-program/) ²		12
Total Hours		42

¹ Course offered in multiple subjects; cannot take course in first major subject.

² One course from each category; six credits must be 300-level or above; no more than 4 credits from one subject area; specific courses required in first major, regardless of prefix of course, cannot be used to satisfy thread requirements; any course with same prefix as first major cannot be used to satisfy thread requirements, even if it is not a course in the first major.

BA Modern Language Requirement

BA degree requires language proficiency at the 103 class level. Exemption by placement or examination is possible.

Code	Title	Hours
Complete 0-9 credits		0-9
Total Hours		0-9

Basic Math Requirement

Check with your adviser or a current degree audit report to see if you have been exempted from this course. The credit earned in this course will not be counted toward the 120 credit hour minimum needed to earn a degree.

Code	Title	Hours
Complete one of the following:		0-3
Meet required minimum SAT or ACT math score OR		
ESAP 110	Beginning Algebra	
Total Hours		0-3

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION REQUIREMENT

Students must take and pass a course with the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) designation prior to graduation. Students can meet this requirement by taking any DEI - designated course in any program at any time during their undergraduate career.

Major Requirements

- 21 major credits must be taken at SRU or PASSHE
- 21 major credits must be taken at the 300 level or above

Code	Title	Hours
Required Music Courses		
MUSI 151	Music Theory and Musicking I ^{1,2}	2
MUSI 253	Music Theory and Analysis II ^{1,2}	2
MUSI 154	Musicianship Skills I ^{1,2}	1
MUSI 256	Musicianship Skills II ^{1,2}	1
MUSI 131	Class Piano I ^{1,2}	1
MUSI 132	Class Piano II ^{1,2}	1
MUSI 203	Musician's Health ^{1,2}	1
MUSI 435	Music Entrepreneurship ^{1,2}	1
MUSI 473	History of Popular Musics ¹	3
MUSI 274	Music Production & Promotion I ^{1,2}	1
MUSI 475	Music Production & Promotion II ^{1,2}	4
MUSI 476	Music Production & Promotion III ^{1,2}	6
Subtotal		24

Ensemble Courses

Three semesters must be at the 300+ level. The student must earn a "C" or better in each semester to satisfy the requirement. Students must play in one ensemble every semester for 6 semesters. See Ensemble Policy below.

Ensembles ^{1,2}

MUSI 109	Jazz Combo
MUSI 113	Saxophone Quartet
MUSI 114	Symphonic Wind Ensemble
MUSI 115	Concert Choir
MUSI 116	University Chorus
MUSI 117	Chamber Singers
MUSI 118	Marching Pride
MUSI 119	Concert Band
MUSI 120	Jazz Ensemble
MUSI 121	Symphony Orchestra
MUSI 122	Chamber String Ensemble
MUSI 123	Brass Ensemble
MUSI 124	Woodwind Ensemble
MUSI 125	Percussion Ensemble
MUSI 126	Flute Choir
MUSI 192	Tuba-Euphonium Ensemble
MUSI 193	Jazz Lab Band
MUSI 194	World Percussion Ensemble
MUSI 209	Jazz Combo
MUSI 213	Saxophone Quartet
MUSI 214	Symphonic Wind Ensemble
MUSI 215	Concert Choir
MUSI 216	University Chorus
MUSI 217	Chamber Singers
MUSI 218	Marching Pride
MUSI 219	Concert Band
MUSI 220	Jazz Ensemble
MUSI 221	Symphony Orchestra
MUSI 222	Chamber String Ensemble
MUSI 223	Brass Ensemble
MUSI 224	Woodwind Ensemble
MUSI 225	Percussion Ensemble
MUSI 226	Flute Choir
MUSI 237	Opera Performance
MUSI 239	Chamber Music Performance
MUSI 292	Tuba-Euphonium Ensemble
MUSI 293	Jazz Lab Band
MUSI 294	World Percussion Ensemble
MUSI 309	Jazz Combo
MUSI 313	Saxophone Quartet
MUSI 314	Symphonic Wind Ensemble
MUSI 315	Concert Choir
MUSI 316	University Chorus
MUSI 317	Chamber Singers
MUSI 318	Marching Pride
MUSI 319	Concert Band
MUSI 320	Jazz Ensemble
MUSI 321	Symphony Orchestra
MUSI 322	Chamber String Ensemble
MUSI 323	Brass Ensemble
MUSI 324	Woodwind Ensemble

MUSI 325	Percussion Ensemble	
MUSI 326	Flute Choir	
MUSI 392	Tuba-Euphonium Ensemble	
MUSI 393	Jazz Lab Band	
MUSI 394	World Percussion Ensemble	
MUSI 409	Jazz Combo	
MUSI 413	Saxophone Quartet	
MUSI 414	Symphonic Wind Ensemble	
MUSI 415	Concert Choir	
MUSI 416	University Chorus	
MUSI 417	Chamber Singers	
MUSI 418	Marching Pride	
MUSI 419	Concert Band	
MUSI 420	Jazz Ensemble	
MUSI 421	Symphony Orchestra	
MUSI 422	Chamber String Ensemble	
MUSI 423	Brass Ensemble	
MUSI 424	Woodwind Ensemble	
MUSI 425	Percussion Ensemble	
MUSI 426	Flute Choir	
MUSI 437	Opera Performance	
MUSI 439	Chamber Music Performance	
MUSI 492	Tuba-Euphonium Ensemble	
MUSI 493	Jazz Lab Band	
MUSI 494	World Percussion Ensemble	
Subtotal		6
Required Communication Courses		
COMM 205	Audio Production ^{1,2}	3
COMM 254	Video Production ^{1,2}	3
COMM 307	Social Media ^{1,2}	3
COMM 352	Digital Radio Production ^{1,2}	3
Subtotal		12
Total Hours		42

¹ Course counts for 50% of Major requirements and Major GPA

² Grade of "C" or better must be earned in this course.

* Some courses may require pre-requisites. Please see course descriptions to determine if there are any pre-requisites for that specific course.

Recommended Electives

Code	Title	Hours
<i>Recommended Music Courses</i>		
MUSI 234	Class Piano III	1
MUSI 235	Class Piano IV	1
MUSI 254	Music Theory and Analysis III	2
MUSI 257	Musicianship Skills III	1
MUSI 355	Music Theory and Analysis IV	2
MUSI 378	Musicianship Skills IV	1
MUSI 238	Voice Techniques	2
MUSI 133	Class Voice I	2
MUSI 129	Guitar, Ukulele, & Bass Methods	2
MUSI 245	Brass Methods	1

MUSI 247	Percussion Methods	2
MUSI 304	Orchestral String Methods	2
MUSI 374	Woodwind Methods	2
MUSI 301	Women and Music	3
MUSI 359	History of Music I	3
MUSI 373	History of Music II	3
MUSI 356	Culturally Responsive Teaching (CRT) in the Choral Arts	3
MUSI 398	Selected Topics	1-3
MUSI 457	Popular Music Pedagogy	3
MUSI 456	Social Emotional Learning in Music Education	3
MUSI 360	Keyboard Improvisation	1
MUSI 361	Instrumental Improvisation	1
MUSI 499	Applied Recital	1

Recommended Communication Courses

COMM 228	Principles of Creative Advertising	3
COMM 231	Principles of Integrated Marketing Communication & Public Relations	3
COMM 235	Introduction to Digital Design	3
COMM 248	Interactive Multimedia 1	3
COMM 256	Message Preparation	3
COMM 317	Topics in Global and Intercultural Communication	3
COMM 318	Professional Presentation	3
COMM 347	New-Media Journalism	3
COMM 350	Editing for Video	3
COMM 407	Social Media Network Analytics	3
COMM 480	The Communication Age	3

Ensemble Policy

While students are encouraged to participate in a variety of ensemble experiences, students must participate in at least one ensemble on their primary instrument every semester in which they are enrolled at SRU and taking applied lessons.

Students are required to complete an ensemble placement audition each semester after which ensemble directors, in consultation with applied teachers and advisors, will assign semester ensemble placements. Only once all ensembles have been staffed and no other opportunities exist for a specific primary instrument will participation on a secondary instrument be counted toward this requirement.

Co-curricular and Experiential Learning

Students are encouraged to explore additional curricular and co-curricular opportunities. There is a strong correlation between long-term student success and participation in the following types of programs and activities:

1. International study programs (short-term, semester)
2. High-Impact Practice (HIP) designated classes
3. Student-faculty research
4. Student leadership development
5. Career education and development
6. Internships
7. Field Experiences

- 8. Student Teaching
- 9. Volunteering (schools, health care facilities, churches, communities)

Important Curriculum Guide Notes

This Curriculum Guide is provided to help SRU students and prospective students better understand their intended major curriculum. Enrolled SRU students should note that the My Rock Audit may place already-earned and/or in progress courses in different, yet valid, curriculum categories. Enrolled SRU students should use the My Rock Audit Report and materials and information provided by their faculty advisers to ensure accurate progress towards degree completion. *The information on this guide is current as of the date listed. Students are responsible for curriculum requirements at the time of enrollment at the University.*

PASSHE - Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education Institutions

MUSIC - BA ()/CIM 565

This program is effective as of Summer 2026

Revised 04.16.2026

UCC 2026

Course	Title	Hours
First Year		
Fall		
MUSI 151	Music Theory and Musicking I	2
MUSI 154	Musicianship Skills I	1
MUSI 131	Class Piano I	1
MUSI 1XX	Ensemble - 100 Level	1
ENGL 102	Critical Writing	3
SUBJ 139	Foundations of Academic Discovery	3
MUSI 130	Exploring Music (or Elective)	3
ESAP 101	FIRST Seminar (Optional)	0-1
Hours		14-15
Spring		
MUSI 253	Music Theory and Analysis II	2
MUSI 256	Musicianship Skills II	1
MUSI 132	Class Piano II	1
MUSI 203	Musician's Health	1
MATH 117	Quantitative Reasoning	3
MUSI 130	Exploring Music (or Elective)	3
Ensemble - 100 Level		1
Elective		3
Hours		15
Second Year		
Fall		
COMM 205	Audio Production	3
MUSI 2XX	Ensemble - 200 Level	1
Select one of the following:		3
COMM 200	Civil Discourse: Theory & Practice	
PHIL 110	Ethics and Civil Discourse	
POLI 235	Civil Discourse and Democracy	
Thematic Thread Requirement (https://catalog.sru.edu/undergraduate/rock-studies/rock-studies-program/)		3
Integrated Inquiry (https://catalog.sru.edu/undergraduate/rock-studies/rock-studies-program/)		3
Select one of the following:		3

Elective		
MODL 1XX	Language and Culture I, II, or III	
Declare a Thematic Thread ²		
Hours		16
Spring		
MUSI 274	Music Production & Promotion I	1
COMM 254	Video Production	3
MUSI 3XX	Ensemble - 300 Level	1
ENGL 104	Critical Reading	3
Select one of the following:		3
Integrated Inquiry (https://catalog.sru.edu/undergraduate/rock-studies/rock-studies-program/)		
Thematic Thread Requirement (https://catalog.sru.edu/undergraduate/rock-studies/rock-studies-program/)		
Select one of the following:		3
MODL 1XX	Language and Culture I, II, or III	
Elective		
Elective		3
Hours		17
Third Year		
Fall		
COMM 352	Digital Radio Production	3
MUSI 475	Music Production & Promotion II	2
MUSI 3XX	Ensemble - 300 Level	1
MUSI 435	Music Entrepreneurship (if offered)	0-1
Select one of the following:		3
Thematic Thread Requirement (https://catalog.sru.edu/undergraduate/rock-studies/rock-studies-program/)		
Integrated Inquiry (https://catalog.sru.edu/undergraduate/rock-studies/rock-studies-program/)		
Select one of the following:		3
MODL 1XX	Language and Culture I, II, or III	
Elective		
Elective		3
Hours		15-16
Spring		
COMM 352	Digital Radio Production	3
MUSI 475	Music Production & Promotion II	2
MUSI 3XX	Ensemble - 300 Level	1
MUSI 435	Music Entrepreneurship (if offered)	0-1
Select one of the following:		3
Thematic Thread Requirement (https://catalog.sru.edu/undergraduate/rock-studies/rock-studies-program/)		
Integrated Inquiry (https://catalog.sru.edu/undergraduate/rock-studies/rock-studies-program/)		
Select one of the following:		3
MODL 1XX	Language and Culture I, II, or III	
Elective		
Elective		3
Hours		15-16
Fourth Year		
Fall		
MUSI 476	Music Production & Promotion III	3

MUSI 473	History of Popular Musics	3
Select one of the following:		3
Integrated Inquiry (https://catalog.sru.edu/undergraduate/rock-studies/rock-studies-program/)		
Thematic Thread Requirement (https://catalog.sru.edu/undergraduate/rock-studies/rock-studies-program/)		
Elective		6
<hr/>		
Hours		15
Spring		
MUSI 476	Music Production & Promotion III	3
Thematic Thread Requirement (https://catalog.sru.edu/undergraduate/rock-studies/rock-studies-program/)		3
Integrated Inquiry (https://catalog.sru.edu/undergraduate/rock-studies/rock-studies-program/)		3
Elective		6
<hr/>		
Hours		15
<hr/>		
Total Hours**		122-125