

# Career

# Paths

## MUSIC

Majoring in music provides students with a sense of aesthetics and an understanding of human expression valuable to many employers. Develop competencies in business management, computers, marketing, or other areas to broaden range of employment possibilities. Finding positions in the music industry requires a combination of talent, training, connections and some luck. Perseverance is required!

### Education

**Example Career Paths:** Teaching | Research | Private lessons

**Potential Employers:** K-12 schools, public and private | Colleges and universities | Conservatories | Daycare centers | Recreation centers | Studios | Self-employed (private instructor) | Children's music programs

**Professional Associations:** [Music and Entertainment Industry Educators Association](#) | [Music Teachers National Association](#) | [Music Teachers National Association](#) | [National Association for Music Education](#)

### Performance

**Example Career Paths:** Instrumental | Vocal

**Potential Employers:** Orchestras | Armed Forces bands and orchestras | Small ensembles | Dance bands | Concert soloist | Clubs and restaurants | Church choirs | Community choral groups | Opera companies | Musical theaters | Ballet productions | Recording industry | Radio, television, and motion picture industries | Cruise lines

**Professional Associations:** [American Federation of Musicians](#) | [American Guild of Musical Artists](#) | [League of American Orchestras](#)

## Conducting

**Example Career Paths:** Directing | Planning | Leading | Music selection

**Potential Employers:** Orchestras | Armed Forces bands and orchestras | Choral groups | Opera companies | Musical theater companies

**Professional Associations:** [Conductors Guild](#)

## Composing/Arranging

**Example Career Paths:** Composing | Arranging

**Potential Employers:** Self-employed | Record companies | Publishers | Muzak | Motion picture and television industries | Production companies | Opera companies | Musical theater groups | Ballet troupes | Orchestras

**Professional Associations:** [American Composers Forum](#) | [Society of Composers, Inc.](#)

## Music Libraries

**Example Career Paths:** Technical services | Services to faculty, students, patrons | Reference | Circulation | Collection development | Research

**Potential Employers:** Colleges and universities | Conservatories | Radio and television stations | Motion picture studios | Public libraries

**Professional Associations:** [Music Library Association](#) | [International Association of Music Libraries, Archives and Documentation Centres](#)

## Communications (Broadcasting)

**Example Career Paths:** Music and program direction | On-air performance | Promotion | Voice overs | Copyright/Clearance administration | Music license administration | Music editing, production, and composing | Sound mixing | Post-production | Research

**Potential Employers:** Radio and television stations | Virtual reality sound environments (e.g., internet sites, software creators)

**Professional Associations:** [National Association of Broadcasters](#) | [Broadcast Music, Inc.](#) | [National Public Radio](#)

## Behind the Scenes

**Example Career Paths:** Audio technician | Boom operator | General director | Music video producer | Recording engineer | Set-up | Recordist | Rerecording mixer | Sound engineer | Sound technician | Sound/Production mixer | MIDI engineer | Stage manager | Transcribing | Copyrighting

**Potential Employers:** Local bands | Regional bands | Production companies | Theater groups | Orchestras | Armed Forces | Radio, television, and motion picture industries

**Professional Associations:** [Audio Engineering Society](#) | [Music Managers Forum](#)

## Music Industry/Business

**Example Career Paths:** Publishing and editing | Producing | Recording | Engineering | Manufacturing | Talent acquisition | Artist/Talent representation | Promotion/Media relations | Publicity | Administration | Marketing | Booking | Product management | Business management | Retail sales

**Potential Employers:** Production recording studios (most located in New York City, Los Angeles, and Nashville) | Instrument manufacturers | Music management groups | Agencies | Music and record stores

**Professional Associations:** [National Association of Record Industry Professionals](#) | [Music Business Association](#) | [Recording Industry Association of America](#)

## Human Services

**Example Career Paths:** Music Therapy

**Potential Employers:** Hospitals | Special education facilities | Mental health centers | Nursing homes and senior centers | Rehabilitation centers | Correctional facilities | Private practice | Outpatient clinics | Schools

**Professional Associations:** [American Music Therapy Association](#)

## Miscellaneous

**Example Career Paths:** Music journalism | Law | Music analysis

**Potential Employers:** Music-related publications | Magazines and newspapers | Entertainment or music focused Internet sites | Entertainment law firms | Production companies

**Professional Associations:** [Society for Ethnomusicology](#) | [Women in Music](#)

## Preparing for your Career

- Performance skill on one instrument or voice is required.
- Gain experience working with children through volunteer or part-time work experiences.
- Join the National Association for Music Education as a collegiate member.
- Develop business relationships with schools and/or music stores to increase client base.
- Develop musical talent and skill.
- Obtain formal training to acquire necessary skills, knowledge, and ability to interpret music.
- Demonstrate ambition and showmanship.
- Join campus bands and choruses, church choirs, and other performing acts.
- Seek competitions, apprenticeship programs, and workshops to gain experience and recognition.
- Be aware of and participate in open mic nights.
- Auditions are generally required to join bands or get jobs.
- Create a demo recording to submit agents or music companies.
- Be willing to move to a large city with more opportunities such as New York City, Los Angeles, Nashville, Las Vegas, or Chicago.
- Network with people in the industry to learn about potential jobs.
- Opportunities are very limited. Most performers have other careers.

This resource was adapted from What Can I Do With My Major.

For more, visit <https://web.uri.edu/career/wcidwmm/>

## WCIDWMM

What Can I Do With This Major? features 100 major profiles with information on common career paths, types of employers that hire in the field, and strategies to maximize opportunities. Scroll to the...

 Center for Career and Experiential Education /