If you love music and think you want to take it to a professional level — perform, compose, conduct or teach — UW-Eau Claire is the place for you! UW-Eau Claire’s department of music and theatre arts features a distinctive and supportive environment for the study of music.

UW-Eau Claire boasts the largest undergrad music program in the UW System, with 335 music majors and minors, 160+ concerts/events each year, and hundreds of students who love to develop their musical talent. We are home to the nation’s largest Division III marching band, the largest jazz festival in the nation, and nationally recognized ensembles, including three concert bands, six choirs, an opera program, two orchestras, and much more!

**Majors**
- Music - Liberal Arts
- **Comprehensive majors (no minor required)**
  - Music - Applied Instrumental
  - Music - Applied Voice
  - Music - Choral and General Music Teaching
  - Music - Collaborative Piano
  - Music - Composition
  - Music - Instrumental and General Music Teaching
  - Music - Piano Pedagogy
  - Music - Piano Performance
  - **Music History** - Liberal Arts
  - Theatre Arts - Musical Theatre

**Minor**
- Music - Liberal Arts

**Certificate**
- Fine Arts Administration

**Where you'll find our grads**
- Trumpet performer; Broadway
- Musician; Chanticleer Singing Group
- Educators in public schools; Chippewa Falls, WI
- Graduate students; Michigan State, University of Michigan, and Eastman School of Music
- String bassist; San Francisco Symphony
- Singer; Lyric Opera of Chicago
- Professors; Indiana University and Michigan State University

**Prepared for Success**

Typical positions held by music graduates include professional performer as a soloist or with an ensemble, composer, arranger, conductor, music educator, or church musician. Our grads are well prepared for their next chapter—96% are employed or plan to attend graduate school. In fact, one of the four finalists for the 2017 National Teacher of the Year award is a Blugold! Chris Gleason, ('97 music education graduate), was first inspired by his parents to become an educator, and UW-Eau Claire helped him turn that passion into reality. “What impressed me most about UWEC wasn’t anything that would show up as a number,” he says.

“The Music department offers a unique setting where I get to work alongside faculty and students on a regular basis. From daily rehearsals, to weekly lessons, to student and faculty recitals, I've been surrounded by excellent musicians that have helped me grow both as a performer and a person.”
— Collin Jeidy | Music Education, Bassoon
Music

“It was the care and attention the professors gave you. It was the family-like environment created within departments and on campus. It was the respect given to young people eager to pursue their dreams.”

Why UW-Eau Claire

Rankings / Reputation / Well-funded programs

Several UW-Eau Claire ensembles have acquired national and international reputations. Jazz Ensemble I is a seven-time winner of Down Beat magazine’s Best College Big Band award and has been recognized by the New York Times as having one of the best jazz studies program in the country! A fully-funded string quartet and a chamber orchestra that follows historical performance practice offer rare experiences to undergraduates.

Hands-On Experience

Students have opportunities to take on leadership roles in productions like the long-running Cabaret, which is student-directed. Other options include the Blugold Marching Band and students organizations that are associated with professional organizations with a national affiliation. Each year the department presents over 160 concerts and recitals, including the popular Viennese Ball and Holiday Concert. Students are able to perform in a variety of bands and ensembles:

Choral Music
- Concert Choir
- Novum Voce
- The Singing Statesmen
- Symphonic Choir
- Women’s Chorus
- Women’s Concert Chorale
- Opera Workshop Ensemble
- Orchestra

Bands
- Wind Symphony
- Symphony Band
- University Band
- Blugold Marching Band
- Blugold Athletic Band
- Jazz Ensembles I, II, III, and IV (+20 combos)

Chamber ensembles
- Trombone Ensemble
- BASSically Brass
- Percussion Ensemble
- Marimba Ensemble
- Clarinet Choir
- Piano Ensemble
- Vocal Ensemble

Theatre and dance
- Four main-stage productions
- Theatre for Young Audiences touring production
- Student-directed Short Play Festivals
- New Playwrights Festival
- DanceWorks Ensemble and student choreography showcase

Faculty Experts

Our outstanding faculty, performers, composers and music educators are proud of the individual attention they give their students. Students learn in small class settings and get lots of one-on-one attention from professors who inspire learning and truly want them to succeed. There are also numerous faculty-student collaborative research opportunities.

Going Global

Music ensembles have performed from coast to coast in the U.S., toured Europe, traveled to China and even performed for Pope Benedict XVI and an estimated crowd of 100,000 people in Rome. In addition to traveling with ensembles, music majors and minors can participate in study abroad experiences tailored for musicians in South Africa, Great Britain, or Peru.

Suggested Freshman Curriculum

- Written and aural theory
- Private lessons in an instrument or voice
- Music ensemble
- Group piano, if needed
- General electives

Course Work / Pre-Professional Courses

All undergraduate music majors complete course work in music theory, music history, music literature and conducting. They also study an instrument or voice and participate in an ensemble throughout their program. Large and small ensembles offer opportunities to perform diverse styles and traditions of music.

Special Admission Guidelines

In addition to UW-Eau Claire admission requirements, students enrolling as a music major or minor are required to successfully complete an audition for instrument or voice and a piano placement examination prior to enrolling. Audition information and scheduling is available on the department website.

The Power of University of Wisconsin Eau Claire