

Course Code: MUS 100

Course Title: Music Fundamentals

Department: Arts, Media, and Social Sciences

Effective Date: Summer 2026

PCS Code: 1.1 - Baccalaureate/Transfer

CIP Code: 50.0904

Repeatability: 0

Credit Hours

Catalog Notation: 3-0-3

Credit Hour Distribution:

Lecture: 3

Lab: 0

Clinical: 0

Total: 3

General Course Information

Catalog Description

Music notation, scales, chords, and key signatures for non-music majors with little or no background in music fundamentals.

General Course Objectives

To develop the ability to read and write music and understand basic musical constructs: e.g. scales, rhythms, modes, and triads.

Minimum Placement Levels

English

None

Reading

Placement out of CCS 098

Math

None

Prerequisites

None

Methods of Evaluation

Between 12 and 14 unit tests, a midterm, and final exam. Between 8 and 10 applied theory quizzes. Between 1 and 2 concert reports (review of live music), between 1 and 2 800-word (minimum) length paper on a topic related to the relevance or applicability of studying music theory and aesthetic appreciation. Between 4 and 6 in-class or online discussions on music-related topics.

Instructional Materials and Additional Supplies

Foundations of Music, current edition by Robert Nelson and Carl Christensen.

Course Content

General Learning Outcomes (GLOs)

- Communication: Students will demonstrate the ability to read, write, listen, and speak effectively.
- Critical Thinking and Information Literacy: Students will demonstrate the ability to evaluate perspectives, evidence, and implications, and to locate, assess, and use information effectively.
- Reasoning and Inquiry: Students will demonstrate the ability to solve problems using deductive reasoning and logic, quantitative reasoning, or the scientific method.

Course Segments and Student Learning Outcomes

Course Segment	Learning Outcomes	Lecture Hours	Lab Hours	Clinical Hours
Basic Materials of Music: A) Time and sound, B) Sound waves, C) Pitch, D) Intensity, E) Amplitude, F) Timbre, G) Natural harmonic series, H) Partial and overtones, I) Duration	1. Identify and understand the four properties of sound: pitch, intensity, timbre, and duration.	8	0	0
Notation of Pitch: A) The staff, B) Notes: symbols for tones, C) Basic scale, D) Clefs: treble, bass, C clefs, E) Grand staff, F) Ledger lines, G) Ottava sign, H) Half and whole steps, I) Accidentals, J) Simple intervals and their inversions, K) Triads and their inversions, L) Dominant seventh chords, M) Inharmonic notes, N) Chromatic scale, O) Pitch designation	1. Identify and understand music notation on all the various clefs, half, and whole steps as indicated by sharps, flats, and double flats; natural signs; ledger lines above and below each clef; and the ottava sign. 2. Identify intervals in their prime and inverted forms. 3. Understand and identify tertian triads in all inversions. 4. Identify dominant 7th chords in root position.	17	0	0
Time Classification: A) The beat, B) Meter, C) Simple and compound, D) Borrowed divisions, E) Subdivisions of the beat	1. Explain and understand the concept of beat and meter: duple, triple, quadruple, quintuple-in simple, and compound time; divisions, subdivisions, and borrowed divisions in simple and compound time.	10	0	0
Note and Rest Values: A) Relative value of notes and beats, B) The dot, C) Division of undotted notes and rests, D) Subdivision of undotted notes and rests, E) The unit of simple and compound time	1. Identify and understand rhythmic notation which represents duration of tones and silences, undotted notes, and dotted notes. All quizzes assess deductive reasoning and logic as pertains to reasoning and inquiry objective.	10	0	0

Total Contact Hours

Lecture Hours	Lab Hours	Clinical Hours
45	0	0