



IOWA

MUSIC THERAPY

The demand for music therapy services continues to grow! Music therapy is a healthcare profession that combines the art and science of music, with a passion for helping people in need

At Iowa, you can become a skilled music therapist, using music to help improve people's lives.

→ [MUSIC.UIOWA.EDU](https://music.uiowa.edu)

Why Music Therapy?

Music Therapy is the clinical and evidence-based use of music to address a variety of healthcare, rehabilitation, educational, wellness, and mental health goals. These goals might include managing stress, reducing pain, expressing feelings, improving communication, enhancing memory, supporting physical rehabilitation, and much more. Due to increases in research and funding, the profession of music therapy is expanding in impact and influence.

Why Study Music Therapy at Iowa?

The University of Iowa is a major research university, home to one of the most acclaimed academic medical centers in the country. We are known for excellence in both the arts and sciences, and the perfect educational setting for a person who wants to blend the artistry of music with the health benefits of therapy. Here, you'll get the experience of learning in a warm, supportive community in the School of Music that feels like family, nested within a bustling Big Ten university town where a friendly, collaborative arts community is thriving.

How to Major in Music Therapy

Undergraduate students enroll as freshmen or transfer students and complete School of Music requirements for a Bachelor of Music degree while concurrently fulfilling professional certification requirements for music therapy.

Undergraduate students must be admitted to the School of Music as well as the University of Iowa. Entering first-year and transfer students who plan to major in music must be accepted into a performance area through audition, and must complete a theory placement exam and a piano proficiency exam to determine appropriate placement.

In addition to the application and audition, at least one letter of recommendation is required. The letter should be written by the applicant's private teacher or their band/choir/orchestra director. The letter may be mailed directly to the School of Music by the teacher, or the student may bring it in a sealed envelope to the audition.

Degree Requirements

Undergraduate students interested in a career in music therapy work toward a Bachelor of Music degree within the School of Music. Coursework includes music courses such as theory, history, lessons, and ensembles, as well as courses in psychology, anatomy, research, and general education. Fundamental courses in music theory, lessons on a major instrument, and general education courses make up the majority of classes in the freshman and sophomore year. Students are encouraged to also take Orientation to Music Therapy (MUS:1687) in the freshman year as an introduction to the profession. Students must receive a grade of "C+" or higher in this class in order to qualify for subsequent music therapy courses.

Most core courses in music therapy are taken in the junior and senior years. Over a period of two years, students gradually move from observation of music therapy sessions to direct, supervised clinical experiences with clients in a variety of treatment settings. After academic coursework has been fulfilled, students complete a six-month internship at one of several hundred approved clinical sites off campus. Throughout the program, students need to earn at least a B- in all core music therapy courses and maintain a minimum 3.0 GPA.

Preparing for the Major

In addition to taking college preparatory courses and developing their music skills during high school, students interested in music therapy can benefit from volunteer or part-time work in hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, residential services, daycare centers, summer camps, or any programs that provide experience working with people, and particularly people with disabilities.

Career Outlook

The career outlook for music therapy graduates is excellent. In fact, according to the American Music Therapy Association, the demand for music therapy for adults in the U.S. has doubled in the last five years. Right now, the state of Iowa has just over 100 board-certified music therapists. We are dedicated to growing that number.



The University of Iowa prohibits discrimination in employment, educational programs, and activities on the basis of race, creed, color, religion, national origin, age, sex, pregnancy (including childbirth and related conditions), disability, genetic information, status as a U.S. veteran, service in the U.S. military, sexual orientation, gender identity, or associational preferences. The university also affirms its commitment to providing equal opportunities and equal access to university facilities. For additional information on nondiscrimination policies, contact the Director, Office of Institutional Equity, the University of Iowa, 202 Jessup Hall, Iowa City, IA 52242-1316, 319-335-0705, oie-ui@uiowa.edu.



Degrees and Programs Offered

- Bachelor of Music (BM) in Music Therapy
- Equivalency Program in Music Therapy (prior undergraduate degree completed)
- Master of Arts (MA) in Music Therapy
- Combined Equivalency and MA in Music Therapy
- Doctoral Studies in Music Therapy (completed within the PhD in Music Education)

Performing Opportunities

In the University of Iowa School of Music, we have more than 30 ensembles, large and small, filled with students pursuing their passion for making music on and off campus. We offer 350+ performances and presentations each year by UI students, faculty, and staff. Auditions for ensembles (including symphony band, concert band, marching band, orchestra, choral ensembles, opera productions, percussion ensembles, and many chamber ensembles) are held just before the beginning of the fall semester and the first day of classes.

Mission

The University of Iowa Music Therapy Program aspires to provide a community where every student is genuinely welcomed, can develop significant and collaborative relationships, and discover and fulfill their individual potential. We strive to cultivate engaged, lifelong learners who develop reflexive and sustainable skills, advance research and clinical practice, and become transformational leaders in the field.

CONTACT US

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📘 The-University-of-Iowa-Music-Therapy-Program

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School of Music