

Music Program at Warren Wilson College

The Warren Wilson music program is for students with career ambitions in music as well as those who wish to incorporate music into their broader liberal arts experience. It offers a major (BA) and minor, stressing regional and cultural contexts through a methodological hybrid of music theory and performance, Appalachian studies, cultural studies, musicology, and ethnomusicology. A cornerstone of the program is a unique concentration in Traditional Music that emphasizes the multi-cultural roots, influences, and varieties of vernacular music within southern Appalachia. Students with interests outside of Traditional Music can choose a concentration in General Music that maintains the framework of the degree with an alternative set of core criteria and coursework.

Program Goals

1. To develop musicianship and performance skills.
2. To foster knowledge and understanding of music in its cultural and historical contexts.
3. To promote a critical and analytical understanding of music.

Major in Music

The Nuts & Bolts: Students must earn a minimum of 46 credit hours to fulfill the major, passing all required courses with a grade of B- or better. Also, students must maintain an overall GPA of 2.0.

Majors in music must declare a concentration in either Traditional Music or General Music.

- I. Core Courses (16 credit hours)
 - Introduction to Appalachian Studies OR Appalachian History
 - Appalachian Music and Dance OR Music Appreciation
 - Music Cultures of the World OR Introduction to Cultural Anthropology
 - Music Theory
- II. Applied Music (6 credit hours)
 - One-credit individual instruction courses in voice or a specific instrument
- III. Ensembles (6 credit hours)
 - Old-Time Band, Bluegrass Band, College Choir, Jazz Ensemble, Beginning String Band, or Gamelan Ensemble
- IV. Culture, Society, and Performance (8 credit hours)
 - Traditions of Work and Music in the Southern Mountains
 - Dance, Culture, and Identity
 - Politics of Identity in Appalachia
 - Filming Appalachia
 - Group Instruction Courses in old-time fiddling, mandolin, flatfooting, square dancing, guitar, banjo, ballad singing, and more
 - Regularly offered courses on topics including improvisation, American vernacular music, opera, jazz, Native American culture, and more
- V. Exploring Musical Vocations, Professionalization, & Project Design (4 credit hours)
- VI. Senior Capstone Experience (6 credit hours)
 - Senior Recital (2 credit hours, 1 per semester in senior year)
 - Senior Project course (4 credit hours)

Minor in Music

The Nuts & Bolts: Students must earn a minimum of 24 credit hours to fulfill the minor, earning a grade of B- or better in all course work. Also, students must maintain an overall GPA of 2.0.

Minors in music must declare a concentration in either Traditional Music or General Music.

- I. Core (8 credit hours)
 - Music Theory
 - Appalachian Music and Dance OR Music Appreciation
- II. Applied Music (4 credit hours)
 - One-credit individual instruction courses in voice or a specific instrument
- III. Ensembles (4 credit hours)
 - Old-Time Band, Bluegrass Band, College Choir, Jazz Ensemble, Beginning String Band, or Gamelan Ensemble
- IV. History & Literature (4 credit hours): one 4-credit course from the following:
 - Appalachian Music and Dance
 - Music Appreciation
 - Music Cultures of the World
 - Jazz Appreciation
 - Traditions of Work and Music in the Southern Mountains
 - Opera as Drama
- V. Electives (4 credit hours): four credit hours selected from any MUS offering.