The School of Music offers students who have demonstrated talent in music the opportunity to continue further study either for a profession or an avocation and at the same time acquire a broad general education. Complete sequences of courses are given to prepare a student for a career as a teacher or supervisor of music in the elementary/secondary schools; for a career directed toward composition, the music technology industry, private teaching, or concert work; or, for a thorough training in music within the structure of a broad liberal arts curriculum.

Four year degree programs at the undergraduate level include the:

- Bachelor of Music Education (B.M.E.);
- Bachelor of Music (B.M.) with advising tracks in:
  - Composition,
  - Voice Performance,
  - Instrumental Performance,
  - Piano Performance, and
  - Organ Performance.
- Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Music with advising tracks in:
  - Composition,
  - Music History,
  - Musical Studies,
  - Jazz Studies, and
  - Applied Studies.

Two year graduate degree programs include the Master of Music with areas of specialization in:

- Music Education,
- Performance, and
- Composition.

The University of Montana-Missoula is an accredited institutional member of the National Association of Schools of Music.

In general, admission as a major in the School of Music is by certificate from the high school from which the student graduates. The faculty of the School of Music is more concerned with evidence of talent, conspicuous achievement in music, promise of development, and scholarship in general than it is in the precise content of the program which the prospective music student has followed prior to admission to the University.

The School of Music welcomes the opportunity for prospective students and parents to consult with faculty and administration by paper and electronic correspondence and/or by appointment interviews on the campus. Every student wishing to become a music major or minor must take the Music Theory Assessment Examination and a Piano Proficiency Evaluation during orientation and also must audition and be accepted officially into the applied studio of a music faculty member prior to confirmation as a fully-admitted major or minor in music. Students may be admitted provisionally for one semester, and at the end of that semester students must re-audition to gain full admittance into a music major degree program.