

Millikin University
Definition of Degree Requirements
Percussion

APPLIED PERCUSSION TRACKS

TRACK A encompasses an intensive study of traditional concert percussion instruments with an emphasis on solo, chamber, and orchestral repertoire. This signature program also includes advanced four-mallet keyboard training and the study of non-Western instruments. Drum set performance is not required.

TRACK B encompasses an intensive study of vernacular music instruments and repertoire from various cultures and performance idioms. These include, but are not limited to: vibraphone (jazz), drum set, steel pan, congas, djembe, doumbek, bodhran, and various other world percussion instruments. The curriculum is balanced with the study of Western art music performance emphasizing chamber and orchestral music.

TRACK C is designed to promote a generalist competency in the broadest scope of percussion performance. The curriculum is designed to familiarize the student with performance techniques associated with jazz, commercial, non-Western, and Western art music forms while nurturing the symbiotic relationship between performer, scholar, and teacher.

DEGREE PROGRAMS

MUSIC PERFORMANCE
(Track A only)

The percussion performance degree is designed to develop excellence in performance and to prepare the student for a career in performance or the private teaching of applied music. This conservatory-styled major represents our most rigorous program of applied study. Hence, for many, the undergraduate music performance degree is the precursor to graduate studies in performance, conducting, or music theory. As a performance major, the student is expected to demonstrate nothing less than total immersion in his/her craft. Our admission standards are notably select. Correspondingly, we have an exceptional placement record for our graduates including placement into the most reputable graduate programs. A rigorous chamber music regimen—including new music—and balanced large ensemble opportunities further complement this most traditional music major.

- Three hours of daily practice is required (18 hrs. per week)
- Perform on at least two performance classes, Thursday recital hour programs, or solo recital programs given by a Millikin student or faculty each semester (except during semester of junior or senior recital)
- Perform a junior (30 min.) and senior (60 min.) solo recital

COMMERCIAL MUSIC (Track B only)

Featuring a uniquely balanced non-traditional curriculum, the commercial music degree will prepare the student for a variety of careers on the artistic/creative side of the commercial music industry. This program of study seeks to develop critical listening and theoretical skills for use in performance, production, improvisation/composition, and style differentiation while providing numerous opportunities for the study of technology based performance media. Coursework includes studio engineering & production, song writing, jazz improvisation, drum set styles, and the possibility of additional electives in technical theater, business administration, and accounting. In the applied area, Track B is specially designed to provide training for a career as a freelance musician.

- Two hours of daily practice is required (12 hrs. per week)
- Perform on at least two performance classes, Thursday recital hour programs, or solo recital programs given by a Millikin student or faculty each semester (except during semester of junior or senior recital)
- Perform a commercial recital (60 min.) or complete a commercial music project during the senior year

BACHELOR OF ARTS (Track C recommended)

The bachelor of arts degree is intent upon developing a repertoire of transferable skills applicable to a variety of career paths, including those outside of music. It seeks to apply aesthetic awareness and reasoning ability as tools for critical thinking across disciplines. Hence, good communication skills and the ability to use the literature of a chosen discipline or area are paramount. In light of this, Track C is recommended for most students.

- One and one half hours of daily practice is required (9 hrs. per week)
- Perform on at least one performance class, Thursday recital hour program, or solo recital program given by a Millikin student or faculty each semester
- A solo recital is not required by this degree program

MUSIC EDUCATION (Track A, B, or C)

The music education degree provides a systematic approach to meeting the extensive demands placed upon K-12 teachers (percussion specialists). Here, extensive coursework in teaching methodology and the ubiquity of theory and practice links interwoven throughout the four years have paved the way for one of the most unique educational experiences of it kind. Its breadth of experience makes this degree a popular antecedent to graduate studies, as well. Its emphasis on performance skills, articulated by a State mandated recital requirement, suggests an additional focus on traditional recital repertoire and instruments if applied Track B is selected.

- Two hours of daily practice is required (12 hrs. per week)
- Perform on at least two performance classes, Thursday recital hour programs, or solo recital programs given by a Millikin student or faculty each semester (except during semester of junior or senior recital)
- Perform a solo recital (30 min.) during the senior year

MUSIC BUSINESS (Track A, B, or C)

The music business degree is designed to prepare the student for a variety of careers in the music industry. A signature performance component complements a program of study that, like the Bachelor of Arts degree, privileges generous free elective options. A similar flexibility is maintained in the applied area wherein the choice of Track A, B, or C is given.

- One and one half hours of daily practice is required (9 hrs. per week)
- Perform on at least one performance class, Thursday recital hour program, or solo recital program given by a Millikin student or faculty each semester.
- A solo recital is not required by this degree program

MUSIC MINOR/PERCUSSION SECONDARY

The music minor is available to student's majoring in any of the University's colleges or schools except music. Since the minor is intended to complement a student's work in another area or discipline, the applied curriculum is necessarily flexible. Music majors who have declared percussion as a secondary instrument will embrace a similar program of study. Both, however, must fulfill to basic jury requirements outlined below.

JURY REQUIREMENTS

Jury requirements for percussion majors, minors, and secondary are as follows:

- perform one solo work for percussion keyboard *
- perform one non-keyboard solo piece (snare drum, timpani, multi-percussion, drum set transcription, etc.) *
- perform scales and rudiments to be determined by the applied instructor

* Approved orchestral excerpts are a suitable substitute.

SOPHOMORE BARRIER REQUIREMENTS

All percussion majors are required to pass a performance barrier at the end of their sophomore year. The following will be used to demonstrate acceptable competency:

- perform one solo work for percussion keyboard
- perform one solo snare drum piece in the concert and rudimental styles
- perform one solo work for timpani
- perform all major, natural minor, harmonic minor, and melodic minor (2 octaves) as sixteenth notes in a tempo equal to 100 beats (quarter notes) per minute
- perform all 26 standard snare drum rudiments from memory
- demonstrate competency on accessory instruments as determined by faculty

ENSEMBLE REQUIREMENTS

All students enrolled in percussion lessons are required to participate in one of the chamber percussion ensembles. Additionally, percussion majors and/or talent award recipients are required to participate in a large ensemble (bands or orchestra). Placement into percussion ensembles and large ensembles is through audition by the percussion faculty.