Where do Music majors go?

According to the Graduating Student Survey (with a 53.2% response rate for undergraduates in the Music major), in the last few years:

- 81.9% of graduates were employed or going to graduate school.
  - 45.5% were employed
  - 36.4% had secure plans to attend grad school

Here are some examples of organizations that have hired Columbia Music majors in recent years:

What jobs do Music majors do?

A degree in Music provides knowledge and skills relevant to a wide variety of jobs across the career spectrum. Music related careers include:

- **Education**: Teaching, Research, Private Lessons in all levels of education (primary, secondary, post secondary)
- **Performance**: Instrumental, Vocal
- **Conducting**: Directing, Planning, Leading, Musician Selection
- **Composing/Arranging**: Composing, Arranging
- **Communications (Broadcasting)**: Music and Program Direction, On Air Performance, Promotion, Voice Overs, Copyright/Clearance Administration, Music License Administration, Music Editing & Production & Composing, Sound Mixing, Post Production, Research
- **Behind the Scenes**: Audio Technician, Boom Operator, General Director, Music Video Producer, Recording Engineer, Set Up, Recordist, Rerecording Mixer, Sound Engineer, Sound Technician, Sound/Production Mixer, MIDI Engineering, Stage Manager, Transcribing, Copyrighting
- **Music Industry/Business**: Publishing and Editing, Producing, Recording, Engineering, Manufacturing, Talent Acquisition, Artist/Talent Representation, Promotion/Media Relations, Publicity, Administration, Marketing, Booking, Product Management, Business Management, Retail Sales
- **Music Therapy**
• **Publishing:** Editorial and publishing for magazine or book publishers, music publishers, or academic journals  
• **Miscellaneous:** Music Journalism, Law, Music Analysis

Use CCE’s [Industry Exploration](#) webpages to learn more about these, and other fields.

**What do employers want?**

Most of the skills/qualities sought by employers are transferrable and/or soft skills that students can gain through classes, extracurricular activities, internships, volunteer experiences, or part time jobs including:

1. Ability to work in a team structure  
2. Ability to make decisions and solve problems  
3. Ability to verbally communicate with persons inside and outside the organization  
4. Ability to plan, organize, and prioritize work  
5. Ability to obtain and process information  
6. Ability to analyze quantitative data  
7. Technical knowledge related to the job  
8. Proficiency with computer software programs  
9. Ability to create and/or edit written reports  
10. Ability to sell or influence others

*Source: National Association of Colleges and Employers, 2015 Job Outlook*

Your major can definitely demonstrate relevant coursework and knowledge to a prospective employer, but your studies aren’t the only aspect of your experience that employers are evaluating. They select people who they believe can do the job (have the right skills), want the job (have demonstrated an interest in the field) and are a personality fit for the team and organization.

**What value do Music majors bring?**

The Music curriculum helps you to develop the following skills:

• Analyze music and text using multiple methods and approaches  
• Synthesize and present complex analytical observations  
• Transmit and create media using multiple audiovisual media platforms  
• Use music notation software and other technology effectively and creatively  
• Think/read conceptually and critically  
• Have an understanding of various types of musical performance, improvisation, composition, and written and oral reflection about music  
• Have a vocabulary of specific pieces or repertories of music, a knowledge of the traditions from which they derive, and the ability to form analytical statements about them  
• Conduct research in libraries, archives, private collections, and online  
• Differentiate between serious and trivial sources of information  
• Cite sources with ethical appropriateness  
• Write cogently and coherently

**What if I’m an international student?**

For international students at Columbia under student visas, selecting your major can play a significant role if you plan to work in the US after completion of your degree. Optional Practical Training is a work authorization that allows an international student to work in a job directly related to the student’s major area of study either before or after degree completion. Employer sponsored H1B Visas also have similar strict requirements. Students with more questions about this should visit the International Student & Scholars Office (ISSO) and view CCE’s International Students webpage at [careereducation.columbia.edu/students/International-Students](#).