

Notes on Transfer Student Admissions
Music Composition
College of Creative Studies

The Music Composition faculty in the College of Creative Studies is committed to admitting students who show promise as composers and who are a good fit for the program, based on application materials, particularly the **Letter of Intent** and the **portfolio of original compositions**. The supplemental materials are vitally important in evaluating your application.

Course Preparation:

Note that composition lessons, whether through an institution or privately, are not a prerequisite for admission to the program as the faculty recognize that not all applicants will have had the opportunity for formal study in composition. This is true for first-year students and transfer students alike.

Ideal: Following the curriculum for an **AA in Music** ensures that you have foundational knowledge in music, particularly Music Theory, Musicianship, and Music History, as well as the general education requirements for transfer eligibility.

At a Minimum: 1) Classes to meet UCSB's transfer eligibility requirements and 2) Music Theory and Musicianship (your school's full sequence) with a grade of C or better. Most Music Theory and Musicianship sequences take two years to complete, so the biggest difference between the ideal scenario and this one is that you might not choose to take all of the music classes required for the AA in Music. In this case, you will have more music coursework to complete if you are admitted to the program, and it might take more time to complete the degree.

Special Circumstance: Every now and then, we get a transfer application from a student with very little formal preparation in music, but whose supplemental materials (letter of intent and original compositions) demonstrate exceptional curiosity, creativity, and drive. If we admit such a student, they must understand that it will take *at least* one additional year before they graduate, and they should expect to work very hard in order to master foundational knowledge while also taking advanced courses.