

CAREERS FOR

Music – Theory & Composition

MAJORS

The study of music and music's effects on individuals, communities, and cultures is a fascinating and complex endeavor. [UNM's College of Fine Arts](#) allows students to delve into the intellectual, theoretical, and historical study of the art of music. Students are encouraged to [speak with a College of Fine Arts academic advisor](#) to discuss the requirements for each degree.

[Bachelor of Music in Theory and Composition](#)

Students in this program will hear, analyze, and theorize music from the sixteenth century to modern day. Students will also write and receive critiques on their own musical compositions. The Bachelor of Music in Theory and Composition is designed to prepare students for graduate work.

[Bachelor of Arts in Music](#)

This program earns a non-performance music degree and is designed for students who are interested in studying multiple aspects of musicianship. This degree is popular amongst students who wish to double major or take course work to prepare for a pre-professional program. Students can also seek alternative teaching licensure and go into K-12 education.

Industries & Occupations

Employers specifically recruit UNM students and alumni. Consult Career Services' [Handshake](#) for a list of organizations, recruiters, and current job postings. Speak with a Career Development Facilitator for help with identifying employers or additional resources for Music Theory and Composition.

Recording Industry – Arts Administration – Communication – Composition/Arrangement – Conducting – Music Therapy (requires advanced degree) – Music Libraries – Public and Private K-12 Schools – Colleges/Universities – Music Publishers – Performing Arts Organizations – Theatres – TV/Film

Target Employers / Top Companies

There are many options available for Theory – Composition and Music majors to pursue. Below are some potential areas for exploration:

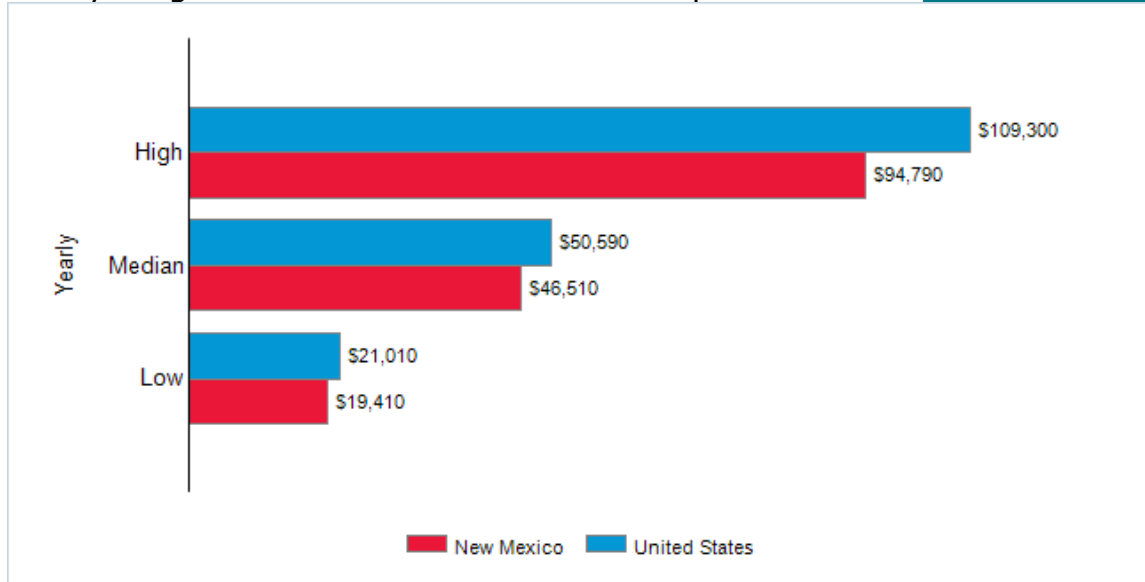
- [The University of New Mexico](#)
- [Albuquerque Public Schools](#)
- [Central New Mexico Community College](#)
- [Local and Federal Government](#)
- [Non-Profit Sector](#)
- [Public Libraries](#)

Tips

- Characteristics needed for success are multifaceted: passion, curiosity, creativity, imagination, and discipline, along with the ability to think inside the box simultaneously.
- Expose your ear to composers from various styles and timespans.
- Learn to play the piano and to improvise.
- Given the amount of employment opportunities available for Theory – Composition and Music majors to pursue, it is important to explore how you would like to use your degree after you graduate. Gaining exposure to potential careers through informational interviews, job shadowing, and networking can help narrow down options.

Salary Information

Yearly Wages for Music Directors and Composers in NM: [CAREER ONE STOP](#)



Learn More

[UNM College of Fine Arts](#)
[Majoring in Music](#)
[UNM Student Activities Center](#)
[Buzzfile – Employers of Music Majors in New Mexico](#)
[Onet – Music Composers and Arrangers](#)
[Occupational Outlook Handbook – Art Therapist](#)
[Onet – Music Therapists](#)
[American Music Therapy Association](#)
[Certification Board for Music Therapists](#)
[American Federation of Musicians](#)

[American Society of Music Arrangers and Composers](#)
[Broadcast Music Incorporated](#)
[Dramatists Guild](#)
[National Association for Music Education](#)
[Percussive Arts Society](#)
[SESAC Performing Rights](#)
[American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers](#)
[New Mexico Music Commission](#)