Auditions and Scholarships:

The Music Department awards Talent Grants to incoming students on the basis of competitive auditions. Talent Grants are renewable for four years. Six semesters of participation in a Music Department instrumental or vocal ensemble are required of students receiving Talent Grants. Auditions are held once in the fall and twice in the spring (prior to March 1). If you are unable to audition in person, you may submit a CD, DVD, or other digital file. Please include two contrasting pieces. For singers, one piece in a foreign language is highly recommended. To schedule an audition or submit an audition recording, follow this link:

http://www.muhlenberg.edu/main/academics/music/auditions/

Declaring a Major or Minor:

Students who are interested in declaring a major in music are strongly encouraged to do this in their first year. Waiting longer will make completion of the degree in four years difficult or impossible.

In order to declare a major in music the College Catalog stipulates that “a student must maintain at least a 2.00 cumulative GPA in courses prescribed by the department.” The courses prescribed by the music department are:

MUS 111, Music Theory I or
MUS 221, Music History I or
MUS 222, Music History II

To declare the major or minor in music, a student must have successfully completed or be currently enrolled in one of the courses above. Students who are currently enrolled may declare at anytime past midterms. After consulting with the instructor of the course in progress the department chair will sign the declaration of major form if the student is showing evidence of appropriate progress in the course.

Concentrations:

The music major offers three areas of concentrated study: Performance, Music Theory and Composition, and Music in History and Culture. Each of the concentrations includes the core curriculum plus an area of specialization.

The core curriculum includes three courses in music theory, two courses in music history, four semesters
of applied study on the student’s primary instrument, and a culminating undergraduate experience (CUE). Completion of the core curriculum ensures that music majors receives a thorough grounding in three essential disciplines that comprise the study of music.

Details are in the College Catalog, available online at:

http://www.muhlenberg.edu/main/aboutus/catalog/

Applied Music:

The Music Department offers individual instruction for one-half (.5) course unit per semester in most orchestral instruments, voice, piano, organ, and guitar. There is a fee for this instruction; however, this fee is waived in the primary performance area for declared Music Majors. The Applied Lesson fee is waived only after students have formally declared the music major. Lessons are normally forty-five minutes weekly, and require a minimum of five hours of practice per week. The instructor may require performance on Student Recitals. At the end of the spring term, music majors will perform for the music faculty (see Juries, below). A jury may be required of other students at the instructor's discretion. Notification of jury times will be posted in the Music Office.

Registering for Applied Music and Arranging a Lesson Time:

Students register for Applied Music on Capstone according to the posted schedule for all college classes. For voice lessons, students will need prior approval from their desired instructor before registering; new voice students should contact Mr. Michael Schnack (schnack@muhlenberg.edu) to set up an audition and be assigned a voice teacher. Registration for instrumental lessons is unrestricted.

Once registered, students will select a lesson time by following the “Applied Lessons” link from the Music Department web page:

http://www.muhlenberg.edu/main/academics/music/appliedlessons/

Grading and Auditing:

When enrolled for credit, students are graded on progress made during the term. Grades are not based on competency at the time instruction is begun. Applied Music may not be taken as Pass-Fail. However, the course may be taken as audit only when it constitutes an overload, when it is not the initial term of applied music study, or with permission of the instructor and department Chair; in such cases students do not receive a semester grade. The one-half course credit counts as part of the academic load, which is limited to 4.5 courses for first-year students and 5.5 courses for other students per semester.

Concert Attendance:

Students are required to attend live music events for each semester of Applied Music enrollment; music majors are required to attend seven (7) such events, minors, non-majors, and students who audit, four (4). Attendance is recorded for Music-Department sponsored events. If you attend any other music event, you must contact your applied music instructor beforehand to receive approval of attendance eligibility and must submit a concert program to your instructor. Free tickets to paid
concerts may be available for some events by showing your student ID card. Failure to meet the recital attendance requirement will result in a reduction in the applied lesson grade as explained in your instructor’s syllabus.

Missed/Canceled Lessons:

Student cancellations: Poor attendance will affect your semester average, and can cause a failing grade. If for some reason you need to cancel a lesson, it is your responsibility to notify your teacher directly using the contact information on the instructor’s syllabus or from the Music Department web page. Contacting the music office does not constitute contacting your teacher. If you cancel your lesson, the instructor is not obligated to make up that lesson for you.

Instructor cancellations: Some instructors may e-mail you to advise of cancellations; others will have a note posted on the door of their teaching studio if unable to attend. If an instructor has to cancel, they will attempt to make up that lesson.

Instrument lockers

Instrument lockers are available for music majors and minors who wish them pending availability. Details are available in the Music Office.

Juries:

End-of-semester assessments (juries) provide an opportunity for students to interact with the music faculty and for the faculty to provide individualized, direct feedback regarding performance. Juries are held on Performance Day in the spring semester.

Music majors concentrating in performance will perform a jury regardless of area of concentration. First-year students, and students performing a senior recital will not perform a jury. Students who are studying in more than one area of Applied Music will perform a jury only in their primary area.

Before the jury, students will complete a Jury Assessment Sheet and present a copy to each juror at the beginning of the assessment. Jury Sheets are available in the Music Office.

An accompanist will be provided, but the student must supply the music and meet with the accompanist for a rehearsal prior to the jury.

Ensembles:

Six semesters of participation in a Music Department instrumental or vocal ensemble are required of students receiving Talent Grants.

Students of all music abilities are encouraged to participate in one or more of the many ensembles that are sponsored by the Music Department: College Choir, Chamber Singers, Opera Workshop (Spring only), Chamber Orchestra, and Wind Ensemble each meet two times a week. All other ensembles meet once a week. Ensembles are non-credit courses but appear on the student’s transcript as a record of participation.

Auditions are required for entrance into certain ensembles as indicated below. Auditions are held
during first-year advising in June and as needed prior to the start of the semester. First rehearsals are posted in the Music Office.

Music Department ensembles appear on student transcripts with a grade of S (satisfactory) or U (unsatisfactory). Enrolling for a Music Department ensemble entails the same mechanisms and responsibilities as registering for a course. Students who register for an ensemble but then decide not to participate must follow the College withdrawal procedure in accordance with all posted deadlines.

Current Music Department ensembles are listed below. A variety of other small groups are formed as interest arises.

**Chamber Singers:** A small, select choral ensemble open to all students by audition or permission of the instructor. Advanced musical skills are required. Students are introduced to a wide variety of sacred and secular music in various styles and languages. In addition to learning pieces for performance, students also investigate their repertoire in terms of historical context, social significance, religious and philosophical tradition, stylistic interpretation, textual meaning, poetic construction, and music compositional techniques. Singers hone their musicianship skills (hearing, sight-reading, intonation, ensemble awareness), increase their musical vocabulary, expand their stylistic horizons, improve their abilities in diction and text interpretation, and develop a confident and professional stage presence. The Chamber Singers rehearse twice weekly and perform several times each semester, including the annual Candlelight Carols services in December.

**Chamber Orchestra:** Open to all string players; also includes winds, brass, and percussion. One concert each semester. Contact Daniel Boring.

**College Choir:** A large mixed chorus, open to all students by audition or permission of the instructor. Previous choral experience and music literacy skills are helpful but not required. Students are introduced to a wide variety of sacred and secular music in various styles and languages. In addition to learning pieces for performance, students also investigate their repertoire in terms of historical context, social significance, religious and philosophical tradition, stylistic interpretation, textual meaning, poetic construction, and music compositional techniques. Singers hone their musicianship skills (hearing, sight-reading, intonation, ensemble awareness), increase their musical vocabulary, expand their stylistic horizons, improve their abilities in diction and text interpretation, and develop a confident and professional stage presence. The College Choir rehearses twice weekly, performs several times each semester, and constitutes the musical core of the annual Candlelight Carols services in December.

**Collegium Musicum:** Early music on period instruments and voices. One concert each semester. Contact Dr. Ted Conner.

**Jazz Big Band:** Big band jazz. One concert each semester. Contact Anthony Gairo.

**Jazz Improvisation Ensembles:** Two groups available; each explores traditional, progressive and experimental forms of jazz improvisation. Each group presents one concert each semester. Contact Dr. Ted Conner and/or Tom Kozic/Gary Rissmiller.

**Musica da Camera:** Chamber music for winds and strings. One performance each semester and
special events by request. Contact Vincent Trovato

**Opera Workshop:** Spring only. Advanced singers. Scenes or entire works, semi- or fully-staged performances at end of spring semester. Contact Dr. Margaret Hanegraaf.

**Percussion Ensemble/Drum Circle:** Performs on Student Recitals and in conjunction with other ensemble concerts. Contact James Thoma.

**Wind Ensemble:** Traditional and contemporary concert music for winds and percussion. One concert each semester. Contact Al Neumeyer.

**Women’s Ensemble:** A female-only vocal ensemble open to students by audition or permission of the instructor. Previous choral experience is recommended but not required. The Ensemble meets once a week. Because there are two to four student-led sectionals each semester, you are expected to spend additional time learning music on your own. Women's Ensemble performs concerts of various styles each semester on campus and, occasionally, off-campus.

**Recitals:**

**Student Recitals:**

The Music Department offers opportunities for students to perform publicly and for their peers on Student Recitals throughout the year. Three or more student recitals are held each semester. Students should consult with their applied music teachers about performing on recitals.

An accompanist will be provided. The student will supply the music two weeks prior to the recital and must meet with the accompanist for a rehearsal prior to the recital.

**Senior Recitals:**

Music majors concentrating in Performance will perform a Senior Recital. Spring recitals must be scheduled in the Music Office by 1 November; Fall recitals, by 1 May. Repertoire will be chosen and approved in consultation with the applied music teacher. The student is expected to provide a program, including translations and program notes. The complete program will be submitted to the Music Office at least one month in advance of the recital. Consult with the Music Office for other requirements and assistance regarding scheduling and preparing for the senior recital.

It is the responsibility of the student to secure and pay an accompanist. The applied music teacher may recommend one, or the Music Office can supply a list of names.