



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
STUDENTS' UNION

Arts & Science Course Enrolment for Students in the Faculty of Music

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Introduction

Similar to other first-entry professional faculties, undergraduate students enrolled in the Faculty of Music are required to take courses offered by the Faculty of Arts & Science in order to fulfill degree requirements. However, music students often face difficulties with course selection and planning due to the enrolment date for students outside of the Faculty of Arts & Science.

While Arts & Science students are able to enroll in courses during the priority and general enrollment periods, music students are unable to enroll in Arts & Science courses until after the general enrolment period for Arts & Science students has passed [1]. For reference, the 2021-22 enrolment dates for Arts & Science courses at the St. George campus are listed below.

Enrolment Dates for Arts & Science Courses at the St. George Campus [1]

Date	Enrolment Period
July 12 - 28	Priority period, during which Arts & Science students may enrol in certain courses (generally degree requirements)
July 30	General enrolment period, during which Arts & Science students are able to enrol in all Arts & Science courses
August 4	Enrolment date for other faculties at the St. George campus, including the Faculty of Music



Students Affected

According to the [University of Toronto Faculty of Music 2021-22 Academic Calendar](#), all students in the Faculty of Music are required to complete at least 3.0 Full-Credit Equivalents (FCEs) in Breadth Electives from the Faculty of Arts & Science [2]. Although all music students must fulfill this requirement, three groups of students are particularly adversely affected by the late enrollment date for Arts & Science courses. This includes Comprehensive Studies students, Music Education students, and music students pursuing Arts & Science majors/minors.

For Comprehensive Studies students, Arts & Science courses are particularly important. The Comprehensive student program is intended for students who desire a “robustly interdisciplinary experience,” including those “wanting to develop significant expertise in a discipline within the Faculty of Arts & Science” [2]. Comprehensive Studies students are able to take up to 8.0 FCEs in the Faculty of Arts & Science [2]; however, it can be difficult for students to pursue a specific discipline due to limited spaces in some courses, meaning the goal of the program may not be met.

Arts & Science courses are also important for Music Education students. Students wishing to pursue a Master of Teaching or Bachelor of Education must complete between 3.0 and 6.0 FCEs in their second teachable subject to teach at the [intermediate-senior level](#) [2][3]. Students seeking early admission to OISE’s Master of Teaching program must have completed half of their required credits (1.5 - 3.0 FCEs) towards a second teachable subject at the time of admission in their third year, regardless of their intended teaching level [2].

In addition, music students have the option of completing a major or minor in the Faculty of Arts & Science [2]. Notably, however, music students are never enrolled in the Arts & Science major or minor they are pursuing. Instead, they complete the courses required for their major or minor, then submit a Declaration of Completion of a Minor or Major form to the Registrar’s Office of the Faculty of Music [2]. Since students only declare their major/minor upon its completion, there is no way to determine how many music students are *in the process* of completing Arts & Science majors/minors at any one time.

It is clear that some music students need to complete specific Arts & Science courses in certain subject areas. If students are unable to enrol in the necessary courses, they may be forced to extend their degree by a year or take summer courses, both of which place an undue financial burden on the student. Some students may forfeit pursuing a course of study in a particular discipline altogether.

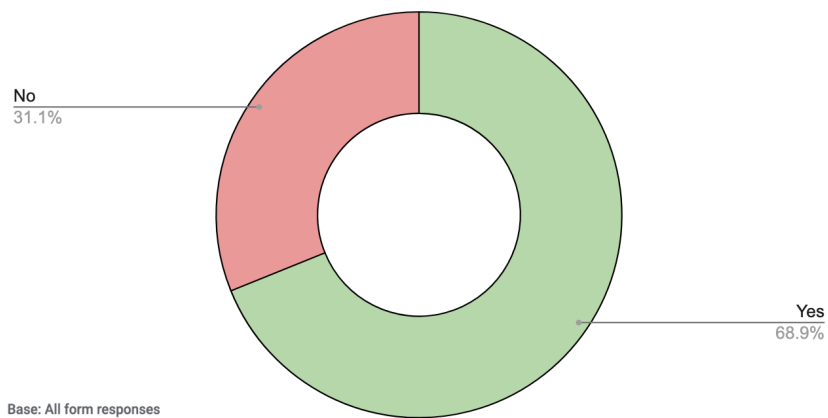


Student Views

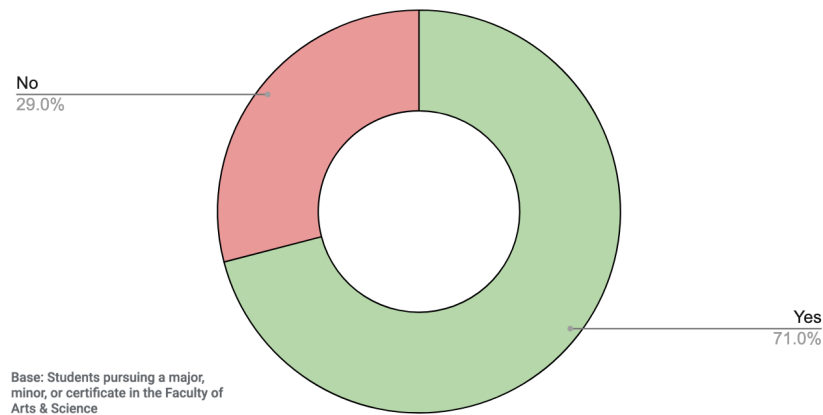
In September 2020, the UTSU fielded a survey to gather music students' views on their enrolment date in Arts & Science courses, as well as the prevalence of Arts & Science majors, minors, and certificates among music students. The survey was distributed via social media and received 45 responses, equivalent to approximately 8.1% of all undergraduate music students at the time [4].

Over two-thirds of the respondents said they were pursuing a major, minor, or certificate in the Faculty of Arts & Science. Of these, 71.0% stated that the pursuit of their major, minor, or certificate was affected by the enrollment date.

Responses: "Are you pursuing a major, minor, or certificate in the Faculty of Arts and Science?"



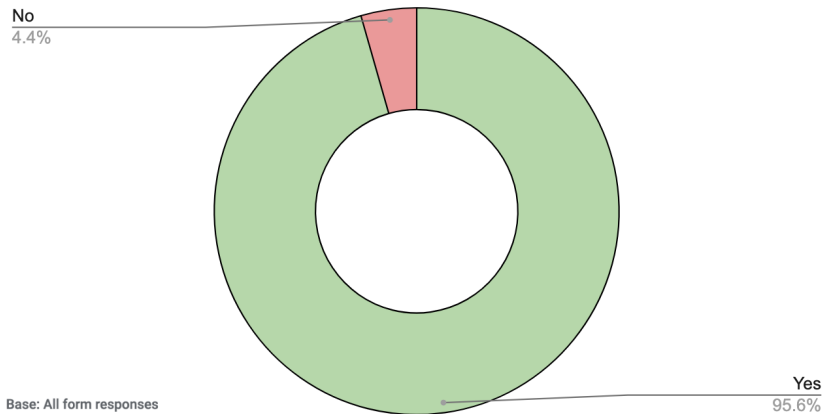
Responses: "Has the enrolment date affected your pursuit of a major, minor, or certificate in the Faculty of Arts and Science?"



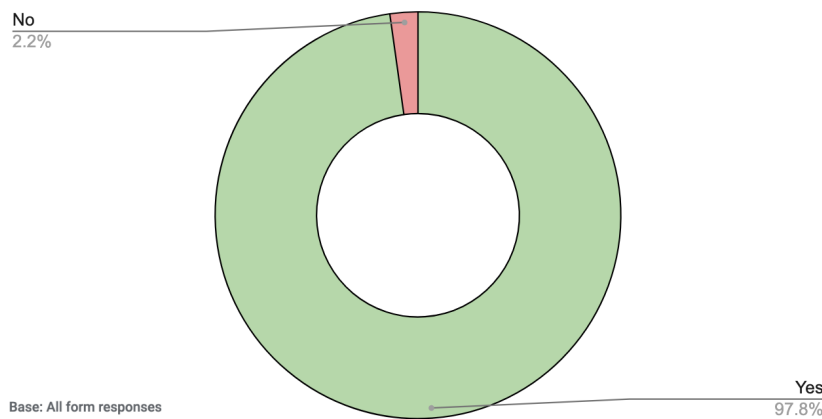


In addition, 95.6% of all respondents reported that the enrollment date had affected their ability to plan their academic year, and 97.8% believed their education would benefit significantly from an earlier enrollment date.

Responses: "Has the enrolment date affected your ability to plan your school year well in advance?"



Responses: "Do you feel like your education would benefit significantly from an earlier enrolment date?"



The survey also included an opportunity for students to voice their concerns in written form (more in Appendix A). After reviewing these qualitative responses, the UTSU identified three groups of students who are particularly affected by the late enrolment date (Students Affected). As a result of the survey, we can conclude that a substantial proportion of music students pursue majors, minors, or certificates in the Faculty of Arts & Science, and that the student body is overwhelmingly in favour of an earlier enrolment time for Arts & Science courses.



John H. Daniels Faculty of Architecture

Here it is worth highlighting that in the John H. Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape, and Design (“the Daniels Faculty”), students are able to freely [enrol in majors and minors](#) in both the Daniels Faculty and the Faculty of Arts & Science, with the exception of deregulated fee programs such as Rotman Commerce and the Computer Science specialist/major [5]. As a result, Daniels Faculty students enrolled in an Arts & Science program are able to access their program requirements during the priority period [6]. Daniels Faculty students are able to enrol in all Arts & Science courses during the [general enrolment period](#) [1].

Though this is likely a result of the history of the Daniels Faculty, which was under the umbrella of Arts & Science until it was [granted Faculty status](#) in 1967 [7], it nonetheless sets a precedent of professional faculty students enrolling in Arts & Science programs without comparatively late enrollment or added barriers in place.



Potential Solutions

From survey results and meetings with the Registrar's Office of the Faculty of Music, several potential solutions have emerged.

Enrolment in Arts & Science Programs

The current procedure for music students pursuing an Arts & Science major or minor mandates that they complete the program requirements then declare their major or minor at the Registrar's Office. If they were able to enrol in programs in the Faculty of Arts & Science in advance, music students would then be able to enrol in courses during the [priority period](#) [1].

This model would provide students with the opportunity to pursue an Arts & Science program without the risk of required courses becoming full, thereby mitigating or outright removing the need to take summer courses or to extend their degree. This is likely to benefit Comprehensive Studies and Music Education students in particular, as well as those pursuing an Arts & Science major/minor. Since this is a relatively small group of students overall, allowing them priority access is unlikely to substantially affect Arts & Science students.

Enrolment During the General Enrolment Period

Another potential solution is allowing music students to enrol in Arts & Science courses during the Arts & Science [general enrolment period](#) [1], during which all Arts & Science students are free to enrol in courses outside of their academic programs. This would not require music students to be enrolled in Arts & Science programs, and provides all music students with flexibility to explore disciplines with ease – not just those pursuing a major or minor.

This solution would not affect Arts & Science students enrolling in program requirements, since they would enrol in their program requirements during the priority enrolment period. However, it may affect Arts & Science students who are [overloading courses](#) or enrolling in courses outside of their degree requirements [8], including students completing breadth requirements or those pursuing a program they are not yet enrolled in.

Reserved Seats in Popular Courses

Several courses in the Faculty of Arts & Science have [reserved seating](#) for students in the Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering – particularly the courses which can be counted towards an engineering minor [9]. A similar model could be



implemented for music students, which would allow them to enrol in popular courses without having to worry about those courses filling up.

However, it is unclear how effective this solution would be. Attempting to determine popular Arts & Science courses based off of what music students are taking in any one year may cause a relatively unpopular subject taken by an unusually large number of students to appear more popular than it really is. This problem is compounded by the Faculty of Music's comparatively small size – smaller sample sizes lead to higher variability, and are easier to skew.



Recommendations

Based on feedback from students in the Faculty of Music, the responses to the 2020 survey, and deliberation with the Registrar's Office of the Faculty of Music, the UTSU believes the optimal solution is to allow music students to enrol in programs in the Faculty of Arts & Science. As aforementioned, the Daniels Faculty is a precedent for this change.

This solution will have a significant positive effect on music students pursuing a specific Arts & Science discipline. Given the opportunity to enrol in Arts & Science programs, music students would be able to enrol in the required courses during the priority period, removing both the need to take summer courses/extra semesters and the associated financial barrier. In addition, this solution allows music students pursuing Arts & Science majors/minors to be accounted for by the Registrar's Office of both faculties while they are pursuing their major/minor, as opposed to upon its completion.

Of all the potential solutions outlined above, this course of action best balances the needs of music and Arts & Science students, as it allows music students to pursue one specific Arts & Science discipline while mitigating potentially adverse effects on Arts & Science students. It is unlikely that Arts & Science students would be unable to enrol in their degree requirements as a result of this solution; however, music students' education would benefit greatly from the ability to accurately plan their academic year in advance without undue burdens.



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Appendix A – 2020 Survey Qualitative Responses

The following are qualitative responses from the survey sent out in September 2020. Some responses have been edited for length. The questions students were prompted with was “Lastly, do you have any other concerns that you would like to address?”

Comprehensive Studies Students

The Comprehensive Studies program is intended for students who want a “robustly interdisciplinary experience,” and allows them to take up to 8.0 FCEs in the Faculty of Arts & Science. Students in this program are therefore uniquely affected by the Arts & Science enrolment date:

“Particularly for comprehensive students who may not want to major or minor in an ArtSci domain, they still have the option of up to EIGHT ArtSci credits and should most definitely get priority enrolment.”

“This enrolment date makes it virtually impossible to complete my minor. Unless I can get special permission, every course I have intended to take has extremely long waitlists. I most likely will not be able to enrol in the courses I need. Having taken all the required pre requisites this is very frustrating and upsetting. Especially as a comprehensive major, where you’re encouraged to explore other interests. The faculty shouldn’t promote such options if they will be unattainable.”

In the Faculty of Music 2021-22 Academic Calendar, it states that “the flexibility in the [Comprehensive Studies] program also makes it well suited to students wanting to develop significant expertise in a discipline within the Faculty of Arts & Science” [2].

Music Education Students

Music Education students seeking admission to a Master of Teaching or Bachelor of Education must complete 3.0 - 6.0 FCEs in a second teaching subject if they wish to teach at an intermediate-senior level. This requires them to take several Arts & Science courses in the same department, which can be difficult due to the late course enrolment date:

“I understand that actual artsci students need to have priority in their artsci courses. However, as a music education major who needs a second teachable, it can be confusing and complicated to draft plans for which courses to take based on prerequisites when you may not even be able to get those courses.”



“As mentioned earlier, it is difficult for people in music ed looking to pursue teachers college to meet mandatory second teachable requirements without priority enrolment for art-sci.”

“Music Education students hoping to get into teachers college need to take courses for prerequisites for junior, intermediate and senior division teachables. Music education students should get priority access to arts and science elective courses as they are crucial for admission into teachers college.”

“Art-sci courses fill up SO quickly. I plan my music courses AROUND my art-sci courses especially since as an ed major, I need to meet the requirements for my other teachable. When the art-sci courses I need are full, it really messes everything else up.”

Music Students Pursuing Arts & Science Majors/Minors, Program Unknown

A common complaint from survey respondents pursuing Arts & Science majors/minors was the need to take summer courses due to courses filling up before they were able to enrol:

“As a student of the music faculty, the later enrolment dates for art sci courses made it challenging to schedule around our rehearsals and classes within our faculty in general. I've ended up having to pack art sci courses during my summer because the courses I planned to enrol in during the school year would always end up full by the time it was our enrolment date.”

“Students are forced to take courses during summer school to get their requirements but it can be a financial issue for some students and many specific courses that they need for whatever requirement isn't even running throughout summer.”

In addition, several respondents described the stress of being waitlisted when courses are full:

“In fourth year, both the mandatory courses I needed to complete my minor were full before my enrolment date. I spent months on the waitlist not knowing if I would be able to get into these courses, and I had to select music courses that did not conflict with either the times of the courses I was on the waitlist for, or the time of my backup art-sci courses. This drastically reduced my options for music courses and I



couldn't take everything I wanted to. [...] Being in your last semester and not knowing if you will complete your minor is extremely stressful.”

“I understand that artsci students get first priority for artsci courses because that is their faculty. But, it is not fair that students in other faculties have later enrollment dates. Since the enrollment date is always a full month later, there are hardly any spots left in courses and students are unable to take what they need to complete their artsci major or minor program. Even if you are ready for enrollment by 6 am, the spots get filled within seconds and you've lost your chance. [...] And if you ask the department for help or advice on how to get into the course or if they will add more spots to the course, you might get a suggestion to complete another minor based on the courses that are available. For example, I almost had to change my minor (which was against my choice) just because the courses I needed to take for the minor I wanted wasn't available. But luckily, I got into the class... I was originally 17th on the waitlist.”

Several respondents specifically called for students pursuing Arts & Science majors/minors to be given priority enrolment:

“Enrolment is always problematic as we enrol way too late and have to constantly change plans when courses fill up. It's hard to do a minor when you constantly have to worry about getting a seat in a class and keep waiting for a spot on a wait list. Priority should be given to students who need courses for a major/minor. Professional faculty students are always put last and it's a constant struggle just to plan out my degree.”

“I'm not 100% clear on the Faculty of Music policy for completing an Art-Sci minor but as far as I know, we just complete the program requirements and submit a declaration form in fourth year. The minor is not enrolled on ACORN or anywhere concretely which sometimes makes it very difficult to get into classes that are required for the program, since there is no priority enrollment at all. By the enrollment date, many courses are full with long waitlists. Is it already possible to have the minor added to ease enrollment? [...] If not, it should be and would be a great benefit.”

“In my experience, I was not allowed to declare my minor until AFTER I completed all the necessary courses. This is a very unfair rule. This made it impossible for me to get priority enrolment because I was not



officially registered in the minor. As a result, I could never enrol in the courses I needed to complete my minor until after not only the other students vying to complete the minor had enrolled, but every other student in the art-sci faculty had got a chance to enrol. [...] PLEASE allow music students to enrol in art-sci minors and get priority enrolment.”