



Board of Teacher Education
Music

Syllabus

Music Theory and Composition 1

Course Code: MUGL45

Course Title: Music Theory and Composition 1
Musikteori och komposition 1

Credits: 7.5

Degree Level: Undergraduate level

Progressive Specialisation: First cycle, has less than 60 credits in first-cycle course/s as entry requirements (G1F)

Major Field of Study:

Course Approval

The syllabus was approved by the Board of Teacher Education 2025-02-12, and is valid from the Autumn semester 2025 at Karlstad University.

Prerequisites

Music and Music Teaching 1, 22.5 ECTS credits, and School as System and Idea - Music teachers, 7.5 ECTS credits, plus registered for Music and Music Teaching 2, 15 ECTS credits, or equivalent

Learning Outcomes

The aim of the course is for students to develop fundamental practical and artistic skills, knowledge, and educational perspectives in the area of teaching music theory and composition.

Module 1: Music education, 1 ECTS cr.

Upon completion of the module, students should be able to:

1. give an account of fundamental methodological concepts, issues, and teaching models in music theory and composition, and
2. describe and, from an educational perspective, reflect on their own observations of

teaching in music theory or composition.

Module 2: Music knowledge, 6.5 ECTS cr.

Upon completion of the module, students should be able to:

1. explain the role and function of ear training in musical contexts, as well as notate and practically reproduce melodies, extended harmonies, and advanced rhythms,
2. instrument basic arrangements for the most common instrument families, and
3. describe various composition techniques and methods and explain how they can be applied.

Content

The course comprises two modules. The course content prepares students for placement within the subject area.

Module 1: Music education, 1 ECTS cr.

This module covers methodologies for teaching music theory and composition, primarily at the upper secondary school level but also in primary education. It includes practice teaching through classroom observation (auscultation).

Module 2: Music knowledge, 6.5 ECTS cr.

This module includes activities where students, in level-based groups, practice notating and reproducing rhythms, melodies, and chords. In the instrumentation section, fundamental principles for writing for the most common instrument families are presented, along with basic instrumental knowledge. In the composition section, various composition techniques are introduced and discussed.

Reading List

See separate document.

Examination

Module 1

Learning outcomes 1-2 are assessed based on oral individual and group presentations and individual written hand-in assignments.

Module 2

Learning outcome 1 is assessed based on an individual written presentation and playing an instrument or singing.

Learning outcomes 2-3 are assessed based on individual written hand-in assignments.

Submissions for assessment must clearly indicate individual contributions.

The number of assessment opportunities is limited to five.

If students have a decision from Karlstad University entitling them to Targeted Study Support due to a documented disability, the examiner has the right to give such students an adapted examination or to examine them in a different manner.

Grades

One of the grades Pass (G) or Fail (U) is awarded in the examination of the course (RB 129/22 Dnr C2022/895).

Quality Assurance

Follow-up relating to learning conditions and goal-fulfilment takes place both during and upon completion of the course in order to ensure continuous improvement. Course evaluation is partly based on student views and experiences obtained in accordance with current regulations and partly on other data and documentation. Students will be informed of the result of the evaluation and of any measures to be taken.

Course Certificate

A course certificate will be provided upon request.

Additional information

The local regulations for studies at the Bachelor and Master levels at Karlstad University stipulate the obligations and rights of students and staff.

Music Teacher Programme course