



Bachelor's Degree in Sacred Music

Program Overview

The Bachelor's Degree in Sacred Music at the Universidad Católica Americana (UNICA) is an academic and formative program that responds to the Church's rich tradition of cultivating musical art as a privileged means of prayer, liturgy, and evangelization.

From the Psalms of the Old Testament to Gregorian chant, chorales, polyphony, and contemporary compositions, sacred music has accompanied the spiritual life of the People of God, expressing faith through artistic forms that elevate the soul and strengthen communion. The Church, aware of this treasure, has throughout the centuries promoted the formation of musicians, singers, and composers capable of integrating artistic excellence with liturgical and pastoral service.

The program integrates three major formative dimensions:

1. Musical-Artistic: Music theory, vocal and instrumental technique, choral conducting, and composition.
2. Theological-Liturgical: Biblical, theological, and liturgical foundations of sacred music.
3. Pastoral-Evangelizing: Musical animation in liturgical celebrations, parish life, and missionary projects.

Thanks to its virtual and blended modality, students can receive academic formation at a distance and participate in intensive in-person workshops and sessions focused on musical and liturgical practice. The bilingual offering (Spanish and English) allows for the preparation of sacred musicians capable of serving in multicultural and international contexts.

The Bachelor's in Sacred Music aims to form professionals who unite art, faith, and pastoral service, enriching the Church's liturgical life, preserving musical heritage, and fostering new compositions that respond to the challenges of contemporary evangelization.

Institutional Identity

The Universidad Católica Americana (UNICA) is an ecclesiastical institution of Christian-Catholic inspiration, committed to integral formation in the light of the Gospel and the living

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tradition of the Church. It integrates faith and reason, fosters spiritual life, and prepares students for intellectual, artistic, and pastoral service in contemporary society.

Mission

To form sacred musicians with strong musical, theological, and pastoral preparation, capable of animating the Church's liturgical and evangelizing life through sound art, creativity, and spiritual commitment.

Vision

To be recognized as a Catholic university of reference in musical-liturgical formation, offering programs of excellence that prepare artists and pastoral agents to serve the Church and society.

Values

Truth, Charity, Excellence, Holiness, Unity, and Service.

Technical Program Sheet

Field	Description
Program Name	Bachelor's Degree in Sacred Music
Academic Level	Undergraduate / Bachelor
Duration	8 semesters (curricular structure organized by semesters)
Total Credits	160 credits (average of 20 per semester)
Modality	Virtual and blended (synchronous/asynchronous classes, intensive in-person workshops, and liturgical-musical practices)
Language Offer	Spanish / English / Bilingual (according to student's choice)
Location	State of Texas, USA

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Degree Awarded	Bachelor of Arts in Sacred Music — Universidad Católica Americana (UNICA)
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Admission Requirements (Profile and Documentation)

- Recognized High School Diploma or equivalent (GED).
- Transcript / Academic record from secondary education.
- Personal essay (statement of motivation and vocational-artistic discernment).
- Admission interview, including a musical aptitude test.
- Pastoral or academic recommendation.
- Proof of language proficiency according to program modality (see language section).
- For international students: compliance with current migration and/or visa requirements.
- The university may include additional requirements according to institutional and accreditation regulations.

Educational Purpose

To train professionals in sacred music who integrate artistic excellence with Christian faith, prepared for liturgical, pastoral, educational, and evangelizing service, contributing to the spiritual enrichment of the Church.

Learning Outcomes

Upon graduation, the Bachelor of Arts in Sacred Music graduate will be able to:

1. Perform sacred music repertoires with technical proficiency and spiritual expressiveness.
2. Understand the theological and liturgical foundations of music in the Church.
3. Compose and arrange musical pieces for liturgical and pastoral contexts.
4. Conduct choirs and lead musical animation in community celebrations.
5. Preserve and promote the heritage of sacred music.
6. Develop pastoral and evangelizing projects through music.
7. Research the relationship between music, faith, and culture.
8. Integrate digital and technological tools in the creation and dissemination of sacred music.

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Competencies

- Generic: Artistic creativity, communication, teamwork, leadership, intercultural sensitivity, digital competencies.
- Specific: Music theory and analysis, choral conducting, Gregorian chant and polyphony, sacred composition, liturgy and music, pastoral music, history of sacred music, vocal and instrumental techniques, research in music and religion.

Language Offer and Proficiency Requirements

The program is offered in three modalities: Spanish, English, and Bilingual. Language certification requirements are consistent with those applied in other academic programs.

Curriculum by Semester (8 semesters — 160 credits)

Semester	Code	Course	Credits	Description	Prerequisites
1	MSC-101	Introduction to Sacred Music	6	Theological, liturgical, and historical foundations of sacred music.	None
	MSC-102	Music Theory I	6	Basic elements of musical language.	None
	MSC-103	Vocal Technique I	4	Basic principles of singing applied to liturgy.	None
	MSC-104	Academic Writing and Communication	4	Writing and communication skills applied to music.	None
		Total Credits:	20		

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2	MSC-201	History of Sacred Music I	6	Repertoires from Antiquity to the Renaissance.	MSC-101
	MSC-202	Music Theory II	6	Harmony and basic musical analysis.	MSC-102
	MSC-203	Primary Instrument I	4	Practical study of a selected instrument.	None
	MSC-204	Digital Competencies in Music	4	Technological tools for music editing and production.	None
		Total Credits:	20		
3	MSC-301	Liturgy and Music	6	Relationship between liturgy, sacraments, and music in the Church.	MSC-101
	MSC-302	Choral Conducting I	6	Basic techniques for conducting liturgical choirs.	None
	MSC-303	Vocal Technique II	4	Development of choral and solo singing.	MSC-103
	MSC-304	Philosophy and Musical Aesthetics	4	Philosophical reflection on music and the sacred.	None
		Total Credits:	20		
4	MSC-401	History of Sacred Music II	6	From Renaissance polyphony to Baroque music.	MSC-201
	MSC-402	Music Theory III	6	Advanced harmony and counterpoint.	MSC-202
	MSC-403	Primary Instrument II	4	Continued study and performance practice.	MSC-203
	MSC-404	General Elective I	4	Elective course in humanities or arts.	As applicable
		Total Credits:	20		
5	MSC-501	History of Sacred Music III	6	From Classicism to Romanticism.	MSC-401
	MSC-502	Choral Conducting II	6	Advanced techniques in conducting and choral repertoire.	MSC-302



	MSC-503	Sacred Music Composition I	4	Basic principles of composition for liturgical use.	MSC-202
	MSC-504	Musical Practice I (Supervised)	4	Experience in liturgical musical animation.	MSC-301
		Total Credits:	20		
6	MSC-601	History of Sacred Music IV	6	20th century and contemporary Church music.	MSC-501
	MSC-602	Choral Conducting III	6	Advanced conducting of ensembles and choirs.	MSC-502
	MSC-603	Sacred Music Composition II	4	Creation of sacred works for diverse liturgical contexts.	MSC-503
	MSC-604	Musical Practice II (Intensive)	4	Performance in liturgical celebrations and sacred concerts.	MSC-504
		Total Credits:	20		
7	MSC-701	Research in Sacred Music	6	Research methodologies applied to music and liturgy.	MSC-204
	MSC-702	Innovation and New Musical Languages	6	Exploration of contemporary trends in sacred music.	MSC-603
	MSC-703	Choral Conducting IV	4	Specialized conducting of polyphonic and liturgical choirs.	MSC-602
	MSC-704	Advanced Elective in Sacred Music	4	Specialized course in sacred or liturgical arts.	As applicable
		Total Credits:	20		
8	MSC-801	Integrative Seminar and Final Project	10	Preparation and defense of an applied project in sacred music.	MSC-701



	MSC-802	Professional Ethics and Musical Ministry	6	Ethical and pastoral principles in musical service.	MSC-302
	MSC-803	Pastoral Music and Evangelization	4	Strategies for pastoral animation through music.	MSC-301
		Total Credits:	20		

Methodology and Evaluation

- Blended methodology: Virtual classes (synchronous/asynchronous), intensive in-person workshops, and liturgical-musical practices.
- Continuous assessment: Musical performances, composition projects, supervised practices, academic essays, applied research, and final project defense.
- In the bilingual modality, artistic and linguistic competencies are assessed in both languages.

Institutional Observations and Compliance

The university will adapt documents and admission requirements in accordance with Texas State regulations and current authorization/accreditation standards for religious institutions and virtual/hybrid programs.