The jazz studies program at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music (CCM) is designed for the student seeking a professional career in jazz and related fields of contemporary music. The comprehensive curriculum includes weekly private lessons, improvisation study in small classroom workshops, extensive courses in jazz theory, arranging, composition, jazz history and jazz keyboard skills. Also included are integral-related courses like electronic music, digital recording and editing, sound reinforcement technology, the business of music, and ethnic and world music. Each student presents a recital with works representing a variety of jazz styles and at least one original composition and arrangement.

Frequent rehearsals, recitals and concerts provide the opportunity for students to work closely with and even collaborate with the faculty. In addition to the 12 jazz faculty in residence, approximately 15 visiting artists present workshops and joint performances with students each year. The Jazz Ensemble and Jazz Lab Band perform a wide variety of styles and have performed in concert with internationally recognized composers and soloists.

Just as important as the big bands is the extensive chamber jazz program, including nine combos, some of which are highly specialized. It ensures that all jazz majors perform in a supervised combo every year of their study. Jazz students may also audition for more than 17 other orchestral, wind and choral ensembles at CCM, including the numerous musical theater productions that utilize pit orchestras. Jazz majors enjoy the advantage of the myriad classes, ensembles and workshops offered in CCM’s all-encompassing performing and media arts environment.

Up-to-date facilities include a new digital recording and editing studio; a MIDI lab; computer workstations for music notation and sequencing programs; a state-of-the-art, computer-based, teaching/presentation “smart classroom”; and rehearsal halls for jazz combos, big bands and other student-organized performing groups. The jazz studies program has its own jazz record library housing over 12,000 historic LPs.