

Program Description

Columbia's **Diploma in Worship Arts** equips students with the theological, pastoral, and artistic skills required to lead the local church in Bible-centered, transformational worship. The program is for any student with musical gifting who loves the church and wants to use their gifts to build up the community. Focusing on giving students a solid theological understanding of worship that provides the "why" for practical, pastoral decisions, our graduates are highly sought after by local churches as worship leaders, and some move from this program to work in other artistic fields or to pursue further studies in theology and/or the arts. For those who have pastoral gifts, the Worship Arts diploma is designed to ladder into the Church Ministry degree as a concentration, which is the best path for those who want to work in church ministry full time as worship pastors.

Program Objectives

1. Students will develop a biblical definition of worship that incorporates the gathered worship of the church and the way that gathering sends us out into the work of God in ongoing worship in every context we encounter.
2. Students will gain a thorough understanding of the structure of a worship service and how its various elements intersect.
3. Students will learn how to plan and implement all elements of a worship service.
4. Students will grow in both their musical gifts, and their understanding of music theory.
5. Students will learn how to think theologically about culture and the arts and explore how the arts can help us in our understanding of theology.