

Bachelor of Music, Music Education Policies

Fall 2025 catalog and earlier

Introduction

The Music Education Program at The University of Arizona is committed to helping you develop into the finest musician/teacher possible. The curriculum is designed to allow you to achieve your highest musical potential while giving you the leadership skills necessary to guide the musicians of tomorrow. Upon graduation, you will be eligible to be certified to teach all aspects of music in any grade from pre-kindergarten through high school in Arizona and many other states. You will join our many graduates who are in leadership positions in school music programs in Arizona and across the country. Because the program develops your musical skills as a performer and conductor, this degree also provides an excellent foundation if you wish to continue your studies in graduate school with the goal of becoming a professional conductor, college professor, or professional performer. The members of the music education faculty with whom you will be working are all known nationally and internationally in their area of expertise. All your music education classes will be taught by full-time faculty who are committed to undergraduate education.

Admission

Admission to the Music Education major requires:

- a University of Arizona application, and
- a School of Music application, which includes a video interview and an audition on the student's primary instrument (or voice).

Fingerprint Clearance

All Music Education majors should obtain their IVP Level One Fingerprint Clearance Card while enrolled in MUS 250 (Introduction to Music Education). Instructions are available on the Office of Field Experience website and will be discussed in MUS 250.

Testing

- A passing grade on the MEAR (Music Education Advisory Review) is required to proceed as a music education major. Students should take the MEAR in the semester after enrollment in MUS 250. To pass the MEAR exam, a grade of C or higher in MUS 250 is required. (A grade lower than a C in MUS 250 results in automatic failure of the MEAR exam.) Students may take the MEAR twice. If a student does not pass the MEAR on the second attempt, the student may no longer pursue Music Education as a major.
- Students must pass the NES Assessment of Professional Knowledge (Secondary) prior to the student teaching semester. Information for signing up for this test is on the Office of Field Experiences website.
- In lieu of POL 210 (US/AZ Constitution), students may complete the AEPA US and AZ Constitution Exam with a passing grade.

Lessons

All Music Education majors must complete a minimum of 7 semesters of performance studies/lessons on their primary instrument (or voice), as follows:

- MUSI 182 (first-year lessons) (2 units per semester, for 2 semesters)
- MUSI 282 (second-year lessons) (2 units per semester, for 2 semesters)
- MUSI 382 (third-year lessons) (2 units per semester, for 2 semesters)
- MUSI 482 (fourth-year lessons) (2 units per semester, for 1 semester)

Concurrent Ensembles

All students enrolled in performance studies/lessons (MUSI) are required to participate concurrently (in the same semester) in an appropriate large conducted ensemble (MUS 400A-Z). Accompanying or coached ensembles may fulfill this requirement for students whose major instrument is keyboard or guitar. Ensemble placement will be determined by an audition process designed and administered by the ensemble directors in consultation with the studio faculty and as approved by the Director of the School of Music.

Prerequisites for Music Education Methods

- MUS 250 is a prerequisite for the other Music Education methods courses required for certification.
- MUS 452 requires at least two credit hours, chosen from MUS 350A, MUS 350B, 351A, 351B, and 351D.
- MUS 453 requires MUS 352.

Techniques

Students are required to take 8 units in total, from the following 1- or 2-unit courses:

- MUS 102A (Class Guitar) (1 unit)
- MUS 310A (Functional Piano for Music Education Majors) (1 unit)
- MUS 350A (Woodwind Techniques and Materials) (1 unit)
- MUS 350B (Woodwind Techniques and Materials) (1 unit)
- MUS 351A (Brass Techniques and Materials) (1 unit)
- MUS 351B (Brass Techniques and Materials) (1 unit)
- MUS 351D (Percussion Techniques and Materials) (1 unit)
- MUS 352 (String Instrument Techniques and Materials) (1 unit)
- MUS 371 (Intermediate Instrumental and Choral Conducting) (2 units)
- MUS 411A (Diction for Singers) (2 units)
- MUS 425 (Marching Band Techniques) (1 unit)
- MUS 439 (Jazz Pedagogy) (1 unit) (rarely offered)

These courses should be selected in consultation with the student's faculty mentor and academic advisor.

Degree Requirements

- The Bachelor of Music degree requires a minimum of 125 units total, including a minimum of 42 upper-division units. (Upper-division courses are numbered 300-499).
- The Music Education major requires a minimum of 86 units, including a minimum of 18 upper-division units in residency at UA.

GPA/Completion Requirements

- A minimum 2.5 cumulative UA GPA in all **degree** coursework, and a minimum 3.0 GPA in all **major** coursework, is required to graduate with the Music Education degree.
- A grade of C or above is required for **ALL major coursework** (in every major course) to be admitted to the College of Education for student teaching.
- All required coursework for the degree must be completed before being admitted to MUS 493M (Student Teaching).