

MUSIC EDUCATION

BACHELOR OF ARTS

ASPIRE

EXPERIENTIAL MAJOR MAP

RETURN ON INVESTMENT FOR MAJOR

The Bachelor of Arts in Music Education prepares students for careers in music teaching and leadership in a variety of educational and community settings. Students develop skills in music performance, musicianship, pedagogy, conducting, and educational practice while gaining a broad foundation in the liberal arts. The program prepares students for careers as music educators through rigorous academic study, experiential learning, clinical and field experiences, and real-world opportunities that foster artistry, teaching excellence, and lifelong engagement with music.

WHAT YOU'LL LEARN

- Critical Thinking
- Informed Major Selection
- Post-graduation Readiness
- Applied Problem Solving
- Leadership Skills
- Teamwork

CAREER READINESS

- Professionalism and work ethic
- Strong communication skills
- Analytical and problem-solving skills
- Leadership and teamwork
- Technology proficiency

CAREER PATHWAYS

- K-12 Music Teacher
- Community Music Leader
- Ensemble Conductor
- Professional Musician
- Private Music Teacher
- Music Program Director
- Music Therapist

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

"I started college unsure of my direction, but the ASPIRE major map helped me stay focused. I followed the steps by attending networking events, secured internships, and built a professional portfolio through my capstone. By my senior year, I wasn't scrambling—I was more than prepared. I received a full-time position offer directly after receiving my degree from my internship site."

HILLTOP ADVANTAGE

The Hilltop Advantage is a structured, student-centered approach that ensures every student graduates with not only a degree, but also meaningful experiences, career-ready skills, and a clear post-graduation plan.

TOP SKILLS

- Professionalism and work ethic
- Strong communication skills
- Analytical and problem-solving skills
- Leadership and teamwork
- Technology proficiency

Department of Music and Theatre - Music Education Major

	FIRST YEAR	MIDDLE YEARS	LAST YEAR	
ACADEMIC MASTERY (A)	- Meet with your advisor to chart your path through the Music Education major - Begin major coursework and General Education requirements - Develop foundational skills in music theory, ear training, piano, and ensemble performance - Participate in departmental performances and recitals	- Continue major coursework - Complete conducting, methods, and pedagogy courses - Participate in ensembles and performance opportunities - Explore research, creative activity, and professional conference opportunities - Begin preparation for state teacher certification requirements	- Complete major coursework and certification requirements - Complete residency and related clinical experiences - Develop and present a professional teaching portfolio - Present research, performances, or projects through university and professional venues	FURTHER EDUCATION - Masters in Music Education, Performance, Conducting, or Composition) - Graduate Certificate in Educational Leadership - Specialized certifications in areas such as Kodály, Orff, or Dalcroze BUILD SUCCESS - Join collegiate music organizations and professional associations - Develop relationships with cooperating teachers - Attend music education conferences - Explore teaching, performance, and community opportunities
SELF-DISCOVERY & STRENGTHS (S)	- Participate in music department organizations and activities - Explore teaching and leadership opportunities through music ensembles - Attend major and career exploration workshops - Observe music classrooms and community music programs	- Meet with your advisor to explore practicum and field placement opportunities - Develop teaching philosophy - Explore career pathways in public schools, private instruction, community music, and arts organizations - Investigate graduate education opportunities	- Engage in advanced teaching experiences and professional practice - Refine teaching philosophy and professional goals - Complete a professional résumé, portfolio, and LinkedIn profile - Initiate the job search and educator application process	
PROFESSIONAL PREPARATION INTEGRATIVE & EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING (PI)	- Create an initial résumé and LinkedIn profile - Attend career and employer networking events - Explore career pathways in music education and related fields - Learn about study abroad and experiential learning opportunities - Observe music educators in school and community settings	- Complete field experiences in elementary, middle, and secondary music classrooms - Participate in service-learning and community engagement projects - Engage in professional conferences, workshops, and networking events - Build relationships with educators, alumni, and industry professionals - Join professional organizations such as NAfME and ACDA	- Complete residency requirements - Demonstrate proficiency in classroom instruction, assessment, and rehearsal techniques - Apply for teaching positions or graduate programs - Participate in campus recruiting and employer interviews - Prepare certification and licensure documentation	
RELATIONSHIPS & LEADERSHIP, ENGAGEMENT & WELL-BEING (RE)	- Join collegiate music organizations and ensemble leadership activities - Explore other student organizations and campus initiatives - Attend campus events to build peer and faculty connections - Participate in first-year leadership programs - Learn about wellness, counseling, and support resources	- Hold leadership roles within ensembles, student organizations, or professional associations - Serve as a peer mentor, tutor, section leader, or student ambassador - Participate in alumni networking and mentorship programs - Balance academic, performance, and extracurricular responsibilities - Utilize wellness resources to maintain physical and mental health	- Mentor younger students within the program - Expand professional networks through alumni and educator connections - Serve on departmental committees or student advisory groups - Participate in financial literacy and career transition workshops - Develop a personal plan for work-life balance, professional growth, and lifelong musicianship	

