

Music Education Major Overview:

The Music Education major prepares students to teach music at the K-12 level, equipping them with the skills to instruct in a variety of musical disciplines, including performance, theory, history, and pedagogy. Students study the fundamentals of music, learn various teaching techniques, and gain practical experience through student teaching assignments. The program prepares graduates to foster musical creativity, appreciation, and skill in students, and equips them for a career as a music teacher, either in general music classrooms or through instrumental and vocal instruction.

Typical Industry Sectors:

1. K-12 Education (Music Teachers)
2. Private Music Instruction
3. Community and Youth Music Programs
4. Music Therapy
5. Educational Publishing and Curriculum Development

10 Sample Entry-Level Job Titles:

1. Elementary Music Teacher
2. Secondary Music Teacher
3. Band Director
4. Choir Director
5. General Music Teacher
6. Music Instructor (Private Lessons)
7. Music Education Coordinator
8. Music Librarian (Schools)
9. After-School Music Program Coordinator
10. Music Education Assistant

5 Hard Skills:

1. Music Theory and Composition
2. Proficiency in Multiple Musical Instruments or Voice
3. Conducting and Rehearsal Techniques
4. Music Technology and Software
5. Lesson Planning and Curriculum Development

5 Soft Skills:

1. Communication
2. Patience
3. Leadership

4. Creativity
5. Organization

Additional Training or Certifications:

To become a certified music teacher, most states require completing a teacher preparation program, passing relevant certification exams, and obtaining a teaching license. Music Education majors will typically complete a student-teaching internship as part of their degree. Certification in areas like music therapy, or additional qualifications in specialized music instruction (e.g., choir or instrumental music) can be beneficial. Continuous professional development and attending music education conferences can further enhance skills and knowledge.

Student and National Organizations:

1. [National Association for Music Education \(NAfME\)](#)
2. [American Choral Directors Association \(ACDA\)](#)
3. [National Band Association \(NBA\)](#)
4. [College Music Society \(CMS\)](#)
5. [Music Teachers National Association \(MTNA\)](#)