The Master of Music Education program addresses the professional development needs of music teachers in the field. Students are challenged to develop a greater understanding and mastery of music teaching-learning processes, to improve personal musicianship, and to become committed leaders within the music education profession.

Students in this degree program complete advanced studies that are designed to refine their teaching philosophy and practices. These studies include courses in historical and philosophical foundations of music education, psychological theories of music learning, basic research methods, curriculum development, and assessment. The minimum number of credit hours required is 30.

The college also offers a Master of Music Education degree/certification with K–12 teaching for students who have completed an undergraduate degree in music, but in a major area other than music education. Course work leads to a master’s degree and a Colorado K–12 music teaching license. The entire program requires a minimum of 71 credit hours.

Requirements

Prerequisites

Applicants are expected to provide evidence of undergraduate preparation equivalent to that required for the bachelor of music education degree at this university. Applicants also must possess a music teaching certificate/license or agree to work toward a Colorado music teaching license. GRE scores are not required for admission, but can be helpful in determining merit-based financial aid. Individuals who wish to pursue music performance or conducting as their cognate area must demonstrate at least senior-level proficiency on their particular medium through an audition.

Program of Study

Students earning the MMusEd degree must complete a minimum of 30 credit hours of course work, including 12 credit hours in music education, 12 credit hours in music and 6 credit hours of open electives in a specialization area or other areas of interest. Of the 12 credit hours in music, a 2-credit-hour course in bibliography and research is required, as well as 6 credit hours of study in a cognate area, which includes musicology, music theory or performance (including conducting and jazz studies).

The music component of the degree should assist students in developing their musical knowledge and skills. One member of the student’s graduate advisory committee should be from the cognate area, and it is assumed that at least some part of the student’s study is with that faculty member. All music studies must be at the 5000 level or above. Under special circumstances, up to 6 credit hours at the 4000-level may be applied to the open electives portion of the degree.

As an MMusEd degree candidate, each student must produce a culminating paper that focuses on a topic of vital interest or importance. This paper may be developed as part of the requirements for a music education course or may take the form of a master’s thesis. Culminating papers or theses are defended during final oral examinations.

Students typically complete the degree in two academic years, or one academic year plus two summers. Degree work must be completed within four years of the semester in which the student is accepted into a degree program and begins studies. A summers-only MMusEd program is also available; for details, see the Summer MMusEd webpage (https://www.colorado.edu/music/summer-college-music/summer-mme) or contact the music education faculty. Because most master’s level music education courses are offered in late afternoons, students who live within commuting distance can earn a significant portion of credit toward the degree while continuing to work full time.