What classes will I take?

In their first two years in the program, Music Education majors take Introduction to Music Education, as well as five specific techniques courses (Woodwinds, Brass, Percussion, Strings, and Voice) to prepare them for teaching technique and performance practice in these areas.

Once these courses are completed, students move on to the three comprehensive pedagogy courses: General Music Methods, Vocal Music Methods, and Instrumental Music Methods. Each of these three courses has an associated practicum that represents the students’ first teaching experiences in a public school classroom.

Music Education majors also take two semesters of conducting and music history, as well as four semesters of music theory. Other classes include General Education courses and education courses in the College of Education and Social Services, as well as private lessons on their principal instrument and performance ensembles.

Degree Requirements

Observation requirements: In order to meet the state licensing requirement of 60 hours of supervised observation, and successfully complete the B.S. in Music Education Program, students must provide documentation of their observations by submitting to the Music Education Coordinator a Student Observation Form and an accompanying Observation Reflection.

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Students apply during the second semester of their sophomore year to the licensure portion of the program. At that time students must have:
- junior standing (60 credits completed toward degree)
- completed at least 30 hours of field observation
- a GPA of at least 2.5 and not on academic trial
- a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher in music courses
- passed Level III audition on major instrument/voice
- recommendation by music faculty (non-music faculty may also be included)

Licensure portfolio: In order to successfully complete the B.S. in Music Education Program and be recommended for licensure, students must complete and present their portfolio at a Licensure Roundtable Portfolio Presentation during their final semester at UVM.

Additional UVM and state licensure requirements:
- Piano proficiency examination (typically during the sophomore or junior year; required previous to the teaching internship)
- 30 hours of elementary observations (K-6th grade) — documented through student observation forms and reflections
- 30 hours secondary observation (7th-12th grade) — documented through student observation forms and reflections
- Praxis I (typically during the sophomore year; required previous to the teaching internship)
- Praxis II (prior to licensure)
- Cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher in major
- Cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher in all coursework

Opportunities to teach, travel and experience

Students also have access to exciting opportunities including international travel to study music teaching and learning in diverse cultural settings, video-conferenced music teaching with under-privileged children and/or children in isolated locations, and participation as music composition mentors in the nationally acclaimed Vermont MIDI Project.

Along with coursework, the program cultivates learning and performance through solo recitals, discussions of current educational trends, research into current educational issues, varied field experiences, and opportunities to interact with state and national organizations such as National Association for Music Educators, the Vermont Music Educators Association, the American String Teachers Association, and the Northern Lights Chapter of the American Orff-Schulwerk Association.

International travel

An exciting component of the Music Education Program at UVM is the opportunity to travel internationally to study music, culture, and music teaching and learning in culturally diverse locations. It is a goal of the Music Education Program that each student participate in at least one international opportunity during his or her time at UVM. Foreign study has included traveling to:
- India to study voice, percussion, veena, naduswaram, and dance with gurus in each area
- Mexico to participate in a Spanish Immersion program and teach music to underprivileged elementary-school children
- China to teach children in rural schools, and help train rural-school teachers in modern music education practices

Post-Baccalaureate Teacher Preparation Program

We also offer a PBTP for individuals who have a bachelor’s degree in music and who wish to become licensed to teach in Vermont.

Find more info about Music Education on our website:

www.uvm.edu/music  music@uvm.edu  (802) 656-3040

Learning to play the sihu during a trip to China and Mongolia.

Music Ed students at the 2015 NAfME (National Association for Music Education) Conference in Providence, RI

12/10/15
Become a music teacher
The Music Department works cooperatively with the College of Education and Social Services to offer a program in Music Education that leads to both a Bachelor of Science in Music Education degree and licensure for grades Pre K-12. The UVM Music Education program maintains an active presence on-campus as well as within Vermont and the northeast. Music Education students learn the musical and pedagogical skill and knowledge needed in today’s classrooms.

Why teach music?
For many musicians, becoming a choral, instrumental, and/or general music teacher in a preschool, elementary, middle, and/or high school setting is a very rewarding career path. If you love music and want to share your enthusiasm and expertise with students, music education is the career for you.

Admission to the program
All prospective music majors must audition on an instrument or voice before entering the program. Students typically audition during their final year of high school in conjunction with applying to UVM. Students may also apply during their first semester at UVM.

Prospective Music Education students also have a brief interview with the head of the program, Dr. Patricia Riley.

Patricia.Riley@uvm.edu or (802) 656-7770