

Music Education at VCU

Purpose of the Program

To prepare undergraduate students for entry into the profession of music education.

Successful completion of the Bachelor of Music (BM) degree, with a concentration in music education, will permit majors to apply for and receive licensure by the Commonwealth of Virginia to teach any setting of music, pre-kindergarten through grade 12 (PK-12) in the public schools.

Philosophy of the Program

Two factors are fundamental in the development of a music educator: the only way to learn to teach is to teach and you must have a support network. The music education undergraduate program provides these factors through extensive field experiences in the PK - 12 setting (practicum and student teaching), along with the creation of a cohort of majors through the Music Education Core Sequence (MUED 380-381-382-485/486).

Some terms and definitions:

Candidacy	This is a legal status which you must achieve in order to enter the Music Education Core Sequence (MUED 380). It is a required status by the Commonwealth of Virginia.
Practicum	This is a directed field experience guided by a host in a public-school music program. A practicum experience in the Music Education Program involves a minimum of thirty hours experience in the assigned school. Practica occur during the Music Education Core Sequence (MUED 380-381-382).
Student Teaching	This is a semester-long, fulltime teaching experience in the spring of your senior year. Eight weeks will be spent in a secondary (middle or high school) setting and eight weeks in an elementary setting. No other courses or ensembles can be taken during student teaching. <i>Placements for practicum and student teaching will be made by the Music Ed Faculty and will be in the Metro Richmond area (Hanover, Henrico, Chesterfield, and City of Richmond). You must provide your own transportation to your field placement.</i>
Teaching License	This is a license issued by the state that permits you to teach in the public schools.

Endorsement

This is an add-on to the teaching license, which indicates additional, approved competencies/specializations. The music license in Virginia is for music, pre-kindergarten through grade 12 ((PK-12). The endorsements are vocal/choral or instrumental, denoting an additional specialization in those areas.

Candidacy Assessment Requirements

The Commonwealth of Virginia requires a minimum passing score on the Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators (as the Teacher Preparation Entry Assessment). Information on the Praxis Core can be found here:

<https://www.ets.org/praxis/va/requirements/>

Virginia will permit substitution of other assessments (SAT/ACT, Virginia Communication and Literacy Assessment [VCLA], etc.) for passing Praxis Core scores. Approved substitutions are noted below:

You will need to submit a hard copy of your passing scores to the music education office in order to register for MUED 380 and enter candidacy. You should order a copy of your scores for yourself for submission. Having your scores reported to VCU will not fulfill this requirement.