

University of Missouri-Columbia  
Criteria for the Ph.D. in Music Education

Participation in a Ph.D. program requires a major commitment of time and financial resources, both for the student as well as for the institution. It is in everyone's best interest when there is a good match between the program's and the student's goals and expectations. Therefore, admissions are selective and based on multiple criteria, including program needs, faculty time commitments, the admission committee's judgment of the student's potential for success in the program and profession, etc. Applicants should be aware that meeting the minimum admission requirements on paper does not assure admission.

To qualify for consideration, music education students must meet all admissions criteria, as well as agree to the music education program's guidelines, listed below. For application and admission details, contact Dr. Wendy Sims, Director of Music Education ([simsw@missouri.edu](mailto:simsw@missouri.edu)).

Students wishing to be admitted to a Ph.D. in Music Education should be aware of and/or comply with the following:

- This program is designed to prepare students for careers in higher education as music education teacher/researchers, as ensemble conductors with a strong commitment to music education teaching and research, or as master teachers or music supervisors in the K-12 system. This most likely is not an appropriate program for students with aspirations that differ significantly. Applicants must be certified music teachers, with a bachelor's or master's degree in music education.
- Individuals with music teaching experience in higher education but without music teaching experience in elementary or secondary schools are eligible for admission but will be expected to complete prerequisite coursework and field experiences in elementary and secondary schools prior to taking comprehensive examinations. (For candidates without a previous music education degree or music teacher certification, it is possible that this could add a year or more to the degree program.)
- This program is "research-intensive." Students will be expected to complete 12-15 credit hours of research courses, read past and current research, assist and eventually collaborate with faculty and peers on research projects, develop the ability to translate research findings to classroom applications, and ultimately achieve independence as a researcher. Good writing skills are important to a student's success.
- Residency is essential to the acquisition of experiences necessary for success in the program and the profession. Students are required to spend a minimum of 3 years as a full-time, on campus graduate student (2 years of full-time master's work can be counted towards this requirement).
- Students will be required to enroll in the Doctoral Seminar each time it is offered (no more than one semester per year—late afternoon course once a week). Video conferencing arrangements will be made for students who may live too far away to attend in person.
- Students are expected to complete the degree in a timely manner, meeting all graduate school deadlines. This means a maximum of 5 years for completing coursework from first enrollment as a Ph.D. student (coursework is generally completed in 2 years of full-time study including summers) and 5 years for completing the dissertation after passing comprehensive exams (this is a maximum - most students finish in much less time). It is possible for well-qualified students to complete this degree with 3 years, including summers, of full-time enrollment. First priority for faculty dissertation mentoring is reserved for students working toward completing the degree in a timely manner.
- Applicants must participate in personal interviews with the music education faculty. Campus visits are the preferred means for this to be accomplished, but internet conferencing meetings (e.g., Zoom) are possible.