

Music Education

Music Education is an integral part of IWU's School of

Music thanks to its comprehensive curriculum and opportunities for growth that engage and challenge students. Over the past 150 years in the School of Music, a great number of Music Education majors have developed successful careers and become influential leaders who shape the future of music education.

Why Music Education at Illinois Wesleyan?

Our curriculum is sequenced to provide courses and related experiences necessary to succeed in various educational settings. In addition to class work and peer teaching, our students collaborate with K-12 music educators during pre-service teaching experiences as well as develop personal interests through individualized projects with music education professors. Important topics in the field of music education that establish a strong foundation and develop creativity include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Competency in teaching different instruments (woodwind, brass, percussion, string, and vocal)
- Specialized methods to teach elementary general, instrumental ensemble, and choral ensemble music
- Teaching strategies that develop student improvisation, composition, and music technology skills
- Diverse student and learning environments
- Alternative music ensemble techniques (e.g., rock, pop, Latin)

In addition to classroom expectations, the Music Education department encourages leadership and innovation through the IWU collegiate chapter of the National Association for Music Education (NAfME). This student organization is committed to offering opportunities for professional growth, networking, and service. In October, members provided unique experiences for IWU alumni during the 150th celebration and represented the chapter at the National In-Service Conference in Nashville, Tenn., with 18 student attendees. Our NAfME chapter supports all members by providing support, both monetary and transportation, to annual conferences including the Illinois Music Education Conference (IMEC) in Peoria every January. Additionally, chapter initiatives being developed



A Sampling of Courses offered for Music Education Majors:

- Foundations and Principles of Music Education
- Music and the Exceptional Child
- Marching Band Practicum
- Reading, Writing, and Communication in the Content Areas
- Techniques Courses
 - Brass Techniques
 - Woodwind Techniques
 - String Techniques
 - Percussion Techniques
 - Vocal Techniques
- Methods Courses
 - Elementary Music Methods
 - Instrumental Music Methods
 - Choral Music Methods
- Conducting Courses
 - Fundamentals of Conducting
 - Instrumental/Choral Conducting
 - Advanced Instrumental/Choral Conducting

Music Education majors can also take many other courses, both inside and outside the School of Music, that allow them to become more well-rounded students and educators.



“The BME curriculum at Illinois Wesleyan University is designed to expose its students to all aspects of being a music educator at all levels.

include outreach to schools and the community to provide needed assistance that targets students without means to participate in music classes. Because of the amount of student participation, the chapter received the Chapter Growth Award during the 2013-2014 school year.

The IWU Music Education department offers an evolving, contemporary curriculum with many opportunities for student growth.

Learning from a Quality Faculty

Andrew Dahan (Head of Music Education and Visiting Instructor of Music) is a Ph.D. Candidate in Music Education at the University of Miami Frost School of Music. He previously taught secondary choral music in the Chicago suburbs. He is active in the National Association for Music Education, the Illinois Music Education Association, the American Choral Directors Association, and the Jazz Education Network. His primary areas of research are in vocal jazz pedagogy and vocal jazz education history. Please do not hesitate to contact Professor Dahan (adahan@iwu.edu) if you have any questions.

Putting Your Learning into Practice

- The music education program has seen nearly 100 percent of its graduates gain employment since the mid-1990s.
- In order to narrow the gap between educational theory and practice, music education classes at IWU include such experiences as class field trips, guest speakers, round table discussions and many hands-on teaching experiences in the music classroom.
- A large number of graduates pursue public school teaching, but some enter other fields such as private studio teaching, music performance, music business or graduate studies in music and other areas.

The field of music education is evolving rapidly, and it is important for 21st-century music educators to be well-versed not only in the traditional methods of leading ensemble rehearsals, but also in making those experiences meaningful so that a diverse population of students are encouraged to create, perform, and respond to many different kinds of music. The Illinois Wesleyan BME curriculum emphasizes all of these things in order to create well-rounded educators.”

Andrew Dahan

Head of Music Education



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