

ILLINOIS WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

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 local 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 for teaching elementary general, instrumental ensemble, and choral ensemble music
- Teaching strategies that develop student improvisation, composition, and music technology skills
- Diverse student populations and learning environments
- Alternative music ensemble techniques (e.g., jazz, 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. Members provided networking opportunities for IWU students and alumni during the 150th Anniversary Homecoming celebration, and also represented IWU at the NAfME



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.

National In-Service Conference in Nashville, TN, with 12 student attendees. IWU has continued to send students annually to this conference as well as to others, such as the Illinois Music Education conference, the Jazz Education Network Conference, and to the Midwest Clinic. Our NAFME chapter supports all members by providing monetary and transportation support for annual conferences including the Illinois Music Education Conference (IMEC) in Peoria every January. Additionally, chapter initiatives being developed 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.

The IWU Music Education department offers a dynamic, contemporary curriculum with many opportunities for student development. Students learn not only how to be effective educators, but also how to advocate for the importance of music education for all students.

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.

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**For Further Information,
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