



Music Education

“The Community Music Masters is an amazing program. Students learn the ins and outs of non-profit business, educational philosophy, and all types of music learning. Currently there is a resurgence of both community music activity and alternative forms of music education. It is important that future educators give themselves the proper training to enter this changing world of progressive music education.”

—Seth Bailin '15

The University of Massachusetts Lowell offers three master's degrees in music education—a teaching certification option and two non-certification options. All of the degree programs facilitate students' growth and development as leaders in music education—as creative problem solvers and innovative thinkers, as individuals who love music and the arts and use their knowledge and enthusiasm to inspire students, and as contributors, through research into the profession and discipline of music education.

The Master of Music Education (Teaching Certification): program is a teacher certification option for music teachers who are in the process of earning their initial teacher certification in Massachusetts. This is a 30-credit program providing advanced study of music teaching and learning and professional preparation for those aspiring to a career as a public school music teacher. It is the culminating degree of the university's dual-degree sequence, leading to both bachelor's of music in music studies and master's of music education degrees. The coursework can be completed in three semesters. Courses of study include a core of pedagogy, curriculum, music theory and child development classes, culminating in a capstone supervised student teaching practicum.

The Master of Music in Music Education program has two non-certification options.

The Thesis/Project Option is a 30-credit, research-based program for fully certified, in-service music teachers. Students enrolled in this program engage in advanced study of music teaching, learning and professional preparation culminating in a research thesis or action research project.

New! The Community Music Option is a 30-credit program that broadens the definition of music education to include venues beyond public school teaching, including community outreach programs, arts organizations and educational media. In addition to the music core, theory and performance, courses include arts administration, grant writing, world music ensemble and mini practicums, culminating in a capstone community-based internship.

“UMass Lowell’s professors were so instrumental in their instruction and guidance—they really created a deep passion for teaching within me.”

“I get respect from students and peers, and I consistently produce quality products from my chorus concerts and drama club performances—I am very sure I wouldn’t be in nearly the same position without what I learned at UMass Lowell.”

“I was immediately impressed that STEM education was one of the cornerstones for preparing new teachers to teach in the 21st century.”



Learning with Purpose

APPLY NOW

Graduate Program Coordinator

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Why You Should Choose UMass Lowell

More public school music teachers in Massachusetts have graduated from UMass Lowell than from all other programs in the state combined.

- UMass Lowell is the oldest state-supported music education program in the country.
- Partnerships with several Lowell public schools and the Lowell Music Clubhouse provide hands-on field experiences and classes.
- The music education program has received two recent National Science Foundation grants linking music to computer science. For more information, visit www.performamatics.com.
- The music programs are supported by exceptional music technology facilities including a state-of-the-art technology laboratory with the latest music and pedagogy software, including iPads for research and field work.
- Our setting—with one of the largest populations of Cambodian people in the country—allows us to foster awareness of Cambodian culture among Lowell students.
- Technology-based learning labs in several Lowell public schools provide many service-learning and research opportunities for students.
- Community music degree candidates have built-in residencies through the university’s String Project, Youth Wind Ensembles and Band Camp, as well as rich cultural connections to our community partners including the Lowell Music Clubhouse.

Who May Apply

Applicants must present an undergraduate record of sufficient quality to assure a reasonable expectation of successful graduate achievement, with a minimum GPA of 3.0.

Applicants for the master of music education degree program leading to licensure must have passed the Massachusetts Tests for Educator Licensure (MTEL) in music within the last five years.

Applicants for the master of music education degree program (teaching certification) may be seniors in the university’s bachelor of music in music studies program with a GPA of 3.0, or hold an equivalent degree in music education or music. Transcripts will be reviewed to determine any necessary courses required for official admittance.

Applicants for the master of music in music education/thesis/project option degree program must hold a bachelor’s degree or its equivalent with a major in music education.

Applicants for the master of music in music education community music option degree program must hold a bachelor of music degree in performance, music industry or music education or its equivalent from an accredited music program.