

# Thinking about a career in Music Education?

## Some FAQ's:

**Q.** I don't know if I want to teach or not. Do I have to decide at the beginning of my time at Carolina?

**A.** No, at Chapel Hill, prospective music teachers complete a Bachelor of Music degree and, along the way, apply for acceptance into the School of Education's undergraduate licensure program. Prospective music education students share course, studio and ensemble work with all other variants of the BM degree program. Music Education required courses include conducting and techniques classes that are necessary for teaching in schools as well as School of Education coursework which will also satisfy general requirements for graduation.

**Q.** If I decide to teach music, when should I apply?

**A.** Candidates can apply as early as the summer following their Freshman year and as late as the first semester of their Junior year. Earlier application will allow more flexibility and options in scheduling and ensure completion of the program and degree within the ordinary eight semesters of the Bachelor of Music degree program.

**Q.** How and where do I apply?

**A.** Information, application deadlines, requirements and a link to the online application for the School of Education undergraduate licensure program in music can be found online at: <https://ed.unc.edu/academics/programs/k-12-music-education>. In addition, information on music classes and advising can be found on the Music Department's website at: <http://music.unc.edu/areas/musiced>.

**Q.** If I pursue music education at Carolina, will I be able to teach in another state?

**A.** Yes, the School of Education's programs are certified by CAEP. Graduates who qualify for licensure in NC also qualify in any state that accredits teaching programs using CAEP's standards.

**Q.** I've heard that teaching jobs are hard to come by. True?

**A.** The job market for recent college grads has improved generally and that is true for beginning teachers as well. In fact, teaching is now a demand field and our track record for job placement remains excellent and exceeds the overall average employment rate for all graduates.

**Q.** Who can I see if I have specific questions not addressed by the websites above?

**A.** You may call/text or email to schedule a Zoom meeting using the information below:

Professor Daniel Huff  
[dhuff@email.unc.edu](mailto:dhuff@email.unc.edu)  
(919) 880.0351

## *We are:*

- A community of around 12 – 15 persons within the Bachelor of Music degree candidates.
- We have current students and alums who studied composition, strings, piano, voice, winds, brass, and percussion and who participated in UNCSCO, Chamber Music, Carolina Choir, Chamber Singers, the Glee Club, UNC Opera, the Wind Ensemble, the Symphony Band, the University Band, Charanga, the UNC Jazz Big Band, UNC Combos, the Percussion Ensemble, the UNC Guitar Ensemble and LOTS of student run theatrical or a cappella groups and Musical Empowerment.
- Several have been Concerto Competition winners.
- We are in active contact with over 210 alumni dating back to 1981 (8 years before I arrived at Carolina). There are more, but the record keeping was not as easy nor done as systematically in pre-technology days.
- Since 1999 when we began keeping detailed records, we have graduated 149 persons:
  - 51.58% of graduates since 1999 are actively teaching music in PreK–12 classrooms.
  - If college level work is included, 53.69% of our grads are teaching music.
  - If administrative work in public schools and education, e.g. educational policy or administration is included, 58.39% are actively involved in education. One of those persons is the current VA State Superintendent of Schools- he was also inducted to the Carolina Beach Music Awards Hall of Fame as a member of The Castaways- but that's another story.
  - If private studio teaching, music service organization administration and teaching and other music teaching related occupations, e.g. church music teaching, music therapy are included, 72.51% are directly involved in connecting people to music in diverse ways and settings.
  - Beyond that, there are several former graduates engaged in professional music performance, currently enrolled in music graduate study or another music or education related area, e.g. Houston Symphony Orchestra, Los Angeles Opera, speech pathology and music performance, etc. In all, 82.7% of our graduates are directly engaged in music teaching, music making or advanced study in music and education related areas.
  - Among the remainder are a number of persons who work in private industry or education not related to music- including a professor in Agricultural Finance, Econometrics and Macroeconomics, an airline pilot and a garden educator who was the 2015 Player of the Year in US Women's Ultimate and coaches the US International Team when she isn't singing in a Taylor Swift cover band. Others work in schools in various teaching capacities ranging from ESL to the garden educator above, and several are involved in retail, finance, real estate or money management.
- Beside NC, our graduates are teaching in GA, MD, MN, MO, NJ, NY, OR, SC, TX, VA, WA and WI as well as Washington, DC, Paris, FR and Hong Kong.
- Twenty of our graduates have been recognized as teachers of the year in their school, some in multiple schools in different districts. Some have advanced to the state level representing their district and others, including two superintendents of the year, an NCMEA Elementary Section Teacher of the Year and a NC-CDBA Band Director of the year been recognized at the state level. One alum has received national recognition as Administrator of the Year.