Mission Statement
Bachelor of Music Education (B.M.E.)
Teacher Certification in Music Education

The goal of the Penn State Music Teacher Education Program is to prepare exemplary music teachers for K-12 music programs. Such individuals can provide outstanding personal and musical models for children and youth and have a firm foundation in pedagogy on which to build music teaching skills. Penn State B.M.E. graduates exhibit excellence in music teaching as defined below.

As PERSONAL MODELS for children and youth, music teachers are caring, sensitive individuals who are willing and able to empathize with widely diverse student populations. They exhibit a high sense of personal integrity and demonstrate a concern for improving the quality of life in their immediate as well as global environments. They establish and maintain positive relations with people both like and unlike themselves and demonstrate the ability to provide positive and constructive leadership. They are in good mental, physical, and social health. They demonstrate the ability to establish and achieve personal goals. They have a positive outlook on life.

As MUSICAL MODELS, they provide musical leadership in a manner that enables others to experience music from a wide variety of cultures and genres with ever-increasing depth and sensitivity. They demonstrate technical accuracy, fluency, and musical understanding in their roles as performers, conductors, composers, arrangers, improvisers, and analyzers of music.

As emerging PEDAGOGUES, they are aware of patterns of human development, especially those of children and youth, and are knowledgeable about basic principles of music learning and learning theory. They are able to develop music curricula, select appropriate repertoire, plan instruction, and assess music learning of students that fosters appropriate interaction between learners and music that results in efficient learning.
B.M.E. Program Description

Students are admitted to the School of Music by successfully completing an audition in their applied area. Students track the Music Education option but do not apply to the degree program until the end of the sophomore year. Students have a one-hour lesson on their major instrument with the applied faculty member for 7 semesters. During the first two years of study, students complete music theory, aural skills, history, piano, and voice study. They also enroll in a seminar in music education their first semester on campus. During the sophomore year students take a variety of techniques courses to prepare them for entrance to the Music Education degree program - brass, percussion, strings, woodwinds, guitar, care and nurture of young voices.

During the junior year, students complete a two-semester sequence of music education courses (Music Learning and Development; Instructional Materials; Instructional Practices), teaching practica, and conducting courses. In the senior year, students enroll in one capstone course of their choice (elementary general/choral music, middle school general/choral music, high school general/choral music; beginning/intermediate band, secondary band, strings/orchestra).

Additionally, students select from a variety of courses to complete their “Individualized Emphasis”. This selection is based on their strengths and weaknesses and their preferred teaching setting. Course selections are approved by Music Education faculty members.

Specific program information is located in the Undergraduate Handbook (http://www.music.psu.edu/current/handbooks.html)

and also on the Music Education web site (http://www.music.psu.edu/musiced/undergrad_BME.html).