

## Becoming a Certified Music Teacher at the University of Memphis

The music education program collaborates with the University's College of Education to award undergraduate students initial certification to teach music in Tennessee and other states with reciprocal licensure agreements. The first step toward certification is gaining admission to the [Teacher Education Program](#) (TEP), which typically occurs in the sophomore year. In order to qualify for TEP admission, students must have (a) an ACT score of 21 or higher (from high school) OR a passing score on the PRAXIS I Core exam (which they can take in their freshman year), (b) a minimum 2.75 GPA in their undergraduate coursework, and (c) passing grades in what we call the "Big 5" courses. The "Big 5" includes: ENGL 1010, ENGL 1020, MATH 1420 (or equivalent), EDPR 2111, and SPED 2000.

Once a student gains admission to the TEP, they progress through coursework outlined in either the [instrumental](#) or [choral](#) music education degree plans. This includes the remainder of the music core curriculum, general education requirements, upper level music education coursework, and a junior recital. Towards the end of their junior year, students apply for "[residency](#)," also known as student teaching, which is a year-long experience. In order to qualify for residency, students must have a GPA of at least 2.75 and have taken the [PRAXIS II exam](#) for music. (If a student does not pass PRAXIS II the first time, they may proceed to residency with the stipulation that they pass it before they graduate.) Once accepted into residency, students are placed in local schools part-time (twice per week) in the fall of their senior year, and full-time (five days per week) in the spring of their senior year. Part of the residency experience is completing [edTPA](#), which is a performance-based assessment of teaching that is the final requirement for state certification.

For further information on the music education program and teacher certification, please contact Dr. Josef Hanson, Coordinator of Music Education, at [Josef.Hanson@memphis.edu](mailto:Josef.Hanson@memphis.edu).