OUACHITA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY DIVISION OF MUSIC
MUSIC EDUCATION HANDBOOK
Revised Fall 2026

DEGREE DESCRIPTION

The Bachelor of Music Education degree from Ouachita Baptist University provides a course of study preparing students to become music educators in the classroom. Specialists in Vocal/Choral and Instrumental music, as well as Music History, Music Theory, and general music will lead students to their full potential as musicians and educators. This degree is designed to prepare students for K-12 teacher certification in the State of Arkansas.

Bachelor of Music Education students will take education-related courses in both the Division of Music within the School of Performing Arts as well as the Michael D. Huckabee School of Education.

EDUCATION FACULTY / ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Rachel Pool, Dean – School of Education
Dr. Gail Hughes, Professor – Director of Graduate Studies in Education
Dr. Carrie Sharp, Associate Professor of Education
Mrs. Tina Hobbs, Instructor - Director of Student Teacher Residency
Mrs. Allison Hughes, Instructor
Mrs. Tammy Barnes, Administrative Assistant

MUSIC EDUCATION FACULTY / ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Caroline Taylor, Dean – School of Performing Arts, Division of Music Chair, Woodwind Methods
Dr. Alex Favazza, Assistant Professor – Director of Choral Activities – Co-Chair of Music Education
Dr. Austin Motley, Assistant Professor – Director of Bands – Co-Chair of Music Education
Dr. Ryan Lewis, Professor of Music – Percussion Methods
Mrs. Delynne West, Adjunct Professor – Intro to Music Ed., Elementary Music Methods
Ms. Heather Thayer, Adjunct Professor – Brass Methods
Ms. Laurie Huneycutt, Administrative Assistant

For Faculty/Administrative contact information, visit https://obu.edu/directory/.

DEGREE SUMMARY SHEETS

https://obu.edu/academics/degree-summary-sheets.php

ADMISSION TO THE TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAM

Education students are required in their sophomore year of study, as part of the Foundations of Education Course, to apply for official admission to the Teacher Education Program. Many general professional education course(s) above the 2000 level require admission to Teacher Education prior to taking those courses. Students must also meet requirements once admitted. All requirements are contained in the Teacher Education Handbook which can be found at https://obu.edu/education/handbook.php

TEACH GRANT

The Teach Grant can be added to your current financial aid package if you agree to teach for four years in a high need subject area in a low-income school. This would be in addition to current music and academic merit awards (including endowed and/or privately funded scholarships).
Music is frequently a shortage area and most Arkansas schools meet the low-income category. If you do not teach after graduation or if you do not teach in a high need subject or low-income school, then your grant will convert into a loan. For more information, review the information through this link: https://obu.edu/finaid/online-forms.php

ADMISSION TO THE DIVISION OF MUSIC

All Music Education Majors must complete an audition for admission and scholarship for the Division of Music prior to starting coursework. This typically takes the form of a scholarship audition during the Ouachita application and admissions process. Students wishing to change majors to music education at Ouachita must schedule a meeting with the Chair of Music Education. Any students on scholarship must meet all requirements specified in their course catalog and music scholarship agreement.

MUSIC PRAXIS EXAMINATION

Ouachita Music Education Majors (in both Vocal/Choral and Instrumental Music) are required to take the Praxis II 5113 Exam leading to a certification to teach in all areas of music. Any variation of this policy requires the approval of the Chair of the Music Education Department.

All Music Education students are required to pass all certification exams prior to student teaching. It is expected that each Music Education student will pass the Music Praxis the summer prior to the year of their internship. Students should notify the Chair (or Co-Chairs if applicable) of Music Education and Chair of Education once they have passed the Music Praxis (Scores should be sent to OBU).

GENERAL PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION COURSES

EDFN 2003 Foundations of Education (Semester 4)
EDFN 2053 Child and Adolescent Development (Semester 3)
EDFN 3083 Teaching Exceptional Learners (Semester 6)
EDFN 4123 Learning Theories & Assessment Practices (Semester 8)
MUED 4301 Practicum Music Education K-12 (Semester 7)
MUED 4404 Music Student Teaching (Semester 7)
MUED 4423 Music Student Teaching (Semester 7 if hours required for scholarship)
EDFN 4403 Student Teaching Seminar (Semester 8)
MUED 4xx6 Student Teaching (Semester 8)
MUED 4423 Student Teaching 3 (Semester 8 if hours required for scholarship)

MUSIC EDUCATION COURSES

Choral/Piano

MUED 1021 Introduction to Music Education (Semester 2)
MUED 3092 Elementary Methods/Materials (Semester 5, EDFN 2003 Pre-Req)
MUED 3101 Principles of Conducting (Semester 5)
MUED 3201 Choral Conducting (Semester 6)
MUED 3113 Secondary Choral Methods (Semester 7)
MUED 4132 Vocal Pedagogy (Semester 6)

Instrumental

MUED 1021 Introduction to Music Education (Semester 2)
MUED 3081 Woodwind Methods (Semester 4)
MUED 3092 Elementary Methods/Materials (Semester 5, EDFN 2003 Pre-Req)
MUED 3101 Principles of Conducting (Semester 5)
MUED 3122 Instrumental Conducting (Semester 6)
MUED 3031 Brass Methods (Semester 5)
MUED 3161 Percussion Methods (Semester 6)
MUED 4153 Secondary Instrumental Methods (Semester 7)

OTHER IMPORTANT COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- All Music Education Majors are required to take Wellness (Semester 7).
- Develop a 4-year degree plan (through your Info Portal) and bring it with you to advising appointments.
- Degree Plans are required to be submitted at 59 hours (typically spring of the junior year).
- Go to class, make a notebook and **SAVE** your course materials to help you study for the Praxis Exams and Graduate Entrance Exams and to assist with the Student Teaching Portfolio presentation.
- Network with other Music Education Students both at Ouachita and other institutions.
- Network with teachers in the area
- Go to clinics, conferences, festivals
- Gain teaching experience where you can and document it!
- Observe rehearsals at Ouachita outside of your area – great teaching is great teaching!
- Make every social media post as though a future employer is looking
- Talk less, listen more.
- Practice good self-care – get rest and find a work life balance.

FIELD EXPERIENCES / OBSERVATION FORM

Field Experiences are a combination of Teaching and Observations. Teaching hours are where Music Education Majors are teaching or co-teaching school-aged students. Observation hours are where Music Education Majors are observing professional educators in the classroom, clinic, rehearsal or performance. The following is a generic form for Ouachita Music Education Observations which can be used for any class. https://tinyurl.com/FEOBUMUED

Verify with each professor if they have different course requirements or guidelines they expect you to follow. Keep a copy of each Field Experience / Observation you have during your time at Ouachita and upload to your Purple Portfolio to ensure you maximize your opportunities prior to the Internships.

FIELD EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS

Each Music Education Major is required to achieve a minimum of 90 field Experience hours prior to student teaching consisting of both teaching and observation hours.

Choral/Piano Field Experiences	**Hours**
General Professional Education	
EDFN 2003 Foundations of Education	15
EDFN 2053 Child and Adolescent Development	4
EDFN 3083 Teaching Exceptional Learners	6
Music Education	
MUED 1021 Introduction to Music Education	5
MUED 3092 Elementary Methods/Materials	15
MUED 3201 Choral Conducting	5
MUED 3113 Secondary Choral Methods	20
Choral/Piano TOTAL	70

Instrumental Field Experiences	**Hours**
General Professional Education	
EDFN 2003 Foundations of Education	15
EDFN 2053 Child and Adolescent Development	4
EDFN 3083 Teaching Exceptional Learners	6
Music Education	
MUED 1021 Introduction to Music Education	5
MUED 2021 Woodwind Methods	3
MUED 3092 Elementary Methods/Materials	15
MUED 3031 Brass Methods	4
MUED 3161 Percussion Methods	3
MUED 4153 Secondary Instrumental Methods	15
Instrumental TOTAL	70

FIELD EXPERIENCES REQUIREMENTS AND BEST PRACTICES

Consult the Ouachita Teacher Education Handbook (https://obu.edu/education/handbook.php) for requirements for Field Experiences and Observations.

Attire: Dress for an observation as if you were interviewing for a job.

Arrival: Arrive at the school at least 15 minutes prior to the start of the class you are observing. Be sure to take your form, a paper pad, and pen/pencil with you into the observation.

Turn It Off: Out of respect for the teachers and students, turn off all electronic devices before the class begins and do not check them during your observation. This includes Smart Watches.

On Campus: Sign in as a visitor in the main office, go to the classroom and enter only between classes, introduce yourself to the instructor, and ask where he/she would like you to sit and observe the class.

Take Notes: Sit quietly as if you are doing fieldwork and, using the questions on your form as a guide, write down your observations.

Departure: After class, thank the instructor, ask any pertinent questions, ask him/her to sign and date the form, and sign out in the main office before departing.

Teaching Observations: Afterwards, use the reflection questions below on the Field Experience / Observation Guide as a guide for writing the Teaching Observation. The purpose of the guide is simply to assist in writing the Teaching Observation, not to act as a template.

Turn It In: Submit the Teaching Observation at the class immediately following using the professor's guidelines.

Make Connections: Finally, call or e-mail the observed instructor within a few days of the observation to thank him/her for their assistance.

FIELD EXPERIENCE / OBSERVATION GUIDE

The following are questions to consider when observing a music teacher in the classroom. These questions can guide your written remarks that you will submit for your course requirement(s).

FACILITIES & EQUIPMENT

- How was the general classroom area set up?
- What instruments and materials were present?
- How were the instruments stored?
- What was the procedure for moving, setting up, and re-storing the instruments?
- What was the general condition of the equipment?
- Where were the musicians and instruments positioned in relation to the instructor?
- Where were the musicians and instruments positioned in relation to the other students or ensemble?

INSTRUCTOR & TEACHING TECHNIQUES

- What do you observe, in general, regarding the instructor's attitude and behavior towards the students?
- How did the teacher model appropriate musicianship for the students with his/her voice, demeanor, body language, and attitude?
- What qualities did you observe in the instructor that contributed to effective classroom management?
- What musical concepts are taught as a part of the class and how are they presented?
- What strategies did the teacher use to build the musical knowledge of the students?
- What teaching techniques did you observe that enhanced classroom management?
- What are some teaching techniques you observed that you will likely use in your own classroom?
- What are teaching techniques you observed that you will not likely use in your own classroom?

STUDENTS

- What did you observe, in general, regarding the students and their attitudes, personalities, and behaviors?
- How did the students interact (or not) with each other?
- How did the students respond (or not) with the instructor?
- How did the musicians treat the equipment and instruments?
- What instruments and/or equipment were handled properly / not properly?
- What playing techniques were performed properly / not properly?
- What was the students' level of interest in class activities?
- What did the students appear to enjoy the most?
- What did the students appear to enjoy the least?