Online Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study in Music Education

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Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study in Music Education (CAGS)

Professional Development on Your Terms

Your experience in the classroom and advanced education has served you and your students well over the years. But keeping up with new technology, policy, emerging methods and the latest theory is tough, especially when it means commuting or even moving to a college campus far away from home. Since you already have a Master’s degree, advancing your career and compensation with a doctoral degree would be great, but that kind of commitment is just not possible for everyone.

Now, there is a new alternative – the online Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study in Music Education, a 32 credit program that will enhance your technological skills and revitalize your practice with new methods based on the latest theory — all without leaving your community or the job you love.

Students will complete several foundational courses in music education, which will cover historical, philosophical, psychological, and sociological aspects of the field. Students will then select the remaining courses depending on which area(s) they wish to strengthen in their practice, including music technology, leadership, or research. Students may select courses that fall within a combination of areas.

Sample Course Offerings

MUSIC EDUCATION

ME 740: Introduction to Music Education Research
In this course, students become acquainted with a variety of research that informs music education, learn both to critique and apply that research, and develop their scholarly writing skills. Note: This course is typically waived for DMA students who have enrolled in a similar course during Master’s degree study. [4 cr.]

ME 741: Foundations of Music Education I: Philosophy and History
The purpose of this course is to examine and discuss historical and contemporary philosophical ideas and problems in music and music education. A goal is for students to develop a sharpened sensitivity to past and present thought (primarily, but not limited to historical and philosophical thought) in the field of music education in order to better inform their own curricular and instructional choices. [4 cr.]

ME 742: Foundations of Music Education II: Psychology and Sociology
The purpose of this course is to critically examine psychological and sociological concepts as they relate to music and education. Topics include key issues and concepts in psychology and sociology; psychology as related to music education processes; problems encountered in the sociology of music education; and cultural influences that affect both the psychology of the individual and the sociological aspects of group dynamics. [4 cr.]

ME 841: Quantitative Research Methods in Music Education
Quantitative research methods and their application to educational research contexts; quantitative research design, sampling techniques, reliability and validity, descriptive and inferential statistics, quantitative studies in music education, and using software to conduct statistical analysis. [4 cr.]

ME 842: Qualitative Research Methods in Music Education
This course introduces graduate students to key issues and concepts in qualitative research. Students develop skills in conducting interviews, and observations; they gain experience with ethnographic and narrative techniques including transcribing, coding, interpreting data and presenting results of analysis. [4 cr.]

ME 542: Music Technology Pedagogy
This course serves to expand the knowledge that many teachers have about uses of technology for teaching music. Students explore music technology pedagogy; that is, the practice of teaching music in a technologically enhanced environment and the special kinds of teaching skills required to do so effectively. Students examine theoretical foundations of the uses of technology for music teaching, including theories of student interaction with technology, multimedia principles, and technology-infused music curricula. Students will design a technology based curricular unit of music study and implement that unit in a real-world scenario such as their own classroom or studio. [4 cr.]

We believe that having a CAGS in Music Education will be an outstanding credential for teachers seeking promotion and leadership opportunities in the field of Music Education.

-- William G. McManus, Ed.D.
Associate Director of the School of Music for Music Education
ME 751: Community Music Perspectives
Drawing upon the social, cultural, political, and economic milieu including movements in music education, music therapy and ethnomusicology, this course first examines reasons for the growth and development of community music. Students will be asked to trace an aspect of community music that may be considered as part of its heritage and also to evaluate and critique a contemporary community music project through fieldwork. Students will then be in a position to articulate their own vision for community music both as a practicum and as a scholarly pursuit. [4 cr.]

ME 840: Contemporary Issues in Music Education
Study of current issues influencing the state of music education in schools. Focus on the interpretation, implementation, and development of policy. Topics include public policy, politics, advocacy, diversity, evaluation, and curriculum. [4 credits]

MUSICOLGY

MH 835: American Music
Overview of early music in the colonies. Various attempts to create an individual “American” musical style. Diversity of influences: European, African-American, Indian, Spanish-Mexican, religious, jazz, folk song, minstrel, etc. Music of Billings, Lowell, Mason, Gottschalk, MacDowell, Ives, Gershwin, Copland, and others. [4 cr.]

MH 837: Crossroads: Musical and Cultural Perspectives on the Blues
Examination of the blues in its musical and cultural dimensions. Focuses on defining the blues as a place where cultures and styles meet. Chord structure, cultural background, characteristics, major themes, different regional styles and dialects, and its place in history will be examined along with the cultural idea of “crossroads.” [4 cr.]

MH 700: Research and Bibliography
Methods and materials of research in the music disciplines, including bibliographical and writing styles. [4 cr.]

MUSIC THEORY

MT 600: Analytical Techniques I
Investigations (systemic and empirical) into formal and compositional procedures of selected masterworks from the tonal repertoire. Lectures lead to individual analytical projects. [4 cr.]

MT 781: Jazz and Popular Arranging
Analysis of combo, vocal and jazz ensemble literature from a variety of grade levels. Development of arranging and composing skills in the jazz idiom. Overview of score study, rehearsal, and programming topics pertaining to jazz ensemble development and leadership. Individual analytical and arranging projects. [4 cr.]

MT 630: Orchestration
Contemporary orchestral techniques, focusing on scoring for modern winds, brass, strings and mixed ensembles, including full orchestra. Concepts include chord spacing, melodic projection, layering and delineation of material, and extended instrumental techniques. [4 cr.]

Admission Requirements

Applications to the Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study in Music Education online certificate program will be accepted every 7 weeks. Applicants will be reviewed for admission based upon the following criteria and materials:

Application Requirements:
• Completed application for graduate admission to the College of Fine Arts.
• Non-refundable application fee of $95.
• Two (2) current recommendations from immediate supervisors, music teachers, mentors, and/or undergraduate faculty addressing your leadership abilities in music education and potential for success in graduate studies.
• Official transcripts from all colleges and universities attended.
• Personal statement (1-2 pages) describing your purpose in pursuing graduate work, career objectives, and particular interest in BU; and current résumé.
• Applicants must hold a Master of Music in Music Education or the equivalent.

Qualities of a Competitive Applicant:
• Completion of a master’s degree in Music Education or the equivalent (please contact our office for clarity regarding equivalency).
• Cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher.
• Current or recent classroom music teaching experience.
• Complete application requirements.

Please refer to the online application for instructions on how to submit application materials.

For assistance, please contact our Manager of Online Admissions at 1-855-884-5636 or email cfaapply@bu.edu.

Detailed requirements available on our website at www.bu.edu/cfa/online/onlineadmissions.