

School of Music Illinois State University

Bachelor of Music Education (BME)

Program Objectives

The objectives of the BME degree program are intended to assist students to:

- Demonstrate the principles of tone production and technique in his/her primary performance medium;
 - Demonstrate the principles of conducting, tone production, and technique in his/her area of teaching concentration;
 - Read, analyze, and reproduce at sight, where appropriate, literature presented in 200-level music courses;
 - Demonstrate comprehension of the structure and design of musical compositions;
 - Demonstrate knowledge of music of Western civilization and how it relates to human history;
 - Demonstrate knowledge of world music;
 - Understand the role of music education in the schools.
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Assessment of Student Outcomes

The BME degree program has a number of assessments all students must pass before they can graduate.

- A most critical initial step is that all students desiring to enter the pre-music education curriculum must first be admitted to the School of Music in some performing medium. It is at this point that a “casual” music student would be eliminated. Only students demonstrating sufficient performance skills and also promise for future growth are admitted to the program.
- Subsequently, all students must progress successfully through the core curriculum at the freshman and sophomore levels. In addition, students must show progress in their applied music studies.
- At the conclusion of their second year all students take the Senior College Exam, a comprehensive music test. The test assesses an appropriate level of mastery of aural dictation, music literature, sight singing, and performance. Failure in one or more areas means that the student will have to re-take the part(s) of the exam failed. Students are given two opportunities to pass this examination. If they fail, they are dismissed from the music education program.
- All music education majors are required to meet Level IV piano proficiency before continuing into the professional education courses. (This barrier acknowledges the critical role of keyboard skills in music teacher education.)
- All music education majors must pass at least one semester of advanced (200 level) applied lessons in music after a successful performance audition for acceptance into advanced applied instruction. (This barrier acknowledges the critical role of musicianship skills on an instrument or voice in music teacher education.)
- All music education majors must complete College of Education requirements in order to be admitted to “professional education” status. (These requirements are listed on the ISU College of Education Teaching Redbirds web site.)

- All music education majors must pass a basic skills test in music before being allowed to enroll for student teaching. This examination is required for teacher certification in the State of Illinois.
 - Students must successfully present a half or full recital on their major instrument during their Junior year of applied study.
 - Students must successfully complete student teaching in which they are evaluated using assessment rubrics developed by the Music Education Faculty.
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