



School of Music | School of Education

Bachelor of Music Education Handbook

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Welcome to the Bachelor of Music Education (B.M.E.) degree program at Shepherd University! This degree is designed to prepare you to teach music in school and community settings. Specifically, the Bachelor of Music Education is a professional degree leading to teacher certification and licensure in the state of West Virginia. As such, you will take courses in both the School of Music and the School of Education. We have coordinated your program of study to meet all necessary requirements from the West Virginia Department of Education (WVDE), the National Association of Schools of Music (NASM), and the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP).

Curriculum

Before you begin taking education and pedagogy classes, you'll decide which music education curriculum track to follow: instrumental or vocal. With that decision made, you'll work with your advisor to determine which courses to take and when. Please refer to the **Shepherd University Catalog** (<http://catalog.shepherd.edu>) for official degree requirements and the 4-year progressions for either the instrumental or vocal track. Always make sure you are looking at the correct year's catalog to ensure you are taking the appropriate courses.

You can also find the 4-year progressions on the School of Music website under "Current Students." Cross reference with the catalog version to double check requirements.

Educator Preparation Program Entry (Juncture 1)

Once you begin your studies in the B.M.E. program, you'll take a series of courses and exams so that you can apply for admission into the Educator Preparation Program (EPP) by the School of Education, the Educator Preparation Program Committee (EPPC), your advisor, and the music specialization area coordinator (Dr. Austin Showen). This application and approval process is called **Juncture 1** and should be completed when you are taking **EDUC 320**. Here are the required grades, courses, and exams you'll need to pass before you apply for Juncture 1:

- **pass all 3 sections of the Praxis I: "Core Academic Skills for Educators" exam** (<https://www.ets.org/praxis/wv>)
 - o or provide proof of exemption per qualifying ACT/SAT scores
- MUSC 100
- ENGL 101 & 102
- COMM 202
- EDUC 320 (can be in progress)
- C or above in all courses, 2.75 GPA

The Juncture 1 form can be found on the School of Education website under "Resources" (<https://www.shepherd.edu/education/resources>). Fill out the form electronically or print out and write neatly. Here's how to proceed and the sequence of steps for approval:

- **send the form to certification analyst Peggy Swisher via email (pswisher@shepherd.edu) or print out and take it to Knutti 114B**
- Ms. Swisher will verify your test scores and grades and then send the form to your advisor and Dr. Showen
- Your advisor will review, sign, and send the form to Dr. Showen for review by the School of Music faculty
- If approved, Dr. Showen will sign the form and return to Ms. Swisher
- Ms. Swisher then sends your name to EPPC for final review and approval

Juncture 1 is also the process by which you move on to your upper level education coursework. The preferred submission deadline is generally late September for the Fall semester and late February for the Spring. Getting your application in by the deadline guarantees you a seat in your next EDUC class. You can still submit after the deadline, but without the guarantee (Ms. Swisher posts the due dates at the beginning of the semester).

Field Experience (Practicum)

Prior to your student teaching semester you'll complete ~130 hours of public school field experience in districts from around the region, which may include counties in WV, VA, and MD. Here is the sequence of field experience hours with respective courses:

Foundational Courses (28 hrs.)

- MUSC 100: job shadow experience (8 hrs.)
- EDUC 320: field observation (20 hrs.)

Pedagogy & Methods (105 hrs.)

- EDUC 443: field experience (50 hrs.)
- MUSC 322: field experience (15 hrs.)
- MUSC 325: field experience (15 hrs.)
- MUSC 326: community music service learning (10 hrs.)
field experience (15 hrs.)

Student Teaching Entry (Juncture 2)

Once you've completed all of your coursework and field experience, you'll be ready to begin student teaching. This usually happens in the Spring semester of your 4th year, but may also be completed in the Fall semester if you transferred to Shepherd or took an extra semester.

In the semester before student teaching (when you're taking **EDUC 443**) you'll apply for admission to student teaching, otherwise known as **Juncture 2**. This step verifies that you have completed all required coursework (except what you register for during student teaching) and that you have passed the **Praxis II: Music Content Knowledge (5113)** exam with score of 155 or higher.* Just like in Juncture 1, you'll fill out the Juncture 2 form (on the School of Education website under "Resources") and send it to Peggy Swisher (see above). The process is exactly the same as Juncture 1, only this time it's to make sure you're ready to begin student teaching.

*If you're concerned about passing the Praxis II, you can do the following:

- use ETS's online resources to study (<https://www.ets.org/praxis/prepare/materials/5113>)
- register to take the exam 2 semesters before student teaching instead of 1 (which gives you more time to retake if needed)

Student Teaching Semester

In your student teaching semester you'll have 2 field placements: one elementary and one middle or high school placement. Helen Baker, the field placement coordinator for the School of Education, will meet with you to discuss your options and arrange your placements. Shepherd has field placement agreements with several school districts in the region, including Jefferson County, WV; Berkeley County, WV; Washington County, MD; Frederick County, MD; Loudon County, VA; and Frederick County, VA.

During student teaching, you'll work with 2 cooperating teachers (elementary and secondary) and your university supervisor (Dr. Showen) to hone your teaching skills and support student learning. Dr. Showen will evaluate your teaching 5 times using the Skills of Teaching Observation Tool (STOT), written notes, and one-on-one conferencing.

In order to become certified and licensed to teach in WV, you'll also complete the **Teaching Performance Assessment (edTPA)**. edTPA is designed to assess how well you prepare instruction, engage students, and support their learning over several unified lessons. You'll submit your assessment portfolio while you are student teaching, usually in your first placement. Dr. LeAnn Johnson and Dr. Showen will help guide you through the process (see <https://www.shepherd.edu/studentteaching/> for more information about student teaching).