



## Music Education Testing & School of Education Application Requirements

All students seeking a degree in music education are required to complete state, university, and program mandated tests and exams prior to graduation. A short explanation of these exams are listed below.

### State testing requirements

**Praxis Exams** The Praxis Exams are a series of three tests that are to be taken at different stages of the music education degree. Praxis I (also known as the Pre-Professional Standards Test, or PPST) measures basic skills in mathematics, reading, and writing. All music education students are encouraged to take this exam during the first 60 hours of enrollment at USCA. Praxis II is a content-area exam, so for music education students, this test measures basic knowledge in music and the arts. This exam is completed after admittance into the Professional Program (see below for more information on the Professional Program). The final exam, Praxis III, covers classroom performance assessments. This exam is completed during a music education major's Internship semester, just prior to graduation.

#### **Praxis Exams At-a-Glance**

- Fee required for each exam;
- Tests completed at different times during the degree
- All scores must be reported to the State Department of Education and the School of Education
- High School Seniors who scored at least 1100 on the SAT (two-part test), a 1650 on the SAT (three-part test), or at least a 24 on the ACT may be exempt from taking the Praxis I
- Students must have passing scores on all three portions of the Praxis I to be admitted into the Professional Program
- Students must successfully complete Praxis III prior to graduation
- More information about these exams may be found at [www.usca.edu/education/praxis.html](http://www.usca.edu/education/praxis.html)

### School of Education requirements

**Application to Professional Program** After the completion of approximately 90 hours of coursework, music education majors are required to apply to the Professional Program through the USCA School of Education. During this application process, students are asked to submit examples of paperwork and are interviewed by School of Education faculty.

#### **Professional Program Minimum Requirements**

- Student must have completed at least sixty (60) hours of coursework, maintained a minimum Grade Point Average of 2.75, and the Praxis I exam must be completed
- Fall applications due October 1 (to begin Professional Program classes the following Spring) – spring applications due February 1 (to begin Professional Program the following Fall)

**Application for Internship** This application is due the semester prior to Internship, or the time when you practice teaching students in the public schools under the supervision of a cooperating teacher and a member of the music education faculty. Students submit the application and an education portfolio to the School of Education.

#### **Internship Minimum Requirements**

- Students must have successfully completed all coursework, Junior Writing Portfolio, and Praxis testing (except Praxis III) with a minimum GPA of 2.75
- Application must be completed and returned to the School of Education by October 15 for spring interns – February 15 for fall interns

## Music requirements

**Entrance auditions** All incoming students planning to major in music education are required to audition for the music faculty prior to the first semester of enrollment. These auditions occur at different times during the academic year. All current information regarding audition requirements and dates is available online at [www.usca.edu/visualandperformingarts](http://www.usca.edu/visualandperformingarts).

**Matriculation exams** These exams occur prior to the beginning of each semester and measure basic understanding of music theory, music history, and piano. The results help ensure all students receive the correct placement in music classes as well as necessary individual attention to ensure early academic success.

**Junior music exams** These exams take place during music education majors third year of study as they prepare to enter the Professional Program. The exams measure basic knowledge in the areas of music theory and music history. Students must receive a passing grade to be admitted into the Professional Program.

**Solo recital** All music education majors are required to complete at least one solo recital prior to Internship placement by the School of Education. Recitals must be at least thirty minutes in duration of solo literature.

**Piano proficiency** Prior to Internship, all music education majors must successfully complete a Piano Proficiency Exam. The exam may be completed concurrently with piano juries.

## Advisement

The next two pages are representative advisement schedules for incoming students in music education. One page is for students seeking choral certification and the other is for students seeking instrumental certification. Dual certification is available as well. For more information about the possibility of attaining certification in both the choral and instrumental areas, please contact one of the music faculty.

If you have any other questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

For more information, visit [www.usca.edu/visualandperformingarts](http://www.usca.edu/visualandperformingarts)