

# Music

Northern's degrees in music education (BME) and music (BA or BS) are accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music. A 20-credit music minor is also offered. Non majors are also encouraged participate in ensembles, private lessons, and other music courses. The BME degree prepares students for careers in public or private school education. The BA and BS degrees provide a solid musical training for students interested in careers as professional performers or in other music-related careers (Some are listed under Potential Careers, below). The music field is competitive and requires both talent and perseverance. Preparation is the foundation for success. NMU music graduates receive excellent academic preparation and form relationships with dedicated faculty members who provide long-term encouragement and support.

## Skills and Competencies

Music Education : An effective music teacher must possess many skills, including the abilities to read musical notation quickly and understand the elements of music in a wide range of styles. He or she must be able to rehearse and conduct vocal and instrumental groups for students of various ages and abilities. Music teaching requires strong interpersonal and communication skills. Music Careers in General: Music students take courses in theory, aural training, and music history. They rehearse and perform with instrumental and/or vocal ensembles. They take private lessons on an instrument (or voice) and present a final senior recital or performing project. Depending on the music-related profession, other skills are developed through a combination of classes and practical 'on the job' experience. These may include auditioning techniques, theatrical training, audio engineering, arts management, or music retail experience, to name just a few.

## Course Work

**Complete details on music degrees can be found at [www.nmu.edu/music](http://www.nmu.edu/music) Here is a brief overview:**

### ***Core courses (all majors)***

**Four semesters of music theory and aural skills, introductory music appreciation followed by three semesters of music history. Core also includes form and analysis, basic composition, and arranging. Students present a senior recital or project.**

### ***General Education (all majors)***

**To broaden their educational experience outside their major, NMU students take a variety of courses from the General Education curriculum. Courses are selected to fulfill specific learning outcomes, including critical thinking, social responsibility, integrative thinking, and human expression. Some of these credits must be of certain types or at certain levels (see Bulletin for details).**

### ***Performance Lessons, Ensembles, and Piano (all majors)***

**Music majors take private lessons on their primary instrument (or voice) and participate in various performing groups. They must also attain the level of piano skill required by their particular degree.**

### ***Music Education only***

**BME majors study conducting and other courses related to dealing with performing groups and teaching music in schools. They learn to play standard band and orchestra instruments in order to teach them at a school level. Students complete professional education courses offered by the School of Education and successfully complete a semester of student teaching. Michigan certification is Pre-K-12, instrumental and vocal.**

### ***For the Bachelor of Arts/Science Major***

**BA or BS majors complete a program of electives in music and must complete a minor. The BA degree has a foreign language requirement.**

*Detailed course descriptions can be found at [www.nmu.edu/bulletin](http://www.nmu.edu/bulletin).*

## Career Development

It is never too early to begin developing your resume. Look for chances to perform, listen to music, participate in workshops, attend concerts, and teach. Develop relationships with music teachers and other professional musicians; ask questions and form a network of contacts. To prepare for majoring in music in college, you should take as much music theory as you can, develop your music-reading skills, learn to play the piano, and of course study your major instrument, with a private teacher if possible. Overall, dedicate yourself to being a strong and consistent student; keep your grade point average high. The Academic and Career Advisement Center can assist you with career planning.

## Additional Considerations

Employers in many fields take notice of applicants with music degrees; music study requires a high level of discipline, musicians are creative and positive, and musical aptitude is known to be correlated with other desirable skills.

For non-teaching music majors, the choice of minor is important since many careers combine music with other skills. For instance, a public relations minor might be a good choice for a music major hoping to work in concert promotion.

## Job Outlook

Though public school music education programs are affected by local and state budget difficulties, there is a reliable and steady supply of teaching jobs for graduates who are well qualified and willing to relocate. Northern's music education graduates have been extremely successful in locating teaching positions. The median salary public high school music teachers in is approx \$65,000. In non-teaching music careers, performance musicians earned a median hourly wage of \$25.14 in 2016 (Bureau of Labor Statistics).

# Potential Careers

NMU's Music Program prepares students for employment in the following careers:

- Music education
- Church music
- Performer or band member
- Armed forces musician  
(Military band)
- Arts and culture director
- Songwriter
- Audio engineer
- Broadcasting
- Music retail
- Composer/Arranger
- Conductor
- Film or video game music
- Music librarian
- Private lesson instruction
- Promotion/ Marketing for Arts  
Organizations
- Rehearsal accompanist
- Reviewer, music writer

# Additional Resources and Information

For Career Planning and Opportunities:  
Academic & Career Advisement Center  
3302.1 C.B. Hedgcock  
906-227-2971  
[www.nmu.edu/acac](http://www.nmu.edu/acac)

Music Department  
102 Thomas Fine Arts  
906-227-2563  
[www.nmu.edu/music](http://www.nmu.edu/music)

For Job Search, Resume and Career Information:  
Career Services  
3302.3 C.B. Hedgcock  
906-227-2800  
[www.nmu.edu/careers](http://www.nmu.edu/careers)

The National Association for Music Education

For information about NMU Student Organizations Associated with this Major Contact:  
Center for Student Enrichment  
1206 University Center  
906-227-2439  
[www.nmu.edu/cse](http://www.nmu.edu/cse)

Wildcat Marching Band  
<http://www.nmu.edu/music/node/21>

Internet Resource Links:  
[www.careers.org](http://www.careers.org)  
[www.bls.gov](http://www.bls.gov)

National Association for Music Education  
[www.nafme.org](http://www.nafme.org)



**NORTHERN MICHIGAN  
UNIVERSITY**

MARQUETTE, MICHIGAN

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What to do with  
a major in...

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