

## **UNC Music Education Division Field Experience Requirements**

Per regulations of the Colorado Department of Education, teacher candidates must acquire 800 hours of field experience in order to earn their Initial Teacher License. 640 of these hours are earned through student teaching (16 weeks × 40 hours per week). The remaining 160 hours are acquired prior to student teaching. These hours are distributed throughout our Bachelor of Music Education degree program.

Hours are tracked through our Advising Center, via Airtable. By graduation, every student will have a record of earning 800 hours, in a variety of musical settings (band/choir/general music/orchestra/etc) and grades (elementary & secondary). **Students are responsible for adhering to individual course requirements.** Faculty ultimately determine when/where/how hours will be earned, and reported, for their specific classes. This will be outlined in the syllabus for the class and students are responsible for earning and reporting hours in the specified manner.

The link to the Airtable form can be found here: <https://arts.unco.edu/education/>

Students are encouraged to use this time in the field to make notes about specific teachers and teaching styles. Consider who you might like to student teach with. Having a list of names of teachers you'd like to work with is invaluable. Also be mindful of how you present yourself. Every time you go out you are potentially interviewing for student teaching opportunities.

### **Hours assigned within coursework**

10 hours – MUS 210 Introduction to Music Education

15 hours – MUS 310 General Music Pedagogy I

10 hours – MUS 312 Instrumental Music Pedagogy

10 hours – MUS 413 Contemporary and Culturally Responsive Music Pedagogy

45 hours – MUS 414 Transitional Capstone (includes formal Practicum hours)

= 90 hours

### **Self-Directed hours**

The Music Education faculty will maintain a “pot of hours” that you can select from for your remaining 70 hours. All these experiences will be outlined in the Canvas shell. Some of the opportunities in the pot will include:

- Additional courses that assign hours
- Field Experience Fridays (3 Fridays a semester; faculty will plan a full day of traveling to schools in the 15-passenger van earning at least 5 hours of experience per day)
- Western States Honor Orchestra Festival (on campus in fall)
- In the Middle Choral Festival (on campus in fall or spring)
- All-State Band (on campus in spring)
- Jazz Fest (on campus in spring)
- String Project (on campus fall and spring)
- Greeley Children’s Chorale (off campus fall and spring)

Please note: if you earn more than 70 hours from “the pot,” that does not excuse you from hours required within coursework.

### **Division Policies**

All experiences should be directly related to the classroom, musical education of K-12 students. (State requirement, not just Division policy.)

Each experience can only count once. Hours may NOT “double-count.”

Virtual/digital observations may be accepted, at the discretion of the appropriate faculty member. Please confirm with the syllabus, and/or instructor, whether a virtual observation is acceptable.

You may not observe a class taught by an immediate family member or a significant other/partner/spouse.

### **Suggestions for Faculty**

Coordinating specific, assigned field experiences for students is preferable to letting them figure it out on their own. This ensures they see a quality placement, consistently.

Opportunities for the whole class (or a large group) to observe together *and reflect together* are highly encouraged. Group discussion often leads to deeper understanding.

Consider allowing “K-12 concert viewing” as an acceptable way to earn hours, perhaps with a cap on how many concerts, or hours, are acceptable.

Consider allowing “teaching private lessons” as an acceptable way to earn hours, with a cap on how many hours are acceptable (so they are required to see other people teaching as well).

Please consider managing some of the hours attached to your course within class time and/or class assignments.

**Above all, please be as specific as possible in your syllabus with how/when/where hours may be earned and how students are responsible for reporting them.**