

UNC Music Education Area 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 programs and our post-baccalaureate licensure programs.

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 class(es). 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/>

Professional Development:

All students should complete 20 hours of music-classroom-specific Professional Development. This may occur any semester *before* student teaching and will be logged via Airtable. Professional Development opportunities include:

- Conferences (CMEA, CBA, ASTA, ACDA, etc.). Please note you will report each session you attend separately, including title & presenter.
- Presentations hosted by UNC student organizations (CCBA, ASTA, ACDA, MTNA, etc.).
- Professional webinars.
- If there are other opportunities you would like considered for PD credit, please contact a music education faculty member for approval.

Techniques Courses for all students:

3 hours	MUS 314 Guitar in the Classroom Content-specific hours will be provided by faculty within class, or as assignments. Successful completion of the course will result in 3 hours added to Airtable.
3 hours	MUS 330 String Techniques Content-specific hours will be provided by faculty within class, or as assignments. Successful completion of the course will result in 3 hours added to Airtable.
3 hours	MUS 361 Single Reed and Flute Content-specific hours will be provided by faculty within class, or as assignments. Successful completion of the course will result in 3 hours added to Airtable.
3 hours	MUS 365 Percussion Techniques Content-specific hours will be provided by faculty within class, or as assignments. Successful completion of the course will result in 3 hours added to Airtable.
3 hours	MUS 368 Brass Techniques I Content-specific hours will be provided by faculty within class, or as assignments. Successful completion of the course will result in 3 hours added to Airtable.
Total:	15 hours

Methods Courses for all students:

10 hours	MUS 210 Introduction to Music Education Some hours provided by faculty within class. Some earned solo by students. All submitted to Airtable.
15 hours	MUS 310 Teaching General Music in the Elementary Schools Some hours provided by faculty within class. Some earned solo by students. All submitted to Airtable.
15 hours	MUS 312 Teaching Instrumental Music in the Elementary Schools Some hours provided by faculty within class. Some earned solo by students. All submitted to Airtable.
10 hours	MUS 325 Choral Methods and Literature for Elementary and Secondary Schools Some hours provided by faculty within class. Some earned solo by students. All submitted to Airtable.
10 hours	MUS 404 Jazz Methods and Materials Some hours provided by faculty within class. Some earned solo by students. All submitted to Airtable.
10 hours	MUS 413 Teaching Contemporary and Culturally Responsive Music in Schools Some hours provided by faculty within class. Some earned solo by students. All submitted to Airtable.
35 hours	MUS 414 Transitional Capstone Course in Music Education Hours are completed as a practicum, assigned and arranged by faculty. Documentation will be submitted to Airtable.
Total:	105 hours

VPG – Specific Courses:

5 hours	MUS 323 Choral Techniques and Conducting Content-specific hours will be provided by faculty within class, or as assignments. Successful completion of the course will result in 3 hours added to Airtable.
15 hours	MUS 324 Choral Conducting and Pedagogy for Elementary and Secondary Schools Some hours provided by faculty within class. Some earned solo by students. All submitted to Airtable.
Total:	20 hours

Instrumental – Specific Courses:

5 hours	MUS 320 Wind Literature, Pedagogy, and Conducting Some hours provided by faculty within class. Some earned solo by students. All submitted to Airtable.
10 hours	MUS 331 String Pedagogy and Literature for the Instrumental Music Teacher Some hours provided by faculty within class. Some earned solo by students. All submitted to Airtable.
5 hours	MUS 356 Marching Band Techniques Some hours provided by faculty within class. Some earned solo by students. All submitted to Airtable.
Total:	20 hours

20 hours Professional Development
15 hours Techniques Courses
105 hours Methods Courses
20 hours Track-Specific Courses
640 hours Student Teaching
= 800 hours

Area Policies

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

For Methods and Track-Specific Courses:

- 50% of the given hours for a course may be completed prior to the course through other approved instructional experiences (e.g., teaching private lessons, work at a summer music camp). These experiences must have occurred in the calendar year prior to the course.
- At least 50% of the given hours for a course must be completed during the course itself, as approved, as assigned, and/or as directed by the course instructor. (*Exception: hours for MUS 414 are completed as a practicum, completely within the course.*)

Each experience can only count once. (Sessions at conferences count as individual experiences.)
Hours may NOT “double-count” between classes.

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.

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 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.

- Techniques classes are expected to operate this way. For example, MUS 330 will include at least 3 hours of watching K-12 students perform, primarily through video. We will do some of this in class together, and some of it will be a homework assignment.

- Methods classes can also utilize this approach. For example, MUS 331 will include some watching of videos in class and some in-person field trips to observe orchestra classes as a large group. Because these experiences will be built into class, students will only need to plan for 5 hours of observation outside of class time (and even these will likely be arranged by faculty).

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.