Music Education

The Crane School of Music is home to one of the world's oldest and largest music teacher education programs. In fact, music education is Crane's proudest legacy. Crane graduates hold leadership positions in local school districts and in state and national organizations that shape our nation's musical future.

At Crane, all your classes and field experiences will be taught by fully qualified faculty who possess years of teaching experience and hold degrees from North America's most prestigious universities. Crane faculty are active in the field, authoring books, conducting research, presenting at conferences, participating in international consortium projects, and serving as officers in state, national and international organizations. Most importantly, members of our faculty are deeply committed to your success.

Graduates of our program:

- Teach with care, commitment and purpose. Engage in thoughtful dialogue about issues in the profession.
- Reflect on their personal and professional growth and development.
- Contribute to music education through research, innovation, and leadership.
- Excel in graduate study.

As a Music Education major, you will complete coursework in one of four specializations, based on an area of teaching in which you wish to focus: band, chorus, orchestra or general music. These areas of specialization provide focused preparation including techniques courses, in which you will learn to play and teach a variety of instruments; practices courses, in which you will learn the approaches and repertoire associated with your area; and practicum courses, in which you will teach children and adolescents. Crane offers an outstanding variety of opportunities for teaching, including the General Music Practicum, Band Practicum, String Practicum, The Children's Chorus of Crane, and the National String Project at Crane.

Foundations

Music Education majors in our program build strong educational and musical foundations through:

- Performance
- Conducting
- Keyboard Skills
- Music History
- Music Theory and Aural Skills
- Music Teaching and Learning
- Principles of Music Education
- Practica and Student Teaching
Options
Many students choose to add a concentration, a minor, or even a second major to their degree program.

The Piano Pedagogy Concentration provides students with the skills and experience needed to teach students successfully, from children to adults, and to run an independent piano studio.

The Music in Special Education Concentration provides students with the skills and experiences needed to successfully teach students with a variety of disabilities in both the inclusive and self-contained classrooms.

The Jazz Studies Minor provides guided experiences in jazz improvisation, performance, history, arranging and pedagogy, and prepare you to successfully teach jazz concepts and direct jazz ensembles in the public school setting.

Music education students can also consider the Business of Music Minor, a course of study that will lead you into career interest areas in the music business, and the Composition Minor, which includes coursework in acoustic and computer composition, orchestration and counterpoint.

Graduate Studies
The Crane School also offers the Master of Music in Music Education degree, which can be completed in a variety of ways: on-campus over one academic year or over as few as two summers for active teachers.

To be considered for graduate music scholarships and graduate assistantships, graduate admissions materials are due by March 2nd (for fall admission). There are also options for earning both the Masters degree and music education certification for students who have an undergraduate music degree in an area other than music education. For more, see: www.potsdam.edu/academics/Crane/graduate_studies/.

Electives
Crane offers a wide variety of electives covering diverse topics such as global music, technology in the music classroom, music therapy, marching band technique, directing musical theater, legal issues in teaching, and many other topics, as well as opportunities for independent research one-on-one with faculty.

Guest Educators
The Music Education Department regularly brings guests speakers and clinicians to campus. Recent guests have included Joy Douglas Visiting Master Teachers such as creativity expert Sandra Stauffer, teacher Colleen McMahon Regan; choral director Janet Galvan, Dalcroze specialist David Frego, piano pedagogue Randall Faber; early childhood and world music specialist Patricia Shehan Campbell; and visiting panelist for the Crane Symposium on Music Teacher Education, such as James Austin (University of Colorado-Boulder), Janet Barret (Northwestern University Bienen School of Music), Jeffery Kimpton (Interlochen Center for the Arts), Marsha Kindall-Smith (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee), Evan Tobias (Arizona State University), Betty Anne Younker (University of Western Ontario), Linda Thompson (Lee University), and Robert Cutietta (University of Southern California Thornton School of Music).

Apply to Crane
You will find complete information about Crane and SUNY Potsdam on our website, including detailed information about the application and audition process.

“We must teach, that this teaching be done well is certainly of the highest importance.”
Julia Crane, founder of The Crane School of Music

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SUNY Potsdam Office of Admissions Email: admissions@potsdam.edu

Students at the Crane School of Music can complete both the Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees in Music Education in five years.