



October 30, 2017

TO: Dr. Randy Smith, Vice Provost of Academic Programs
FROM: Jan Edwards, Associate Director and Chair of Undergraduate Studies, School of Music
SUBJECT: Request for curriculum change: Bachelor of Music Education

The music education faculty in the School of Music requests modifications to the BME curriculum to better tailor each of three available tracks to its area of specialty, and to reflect the broader range of electives that are now available to undergraduate music education majors. With this request, I include a rationale from the music education faculty.

The BME degree has three specialty tracks from which students may select: instrumental, choral, and general music teaching. There is a precedent in the instrumental curriculum for students to take two major methods courses that are specifically tailored to their specialty: Music 4576, Teaching Instrumental Music in Elementary Schools, and 4577, Teaching Instrumental Music in Secondary Schools. In addition, instrumental BME students are able to select two 2 credit courses from among several elective offerings (e.g., jazz pedagogy, marching band techniques, and literature courses for wind band or orchestra).

In recent history, the choral and general tracks have not appreciably differed. The only difference between the two tracks has been that choral students have taken 4575, Teaching Choral Music II, as a required course, while general students were not required to take this course. Perhaps due to constraints in faculty teaching loads, a range of electives was not available to choral and general majors as in the instrumental track. It is believed that historically, choral BMEs were required to take 4572 and 4579 (the required methods courses for general music education majors) other elective were not available to them.

The most substantive change being requested, then, is to change 4572 and 4579 from being required to elective courses in the choral track. The requirement to take 4572 (2 credits) and 4579 (2 credits) would then be replaced with a requirement to take two music education electives, a structure that parallels the instrumental track. Among the electives available to choral majors will be an offering that is more specifically focused on choral music and general music electives that reflect students' professional goals upon graduation.

With the addition of new faculty positions in music education, including a tenure-track position in choral music education in 2014, the School of Music has been able to add Music 4665, Arranging for the Music Educator, and Music 5765, Literature for Vocal Music Education, as courses students can elect to fulfill the music education elective portions of their degrees. We would now like to make our curriculum and degree sheets reflect the increased number of elective options available. Using the precedent established in the instrumental curriculum, the choral music education track will have two required major methods courses that are specifically tailored to each specialty (this is not a change) and the general music education track will retain its required courses.

General music track: Music 4572, Teaching General Music in Secondary Schools, Music 4579, Teaching General Music in Elementary Schools II, and 4574, Teaching Choral Music I remain unchanged. Students following the general music track are presently required to take Music 4574, which addresses development of the child/adolescent singing voice, because singing is a central element of P-12 general music curricula. Additionally, the proposed curriculum adds a new elective requirement that offers a selection of preparations in beginning instrumental or choral music. For example, elementary and middle school general music teachers may be interested in teaching a beginning

strings, wind band or choral ensemble. The elective choices will offer additional training in these areas, depending on the student's music teaching goal.

Choral music track: Music 4574, Teaching Choral Music I, and Music 4575, Teaching Choral Music II; removal of 4572 and 4579 as required courses; add two elective requirements to include 4572 and 4579 among the elective choices.

Instrumental music track: Music 4576, Teaching Instrumental Music in Elementary and Middle Schools, and 4577, Teaching Instrumental Music in Secondary Schools and add 5765 and 4775 among the elective choices.

The courses in the above concentrations allow students to choose from a range of elective options based on their professional goals and interests.

Rationales for the requested curricular changes follow:

1. The revised curriculum offers coursework that is tailored to students' specialization, which will better equip them for the type of teaching they plan to pursue. Specifically, Music 5765 offers a choral-specific literature course. A parallel literature experience is presently available to wind band and orchestra students. The new choral literature elective will be available to choral and general tracks and also instrumentalists, if they wish to add a choral experience to their music studies.
2. The revised curriculum increases the range of electives from which BME students may select. During our most recent NASM review, feedback suggested that the BME degree should contain a broader range of electives, and this curriculum revision helps to address that goal.

The remaining edits on the curriculum sheets include changing the elective choices from 2-3 credit courses to *2-credit* since all of the electives are two-credit courses. A small editorial change for the capstone student teaching experiences reflects the current description in the *Course Bulletin*: Music 4586, formerly "Student Teaching," now reads "Student Teaching in Music in Elementary Schools;" 4587, formerly "Student Teaching," now reads "Student Teaching in Music in Secondary Schools."

Feel free to contact me should you have any questions or concerns about this request.