



TWO DEGREES, ONE PATH

TRANSFER PATHWAY GUIDE 2025-2026

Associate in Arts to Bachelor of Music Education

Overview

Completion of the following curriculum will satisfy the requirements for an Associate in Arts (AA) at Gateway Community and Technical College (GCTC) and leads to the Bachelor of Music Education (BME) at Northern Kentucky University (NKU).

Applying to the Gateway2NKU Program

Students can apply to participate in the pathway program by completing the online application on the NKU transfer webpage. Students must be enrolled in at least six credit hours at GCTC, enrolled in an associate degree program, plan to transfer to NKU, and maintain a minimum 2.0 cumulative GPA at GCTC.

Degree Requirements for GCTC

1. Completion of minimum 60 credit hours
2. Minimum cumulative GPA 2.0
3. Minimum of 15 credit hours earned at the institution awarding the degree,
4. Demonstration of digital literacy
5. College success requirement

Admission Requirements to NKU

Students completing an associate degree with a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher will be accepted into NKU. Students wanting to major in Music Education will be pre-majors until all admission requirements for the degree have been met.

The Bachelor of Music Education is a comprehensive, professional degree program that prepares students for careers in teaching K-12 music in public and private schools. Students complete the music core and may select one of two tracks: choral/vocal or instrumental based on their applied background and their teaching interests. Applicants must be accepted to the music program through the audition process. For information about auditions, visit the website

<https://www.nku.edu/academics/sota/music/prospective/auditions.html>.

In addition, students must meet the following requirements for admission into the Teacher Education Program. Courses in parentheses are GCTC course equivalencies.

- 45 earned credit hours
 - EDU 104 with a grade of C or higher
 - PSY 100 (PSY 110)
 - CMST 101 (COM 181) with a grade of B or higher
 - ENG 102 (ENG 102) with a grade of B or higher
 - EDU 300 (EDP 202) with a grade of C or higher
 - EDU 305 (EDU 201) with a grade of C or higher
 - EDU 316 with a grade of C or higher
- 2.75 or higher overall GPA (all transfer & NKU coursework combined) - OR - 3.00 or higher GPA in your last 30 attempted credit hours
- Meet the entrance exam requirement through an approved combination of passing scores on the ACT and/or Praxis I Core Academic Skills for Educators exams*
 - ACT Comp. 22 -OR-
 - Reading (ACT: 20 -or- Praxis I: 150) and
 - Eng./Writing (ACT: 18 -or- Praxis I: 158) and
 - Mathematics (ACT: 19 -or- Praxis I: 144)
- Successful completion of a recent FBI criminal background check
- Completed Teacher Education Admission Application

*Minimum Praxis score is five (5) points lower for each subject exam if your overall GPA is 3.00 or higher.

*Passing ACT scores must be less than ten (10) years old at the date of admission to the teacher education program. Your date of admission occurs at the end of a successful admission semester, not at the beginning.

For the fall Admission Semester, the deadline to meet the above requirements must have them on file with the COE is August 1

For the spring Admission Semester, the deadline to meet the above requirements must have them on file with the COE is December 1

Registration for EDS 360, EDU 313 and Admission Field Experience (EDU 303, 307, 309, 311 or 334) may only be completed after all above requirements are met. Seats in the admission courses are limited. Therefore, to ensure the best course selection get your requirements completed early! Work with your COE advisor to ensure proper enrollment.

Degree Requirements for NKU

To earn a bachelor's degree at NKU, students must:

1. Complete a minimum of 120 credit hours
2. Complete at least 25% of the credit hours required at NKU
3. Complete the last 30 credit hours at NKU
4. Complete at least 45 credit hours numbered 300 or above
5. Minimum 2.0 cumulative GPA across all major coursework
6. Meet all requirements for the major
7. Completion of a minor, focus, or second major (if required by major)

The Bachelor of Music Education requires a higher number of total credit hours and students must maintain an overall GPA of 2.75. In addition, at least 25% of the credit hours required for the degree and the last 30 credit hours must be completed at NKU.

Candidates for certification must meet the Kentucky Department of Education certification requirements in both general and professional education. Students wishing to be certified in a state other than Kentucky are responsible for knowing and meeting the certification requirements of that state. Each student should work in close consultation with an advisor in order to meet all non-music requirements. All degree emphases in music education are exempt from the requirement to complete a minor or focus.

General Transfer Information

Students must complete the online application to NKU. There is no application fee for students who are transferring from a KCTCS institution.

KCTCS Scholars Award: Students who are KY residents transferring directly from a KCTCS institution with at least 36 hours from that institution and minimum GPA of 3.0, were never enrolled as a degree-seeking student at NKU, and will be enrolled in at least 12 credit hours both fall and spring semester are eligible for a limited number of annual scholarships (fall and spring only). Students must gain admission to NKU by June 15 for fall and November 1 for spring to be eligible for a possible scholarship. Online accelerated programs are not eligible for the KCTCS Scholars Award.

Tuition and scholarship information specific to transfer students can be viewed on the [NKU Adult & Transfer Center website](#).

GCTC AA TO NKU BME IN MUSIC EDUCATION CHECKLIST

Gateway Community and Technical College

Category 1: GCTC General Education Core Requirements

GCTC Course	Course or Category	Credits	NKU Course	Completed
ENG 101	Writing I (WC)	3	ENG 101	
ENG 102	Writing II (WC)	3	ENG 102	
COM 181	Basic Public Speaking (OC)	3	CMST 101	
TBS XXX	Arts and Humanities (AH) Heritage	3	TBD XXX	
TBS XXX	Arts and Humanities (AH) Humanities-MUS 100 recommended	3	TBD XXX	
PSY 110	General Psychology (SB)	3	PSY 100	
TBS XXX	Social & Behavioral Sciences Course (SB)	3	TBD XXX	
TBS XXX	Social & Behavioral Sciences Course (SB)	3	TBD XXX	
TBS XXX	Quantitative Reasoning (QR)	3	TBD XXX	
TBS XXX	Quantitative Reasoning Course (QR) or Natural Science Course (NS)	3	TBD XXX	
TBS XXX	Natural Science Course (SL)	4	TBD XXX	
Subtotal General Education Core Courses		34		

TBS XXX means to be selected by GCTC student.

TBD XXX means to be determined by NKU based on course selected.

For Social and Behavioral Sciences courses, two disciplines must be represented and different from those in the Arts and Humanities category.

Category 2: GCTC AA Requirements

GCTC Course	Course or Category	Credits	NKU Course	Completed
TBS XXX	General Education Elective (Arts & Humanities, Social Behavioral Science, Oral Communications, or Foreign Language)	3	TBD XXX	
TBS XXX	General Education Elective (Arts & Humanities, Social Behavioral Science, Oral Communications, or Foreign Language)	3	TBD XXX	
Subtotal AA Requirement Courses		6		

Category 3: GCTC Electives

GCTC Course	Course or Category	Credits	NKU Course	Completed
EDU 204*	Technology in the Classroom	3	EDU 313	
FYE 105 or FYE 110	Achieving Academic Success or First Year Experience and Applications	3	UNV 100T	
EDP 202	Human Development and Learning	3	EDU 300	

GCTC Course	Course or Category	Credits	NKU Course	Completed
Taken at NKU	Music Theory I	3	MUSM 111	
Taken at NKU	Music Theory II	3	MUSM 112	
Taken at NKU	Aural Skills I	1	MUSM 122	
Taken at NKU	Aural Skills II	1	MUSM 124	
EDP 203	Teaching Exceptional Learners in Regular Classrooms	3	EDS 260	
TBS XXX	Elective	3	TBD XXX	
	Subtotal Elective Courses	21		
	Total Associate Degree Hours	61		

*If completing digital literacy using other means (like FYE 110), additional credits will be required in order to fulfill elective requirements.

Northern Kentucky University

Category 4: NKU Requirements for Bachelor of Music Education

NKU Course	Course	Credits	GCTC Course	Taken at GCTC
MUSM 111	Music Theory I	3	Taken at NKU	x
MUSM 112	Music Theory II	3	Taken at NKU	x
MUSM 211	Music Theory III	3		
MUSM 212	Music Theory IV	3		
MUSM 122	Aural Skills I	1	Taken at NKU	x
MUSM 124	Aural Skills II	1	Taken at NKU	x
MUSM 140	Intro to Music History	1		
MUSM 222	Aural Skills III	1		
MUSM 224	Aural Skills IV	1		
MUSM 132	Class Piano I	1		
MUSM 134	Class Piano II	1		
MUSM 232	Class Piano III	1		
MUSM 296	Piano Proficiency	0		
MUSM 109	Recital Review	0		
MUSA 196	Freshmen Proficiency Jury	0		
MUSM 242	Survey of Western Music I	2		
MUSM 353	Survey of Western Music II	3		
MUSA 296	Sophomore Comprehensive Jury	0		
MUSM 312	Computer Applications for Musicians	1		
MUSM 311	Form and Analysis	3		
MUSA X01-X59	Applied Lessons	12		
MUSM 365	Conducting I	2		
MUSM 366	Conducting II	2		
MUSA 396	Junior Recital	0		
MUSM XXX	Elective MUSM course	3		
	Large Ensembles	7		
	Small Ensembles	1		

NKU Course	Course	Credits	GCTC Course	Taken at GCTC
	Electives in Music – MUSM courses only (3 credits)	3		
EDU 300	Human Growth and Development	3	EDP 202	x
EDU 304	Reading and Writing Across the Curriculum: Middle Grades	3		
EDU 311	Admission Field Experience Secondary	2		
EDU 325	Educational Assessment Secondary	2		
EDU 496	Clinical Experience Secondary	12		
EDS 324	Instructional Planning for Inclusive Secondary Classrooms	3		
EDS 360	Students with Exceptionalities in School	3	EDP 203	x
	Select one of the tracks: Choral/Vocal Track Instrumental Track Courses for each of the tracks are listed in Categories 5-6 tables below.	17		
	Subtotal Credit Hours Taken at GCTC	61		
	Subtotal Major Credit Hours Taken at NKU	93		
	Total credit hours required for the major	105-123		
	Total Baccalaureate Degree Credit Hours	154		

Category 5: NKU Requirements for Choral/Vocal Track

NKU Course	Course	Credits	GCTC Course	Taken at GCTC
MUSM 104	Orientation to Music Education	1		
MUSM 309	Introduction to Music Education	2		
MUSM 360	General and Vocal Music P-8	2		
Select 2: MUSM 261 MUSM 262 MUSM 263 MUSM 264	Select two methods courses: Applied Methods and Materials: Brass Applied Methods and Materials: Woodwinds Applied Methods and Materials: Strings Applied Methods and Materials: Percussion	2		
MUSM 305	Ensemble Accompanying	2		
MUSM 361	Teaching Choral Music: Middle Grades	2		
MUSM 362	Teaching Choral Music: Secondary	2		
MUSM 344	Lyric Diction I	1		
MUSM 345	Lyric Diction II	1		
MUSM 441	Vocal Pedagogy	2		
	Total Track Hours	17		

Note: Pianists in this track should take a minimum of 8 credits of Applied Piano and 6 credits of Applied Voice to fulfill their Applied Lesson requirement.

Category 6: NKU Requirements for Instrumental Track

NKU Course	Course	Credits	GCTC Course	Taken at GCTC
MUSM 104	Orientation to Music Education	1		
MUSM 309	Introduction to Music Education	2		
MUSM 360	General and Vocal Music P-8	2		
MUSM 261	Applied Methods and Materials: Brass	1		
MUSM 262	Applied Methods and Materials: Woodwinds	1		
MUSM 263	Applied Methods and Materials: Strings	1		
MUSM 264	Applied Methods and Materials: Percussion	1		
MUSM 313 or MUSM 367	Orchestration or Marching Band Techniques	3		
MUSM 363	Teaching Instrumental Music: Middle Grades	2		
MUSM 364	Teaching Instrumental Music: Secondary	2		
Choose 1: MUSE 301 MUSE 321 MUSE 322 MUSE 323	Choose one Choral Ensemble: The Northern Chorale Chamber Choir Women's Ensemble Man Choir	1		
	Total Track Hours	17		

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