

Experiencing Music

Students in the music program are involved in a variety of practical learning experiences, and all of our students perform publicly. A variety of performance groups are available for students, including a chamber choir, an orchestra, marching band, steel drum band and jazz ensemble. Numerous ensembles have received juried invitations to perform at prominent regional and national conferences, and our department also receives many requests to perform at area schools, churches, organizations, and community events. Students also have the opportunity to join the St. Joseph Community Chorus and audition for the St. Joseph Symphony.

Several students have received valuable training through internships at recording studios, radio and television stations, churches, and music retail businesses.

Many of our students work one-on-one with faculty and in small groups on an assortment of independent research projects. Some opportunities include music composition, music literature research, music analysis, and music pedagogy research (private teaching).

Western students have also toured Europe in pursuit of a deeper understanding of music in the modern world.



Alumni Views

“My ‘golden’ experience at Western was the personal attention I received from faculty in every department. Professors all across campus were committed to my education and success.

I received practical training in performance, pedagogy and professional etiquette from the Music Department that I use every day.”

*Jason Riley, '96
Studio Teacher, Performer
St. Joseph, Mo.*

“In my current position, I now see my experience as a student at Western from a unique perspective. It is clear to me that the quality of instruction and level of musicianship at Western during my years as a student were simply outstanding and amazing. The environment was rich and alive with energy and inspiration. We were all truly blessed to be surrounded by such wonderful faculty and friends. What a great time in my life!”

*Craig Fuchs, '84
Chair, Department of Music and Director of Bands
Pittsburg State University*

For more information

**Department of Music
Potter Hall, Room 114
816.271.4420
www.missouriwestern.edu/music**



Missouri Western State University
4525 Downs Drive • St. Joseph, MO 64507

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Music

Missouri Western State University





Music Program

At Western, nearly 30 music faculty members prepare music students for careers in performance, music education (K-12 and private teaching) and the music industry.

The Department of Music at Western provides a curriculum for the training of musicians, music directors and educators. The focus of course work is the making and studying of music in the context of the modern world. The department is an accredited institutional member of the National Association of Schools of Music.

The music courses offer students opportunity for professional accomplishments and the resources for continued study and growth. Many ensembles are available for students to pursue their individual musical goals. All students are encouraged to participate in many available music activities to continue their understanding and appreciation of music.

Students are instructed by professors who are active in performance and scholarship and who serve on professional organizations at the local, regional, state and national levels. Faculty members, highly trained at

leading institutions across the country, are well prepared to provide students with quality instruction and experience in the art of performance, music education and ensemble performance. Faculty, along with students, form a “music family” dedicated to the pursuit of excellence in music.

Professors, proud of the one-on-one contact they have with students, are committed to the development of each student. They are all active in academic advisement and in assisting students during their college careers.

Students may elect the Bachelor of Arts degree in music or the Bachelor of Science in Education degree with vocal and/or instrumental certification or a Bachelor of Science in Music with an emphasis in business or music technology. Performers with advanced skills and talent may qualify for the Performance Emphasis curriculum. A minor in music is also available.

Careers

The field of music provides many opportunities for finding a fulfilling and rewarding career. Our department’s graduates are highly sought after and boast essentially a 100% job placement rate. Many of our graduates make a living as performers, teachers, composers, producers and music



directors and therapists. Others choose careers as song writers, technicians, private instructors and in a variety of jobs within the entertainment industry.

Many of our graduates continue their musical studies in advanced degree programs, or gain admission into graduate programs such as law and medicine.

Admission

A solo audition (instrument or voice) is required of all intended music majors, and non-music majors wanting to participate in music ensembles. A variety of scholarships and participation grants are available that range from partial to full tuition and room and board (residence halls). Call the department to set up an audition date.

Points of Pride

- **The department is equipped with three of the best Steinway grand pianos in the Midwest, along with a state-of-the-art digital recording studio.**
- **The department has received juried invitations for ensembles to perform at the Missouri Music Educators Convention.**
- **Graduates are highly sought after and boast essentially a 100% job placement rate.**
- **Faculty members have received numerous awards including the Missouri Governor’s Teacher of the Year Award, the Missouri Music Teachers Association Teacher of the Year, and the Mayor’s Award for Arts Educator of the Year.**

www.missouriwestern.edu/music