

CONTEXTUAL INFORMATION

Mission:

The Mission of VanderCook College of Music is to enrich the lives of present and future generations through the preparation of teachers in the instrumental, choral, and general music disciplines. Our broad-based curriculum is designed to prepare teachers with strong character, skill in the process of teaching, and respect for the essential role of music in our culture.

Teacher Preparation Programs:

VanderCook College of Music is the only college in the nation exclusively dedicated to music teacher education. We offer the Bachelor of Music Education degree program leading to state certification with concentrations in band, choral, and orchestral music. We also offer a master's degree and certification program to individuals who possess a bachelor's degree in music who would like to become a certificated music educator. The College also offers a master's degree in music education to teachers already holding certification, as well as extensive opportunities for post-graduate study and continuing education classes.

Student Characteristics:

Of students enrolled in the bachelor's and master's and certification programs for the fall 2006 semester: 34% non-white, 21% out of state, and 94% full-time students.

Admissions Requirements:

Admission to Teacher Education Program: Although all students entering VanderCook College of Music enroll in a music education course of study, they are formally recommended for admission to teacher education based upon faculty review of their competency tests of basic musicianship, performance, and grade point average, which are a part of the college's TCSA – Teacher Candidacy Skills Assessment. Students must also pass the Illinois Certification Testing System Test of Basic Skills.

Admission to Student Teaching: Students must (1) pass a comprehensive music playing examination that assesses the student's competence on instruments, piano, voice, and conducting. Instrumental students must satisfy proficiencies on voice, piano, and all woodwind, brass, string and percussion instruments. Vocal majors must complete piano competencies, perform the instrumental comprehensive test on one instrument from the woodwind, brass, string, and percussion areas. All students must demonstrate proficiency in conducting and rehearsal techniques. (2) Students must pass both a junior and senior performance recital on their major concentration of study (instrument or voice). (3) Students must demonstrate completion of a minimum of 100 hours of pre-student teaching. (4) The cumulative GPA must be at least 2.5. (5) Students must have passed the Illinois Certification Testing System Music Content Test. The student must also demonstrate successful progress toward the completion of their professional portfolio, providing evidence of meeting state- and national-level teaching, content (music), language arts and technology standards.

Accreditation:

The College is fully accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, the National Association of Schools of Music and the Illinois State Board of Education.

Teacher Education Vision:

VanderCook College of Music believes music is essential to the human condition and the best way for music to be shared with humanity is through the school curriculum. It is the vision of this college to prepare comprehensive music educators who are skilled in the teaching of music in band, orchestral, choral, and general music venues with students in diverse public and private school settings. We seek to develop teachers of strong character. We strive to prepare candidates who excel as musicians. We aspire to produce professional music educators who can integrate technological advances and artistic concepts through critical thinking designed to adapt the content and style of their teaching in order to meet the needs of all students found in their classrooms.

Best Practices:

- Excellence in individual as well as ensemble performance is imbedded deeply within the curriculum.
- All students perform in major instrumental and choral ensembles.
- All students perform in chamber music ensembles and have the opportunity to perform in specialized ensembles such as jazz band and jazz combos, chamber singers, and percussion ensemble.
- Authentic learning experiences are integrated into the curriculum, beginning in a student's first semester of study.
- Partnerships exist with area schools to provide teaching opportunities through community outreach.
- All students receive "podium time" with a major ensemble as a part of their degree preparation.
- The college's instrument techniques classes are unique to the VanderCook program in that students become competent performers on all band and orchestral (string) instruments.
- All courses, including private study (major and secondary instruments) are with college faculty.
- All coursework, including general studies, are designed to enrich the college's singleness of purpose, music education.
- College Standards Committee and academic deans monitor the progress of each student.

Notable Features and Accomplishments:

- The VanderCook College of Music Symphonic Band performs annually at the Midwest Clinic: An International Band and Orchestra Conference - an annual gathering of over 15,000 music teachers, performers and exhibitors from around the world.
- The college's curriculum is a practical, hands-on course of study.
- Students benefit from the myriad of musical and cultural experiences that can only be found in a world-class city such as Chicago.
- An extensive continuing education program attracts a national audience of students and experts in the field of music education.
- The college's summer graduate school is noted for its comprehensive, practical curriculum that allows students to earn a master's degree in three six-week summer sessions.

Program Information for VanderCook College of Music 2005-2006	
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S.1 Total number of students admitted into teacher preparation, all specializations, in academic year 2005-2006	39
S.2 Number of candidates in supervised student teaching in academic year 2005-2006	30
S.3 Number of faculty members who supervised student teachers:	
➤ S.3A Full-time faculty in professional education	0
➤ S.3B Part-time faculty in professional education but full-time in the institution	5
➤ S.3C Part-time faculty in professional education, not otherwise employed by the institution	3
S.4 Total faculty student teaching supervisors	8
S.5 Student teacher/faculty ratio (Divide total given in S.2 by the number given in S.4)	3.75:1
S.6A The average number of student teaching hours per week	40
S.6B The total number of weeks of supervised student teaching required	11
S.7 Average total number of hours required	440