Music Education: A Sound Investment
Music Education
Starts Here

VanderCook College of Music has been the premier institution for music education for over 100 years.

VanderCook has focused exclusively on music teacher education for over a century. Our unique curriculum prepares the whole music educator, emphasizing performance as well as instructional methods. VanderCook will fully prepare you to teach band, orchestra, choir and general music. **You can earn your music education degree and licensure in four years.**

VanderCook’s degree programs offer a thorough, comprehensive course of study rooted in collaborative music-making and hands-on, project-based learning in a conservatory-like atmosphere. You’ll hone your skills early, with real-world teaching experiences starting your first semester, maximizing your experience by the time you become a highly sought-after alum in the job market.

Nationally rated in the Top 5 of Music School Central’s “Best Hidden Gem Music Education Schools.”

VanderCook students participate in the Midwest Clinic, one of the premier music education conferences in the world.
MAURICE WILLIAMS
CLASS OF 2022

“I chose VanderCook because I want to pass the passion, love and admiration of music that was shared with me. The faculty and my peers push me to be a better person and a better musician. At VanderCook there is always someone to help you if you need it, which is why I love it so much.”
Bachelor of Music Education

A Teacher from Day 1

At VanderCook, your journey to becoming a music teacher begins the moment you walk through the door.

You’ll work with grade school and high school students starting your first term during on-campus enrichment clinics. Every semester, you’ll partner with local school music programs. Whatever classroom environment you face, you’ll have already learned how to motivate and engage students.

Programs

Bachelor of Music Education:

This immersive four-year program will fully prepare you to teach K-12 band, orchestra, choir and general music.

• Learn to play and teach 19 instruments.
• Complete a 14-week student teaching experience in real-world settings with career music educators.
• Earn your degree in four years and be prepared to earn the Illinois Professional Educator License with a K-12 Endorsement in Music.

Bachelor of Music Education (Pre-Certification):

All the rigor and instruction of the BMEd program without the student teaching experience or entitlement for licensure. With this degree, you can:

• Open a private lesson studio.
• Work in the music education industry.
• Pursue graduate studies in music.
• Work as a para-professional or in a private school.
Schedule an Audition

Contact Admissions at 312.788.1120
or admissions@vandercook.edu

To learn more, go to: vandercook.edu/bmed/
Scholarships and Financial Aid

In keeping with our founders’ philosophy that music education should be available to anyone, VanderCook is committed to maintaining affordable, competitive tuition.

Our Financial Aid Staff will work with you to maximize your aid through scholarships, grants and loans.

All applicants are automatically considered for:

- Performance Scholarship
- Legacy Award
- Academic Excellence Award
- Great Teachers Scholarship

Contact Financial Aid at 312.788.1137 or financialaid@vandercook.edu

Over 90% of students receive financial aid.
Student Life

As a VanderCook student, you’ll enjoy full access to Chicago, the Illinois Institute of Technology campus and the surrounding areas of Bronzeville, Bridgeport and Chinatown.

Bronzeville

VanderCook is located on the Illinois Tech campus at the border of the historic Chicago neighborhood of Bronzeville. Bronzeville’s fantastic musical legacy is known for its contributions to ragtime, jazz, gospel and the blues. Murals peppered throughout the neighborhood reflect the history of Bronzeville’s impact on the entire music industry.

Chicago at Your Fingertips

Attending VanderCook gives you instant access to many of the city’s most famous and important cultural landmarks, including the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, the Art Institute of Chicago, Navy Pier and the Lyric Opera – all just minutes away from campus by bus, train or bike.

All undergraduates receive a Ventra card for unlimited access to CTA trains and buses during the fall and spring semesters.
Student Organizations

Phi Mu Alpha
Sigma Alpha Iota
National Association for Music Education
American Choral Directors Association
American String Teachers Association
National Band Association
Percussion Club

Unique Features

A free iPad upon enrollment.
An instrument to use in every techniques class.
Conduct a major ensemble in the Student Conductor Concert.
Perform in a chamber ensemble every semester.
Practice in new Wenger practice rooms.
Practicum experiences on campus and in hundreds of schools in the Chicago vicinity.

Eating & Dining

Five cafes surrounding campus
Five grocery stores near campus
IIT on-campus dining facilities
Awesome restaurants in the Bronzeville and Bridgeport neighborhoods, such as Red Line Cafe, Freddies and many more.
The Midwest Clinic

VanderCook co-founded the Midwest Clinic: An International Band and Orchestra Conference. Over 18,000 educators and musicians gather for this event, held annually in Chicago. In the Midwest Clinic’s 73-year history, VanderCook is the only college symphonic band invited to perform every year.

Performance Opportunities

You’ll perform over 20 times a year.

As a member of the Philharmonic Orchestra, Symphonic Band, Concert Choir, String Orchestra, Collegiate Chorale, Percussion Ensemble and Jazz Band, you’ll perform on campus and throughout the city of Chicago on primary and secondary instruments.

If you enjoyed playing in band, orchestra, and singing in choir in high school, VanderCook students experience participating in these performance ensembles simultaneously as part of their education!
Faculty Affiliations

*Our faculty brings decades of collective professional experience from institutions around the world...*

Apollo Chorus
Atlanta Symphony
Boston Lyric Opera
Boston Ballet
Boston Philharmonic Orchestra
Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra
Boston Symphony Orchestra
Broadway in Chicago
Chicago Brass Choir
Chicago Symphony Brass Quintet
Chicago Symphony Chorus
Chicago Symphony Orchestra
Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra
Civic Orchestra of Chicago
Grant Park Chorus
Grant Park Symphony Orchestra
Greater Miami Youth Symphony
Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra
Illinois Symphony Orchestra
Indianapolis Chamber Orchestra
Kansas City Symphony
Lyric Opera of Chicago
Madison Scouts Drum and Bugle Corps
Merit School of Music
Millar Brass Ensemble
Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra
Music For All
National Music Camp at Interlochen
NHK Orchestra (Japan)
Northwest Indiana Symphony
Philadelphia Orchestra
Southwest Symphony Orchestra
St. Louis Symphony
St. Petersburg State Chamber Orchestra (Russia)
Tallahassee Symphony Youth Orchestra
Viennese Symphony Orchestra
Yamaha Performing Artist
Mentors Who Care

Ensemble Directors

Alexander Kaminsky ............................................. Director of Bands
Anthony Kidonakis ........................................ Director of Jazz Studies
Dr. Robert Sinclair ....................................... Director of Choral Activities
Dr. John-Rine Zabanal ................................... Director of String Education

Instructors

Mary-Christine Stingley ............................................. Flute
Deborah Stevenson ............................................. Oboe
Matthew Hogan .................................................. Bassoon
Dr. Bonnie Campbell ............................................. Clarinet
Anthony Kidonakis ......................................... Saxophone, Jazz Studies
Dr. Leah Schuman .................................................. Trumpet
Peter Jirousek .......................................................... Horn
Timothy Riordan ..................................................... Trombone
Joshua Wirt ............................................................ Euphonium/Tuba
Dr. James Yakas ..................................................... Percussion
Yang Liu ............................................................... Violin/Viola
Eran Meir ............................................................. Cello
Doug Bistrow .......................................................... Bass
Angela Presutti Korbitz ........................................... Voice
Joseph P. Martorano ................................................ Voice
Dr. Julie Goldberg ..................................................... Guitar
Dr. Yu-Sui Hung ..................................................... Piano, Music Theory
Dr. I-Hsuan Tsai ..................................................... Piano, Music Theory
Manju Durairaj ...................................................... K–5 Methods
Stacey Larson Dolan ........................................... Instrumental Music Education
Ruth A. Rhodes ........................................ Woodwind Methods, Student Teaching
Michael Becker ...................................................... World Music, Music History
Dr. Roseanne Rosenthal ........................................ Research Methods
Graduate Programs

The Summer Graduate MMEd Program

VanderCook offers a comprehensive master’s degree program that prepares music teachers to take their careers – and their personal growth – to the next level.

Program Facts:

VanderCook boasts one of the largest and most diverse graduate music education programs in the world.

Students’ master’s projects are practical — you choose your subject according to your specific musical interests.

We offer a customizable and pragmatic degree.

Students may use up to 12 MECA continuing education credits towards their graduate degree.

VanderCook College of Music is one of the only graduate music education degree programs in the nation that allows you to earn your degree without cutting into your work schedule. Students have 3–7 years to earn their degree.

VanderCook’s graduate degree program engages you in real-world professional development.

To learn more, go to: vandercook.edu/mmed/
Master’s and Certification

This program is designed for students who have earned an undergraduate degree in music (music theory, music history, music performance, music therapy, etc.) and want to become certified to teach music in schools.

You will complete your teacher certification requirements while pursuing graduate education studies. Students choose to have an emphasis in band, choral or string music education.

With few exceptions, full-time students can complete the program in two years. Need more time? You have up to seven years to complete the program.

Teacher Certification Entitlement Program

The Teacher Certification Entitlement Program (TCEP) was designed for candidates who have earned a baccalaureate degree in music and wish to earn a certificate to teach in the public schools.

You will participate fully in the teacher licensure program coursework.
Music Education Center of America

VanderCook is the epicenter of music education. The MECA program offers:

A diverse faculty bringing experience and expertise from around the world.

A full spectrum of courses for K-12 band, choral, orchestra and general music teachers. All disciplines, all grade levels.

Course schedules are designed around fall and spring school teaching hours, with weekday courses during summers.

New skills, resources and strategies which can be implemented immediately. Return to your classrooms feeling revitalized and armed with new engaging ideas.

3 Terms
60+ Online Courses
40+ On-Campus Courses
10+ Off-Campus Courses

Endless Opportunities.
Maria Pulido
MECA Student

“The MECA courses at VanderCook have improved my approach to teaching music in a way that is more pragmatic, fun, and creative. The MECA program has helped rejuvenate my passion for teaching children.”
VanderCook Alumni

VanderCook alumni are spread throughout the United States and internationally in countries including China, Japan, Ecuador, the Bahamas, Kenya and Bermuda. VanderCook’s reach is vast.

Our alumni teach and perform at some of the most esteemed institutions in the country, including:

Chanticleer Ensemble
Chicago Public Schools
Georgia State University
Ithaca College
Joliet Central High School
Lafayette College
Loyola Academy
Lyon and Healy Corp.
Naperville School District
North Shore Concert Band
Pittsburgh State University
Robert Morris College
Thornton Fractional High School
University of Arkansas
University of Houston
Western Michigan University
Wisconsin Lutheran College

95% of undergraduates graduate in four years.
Want to learn more?

TEXT MUSIC TO 312-235-6542

or email admissions@vandercook.edu