



Graduation Rates

The items in this section correspond to data elements collected by the National Center for Education Statistics' annual IPEDS reports. The data reflects the most recent cohort information as of the latest reporting year: 2023-2024.

Bachelor of Music Education Program (BMEd)

Graduation rate	66.7%
Initial 2018 cohort of first-time, full-time bachelor's (or equivalent) degree-seeking undergraduate students; total all students	12
Of the initial 2018 cohort, the number that completed the program in four years (by August 31, 2022)	6
Of the initial 2018 cohort, the number that completed the program in more than four years but in five years or less (after August 31, 2022 and by August 31, 2023)	0
Of the initial 2018 cohort, the number that completed the program in more than five years but in six years or less (after August 31, 2023 and by August 31, 2024)	2
Total number of completers within 150% of normal time	8

Master of Music Education Program (MMEd)

Graduation rate	76.1%
Initial 2019 cohort of first-time, full-time master's (or equivalent) degree-seeking graduate students; total all students	46
Of the initial 2019 cohort, the number that completed the program in three years (by August 31, 2022)	30
Of the initial 2019 cohort, the number that completed the program	3

in more than three years but in four years or less (after August 31, 2022 and by August 31, 2023)

Of the initial 2019 cohort, the number that completed the program in more than four years but in five years or less (after August 31, 2023 and by August 31, 2024) 2

Total number of completers within 5 years 35

Please note: VanderCook is a specialized institution, offering only one choice of major. Any student whose career focus changes must transfer to another school.

Retention Rates

For the cohort of 17 full-time degree-seeking undergraduate students in the Bachelor of Music Education program (BMEd) who entered VanderCook as freshmen in Fall 2023, 15 returned in Fall 2024 (88.2%).

For the cohort of 2 full-time degree-seeking undergraduate students in the Bachelor of Music in Performance and Pedagogy program (BMped) who entered VanderCook as freshmen in Fall 2022, 2 returned in Fall 2023 (100%).

For the cohort of 40 degree-seeking graduate students in the Master of Music Education program (MMEd) who entered VanderCook in the 22-23 academic year, 34 returned in the 23-24 academic year (85%).

Notes for the above Graduation Rates & Retention Rates sections:

- **Methodology:**
 - The graduation rates for each program were calculated by identifying the number of matriculating students in the first academic term listed, then checking their graduation status as of the subsequently listed academic terms. This data was compiled from VanderCook's internal student information system. The determination to check through "150% of normal time" reflects the standards of the National Center for Education Statistics' annual IPEDS reporting. "Normal time" is the amount of time expected to complete a program.
 - The retention rates for each program were calculated by identifying the number of matriculating students in the first academic term listed, then checking their registration status as of the subsequently listed academic term. This data was compiled from VanderCook's internal student information system.
- **Per IPEDS standards, the above data points for Graduation & Retention rates exclude:**
 - students who are deceased or are totally and permanently disabled and thus unable to return to school
 - students who left school to serve in the armed forces or were called up to active duty
 - students who left school to serve with a foreign aid service of the Federal Government, such as the Peace Corps
 - students who left school to serve on an official church mission
 - students enrolled exclusively in courses not creditable toward a recognized postsecondary credential or the completion of a vocational program (i.e., non-degree/certificate-seeking students)
 - students exclusively taking CEUs

- students exclusively auditing classes
- students enrolled part-time
- students who transferred into the institution
- foreign students who are only taking coursework at a host institution (e.g., an American institution overseas), if these students are not enrolled at a U.S. institution.
- Students in the MCert program are included in the numbers for the MMEd program: the MCert program is the MMEd program with added licensure certification.
- Students in the Bmped program are excluded from the Graduation Rates section because the program is new and no student has yet completed the program as of publication of this document.
- Retention rates for the MMEd program compare numbers for the full academic year because graduate students start on a rolling basis through the academic year.

Post-Graduation Employment

The following statistics reflect the cohort of licensure candidates completing their licensure program during the 2023-24 academic year (18 total). This data is gathered via alumni surveys and direct communications.

Employed in music education	15
Employed in music (non-education)	1
Employed in a non-music-related profession	2
Pursuing graduate studies	0

100% employed within 6 months of graduating

Licensure Rate

Of the 18 licensure program completers during the 2023-24 academic year, 17 (94.4%) have received the Illinois State Board of Education Professional Educator License with a Special PreK-12 endorsement in Music. The pass rate for the licensure exam was 94.4%.

Post-Graduation Earnings

According to the National Education Association, as of 2022-23 data, the average first year teacher salary is \$43,514 in Illinois and \$44,530 nationally.

Notes for the above Post-Graduation Employment and Licensure Rate sections:

- Methodology:
 - The licensure rate is calculated from the number of teaching licenses granted to '23-24 licensure program completers by ELIS, the state licensure app, compared to the total number of program completers from '23-24 who sought licensure
 - The post-graduation employment rate is gathered from alumni surveys and direct communications for completers
 - Earnings data was found on the National Education Association website:
 - <https://www.nea.org/resource-library/educator-pay-and-student-spending-how-does-your-state-rank/starting-teacher>
- These sections only include students seeking initial teacher licensure (students in the Bachelor's, TCEP, and MCERT programs).

- *The licensure program described is the Educator Preparation Program approved by the Illinois State Board of Education.*
- *Excluded are students in programs not needing the licensure (MECA and MMED without licensure option).*
- *The post-graduation employment rate for graduate students is not tracked since the master's program is designed for music educators who are already employed.*

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