

**VanderCook College of Music
Graduate Programming**

**Registration Advice for Spring, 2026
February 9 – May 1, 2026
Registration opens, November 24, 2025**

These suggestions were developed to assist the graduate student through the registration process each semester. They are intended to help you complete your degree program in a timely fashion and will guide you through the initial registration task. **It is suggested that you take only one or two courses during the given session. If you wish to take more credit, be sure to discuss it with your academic advisor, Dr. Sinclair.**

These 500-Level courses are offered online through our Continuing Education (MECA) Platform. Descriptions of these courses are located on our MECA Continuing Education Page. Students may take these courses to fulfill requirements or elective credit. Spring courses are listed below.

Here is a key to help you navigate types of classes. M=Methods Course, TE=Techniques Elective Course (used as residency elective credit or to fulfill advanced music making credits), R=Repertoire Course, PE=Professional Education Course, A=Arranging Course, E=General Elective for any track, MH=Music History for all tracks.

All Tracks:

562	Introduction to Graduate Studies (required of all MMed Candidates)	R. Rosenthal	
597B	Designing and Implementing a Master's Project	Cindy Krause	(E)
597C	Writing and Editing a Professional Paper (MMed project)	Cindy Krause	(E)
520	Tonal Music Theory Review for Teachers, Composers, and Arrangers	I-Hsuan Tsai	(E)
578	Teaching Music to Students with Differences and Disabilities	Alice Hammel	(PE)
569	American Music History	Michael Becker	(H)
576B	Beginning Jazz Improvisation	Michael Fein	(E)
563	Classroom Management and Student Engagement Strategies	Meghan Cabral	(PE)

Band Track:

553	Brass Methods	Max Briggs	(M)
515A	Percussion for the Non-Percussionist: Snare Drum	Jim Yakas	(TE)
514TB	Demystify the Slide: Playing & Teaching Trombone	Keith Osvath	(TE)
515DS	Drumset Methods for the Music Educator	Darren Scorza	(TE)
513OB	Oboe Techniques for the Music Teacher (1 credit)	Julie Poppelwell	(TE)
534F	Selecting with Purpose: Choosing Wind Repertoire for Learning and Performance	Dan Farris	(R)
522	Band Arranging	Ken Snoeck	(A)

Choral Track:

525	Choral Arranging	Tom Jesse	(A)
558	Musical Theatre Preparation and Production	Sarah Giordano	(E)
545B	Expanding Choral Repertoire: Strategies for Discovery and Diversification	Paul Laprade	(R)

General Music Track:

555LA	Latin American Music in the General/Elementary Classroom	Anielka Silva-Berrios	(E)
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String Track:

512CE	Learning in Motion: Essential Cello Pedagogy for Music Educators (1 credit)	Shu-Yi Scott	(TE)
512STJ	Bass: Jazz for the Beginning Bassist	Doug Bistrow	(TE)
512ST	Bass: Introduction to Upright and/or Electric Bass for the Non-Bassist	Doug Bistrow	(TE)
516	Advanced Guitar Playing and Teaching Techniques	Julie Goldberg	(TE)
528I	Teaching Classroom Guitar: Habits of the Successful Beginner Guitarist	Matt Hudson	(TE)

Reminder, any course that is outside your major area may be used as residency elective as well, i.e. String Methods taken by a band track person would be applied as elective credit rather than toward the 6 required methods credits. Your required coursework is listed in the tracking sheet for your area, which is located [here](#).

Applied Music: You may take applied lessons online or in person during the fall and spring, assuming the faculty is available. **Our philosophy on *Applied Music* may be different from other institutions. You are not required to study your major instrument** unless you plan to perform a lecture recital for your Comprehensive Review Project. Studying a secondary instrument (including voice) provides you the opportunity to strengthen your skills so you are better able to help your students.

Techniques Courses: Be aware that for techniques courses online, VanderCook is **unable to provide instruments**. Please register for them based on instruments that are available to you at home or school. These are playing-based classes and will require the use of an instrument.

Course of Study Suggestions: There are several track options for band, choral, general music, and string majors located on our website that will help you select a balanced course load each summer. These options are simply provided to help and are not mandated choices. Please contact Dean Sinclair to discuss other options.

Comprehensive Review Project: The Comprehensive Review Project Handbook is located on the VanderCook website and contains complete information about the project requirements, a timeline, and the poster session. This will help to guide you as you prepare your project, poster, and for the review process in your final summer of attendance.