

Music is a social art, a vehicle for expression, and a vocation for those passionate about the field. At St. Ambrose University, we are just as passionate about music and truly care about your success. Here you will find an open, safe, and welcoming atmosphere in a setting where students and faculty are respectful and supportive of each other. We provide the intensive professional training that aspiring musicians and educators need.

Options and opportunities. You may choose from two majors: a Bachelor of Arts in Music and a Bachelor of Music Education. The advantages here include small class sizes where you will find excellent instruction by dedicated faculty who are experts in our fields (not teaching assistants); performing and conducting experience in ensembles; you can perform and study vocal and instrumental music as well as gain performance experience in theater; and you can double major in any combination of degrees.

Freedom to explore. Our ensembles include Symphonic Band, String Ensemble, University Chorale, Chamber Singers, Jazz Ensemble, STAMVOJA (vocal jazz ensemble), Bee Sharp (men's vocal group), and Belle Voce (women's vocal group). You'll also receive unique opportunities to compose, teach, and conduct, including conducting large ensembles in a public performance. Here students have the freedom to explore music through the various opportunities that exist only on a small campus.

Discover new worlds. We prepare students for life-long involvement in music by developing performance skills, creativity, aesthetic judgment, historical and cultural understanding, and critical thinking. Music majors receive a comprehensive education in their field, including study in music theory, conducting, music education, history and literature, music theatre, liturgical music, and all areas of applied performance.

Ambrose Advantages

Experience and leadership opportunities. As a music student at St. Ambrose University, you'll have the opportunity to participate from the start of your undergraduate career in our large ensembles as well as numerous solo and other small group performance opportunities both on- and off-campus. The number and diversity of music groups is large for a department of our size, which gives students all the experience they'd receive at other schools, but with the benefit of more attention and leadership opportunities.

Many venues. Our location allows for students to attend and participate in music at many venues and by ensembles such as: River Music Experience, Quad City Symphony Orchestra, Bix Jazz Music Festival, Mississippi Blues Festival, Nova Singers, the Adler Theatre—and we're only three hours from downtown Chicago.



Helping you succeed. If you are interested in teaching music, our music education majors receive a great deal of field experience before student teaching. For those who go on to graduate school, we have an excellent track record of students being accepted into the school of their choice. All music education graduates who actively seek a teaching position are successful in obtaining employment in their field. We nurture the whole student by quality advising; we're not just about the music, but also about the person that is becoming a well-rounded musician contributing to society.

Music students at St. Ambrose can expect:

- > close working relationships and a collaborative spirit with other departments such as theatre
- > students who support each other collegially instead of being in an overly competitive environment
- > faculty who are active professionals in all areas of music
- > faculty who value students and know the real person
- > mentors who really care, and are easily approachable

Career Opportunities

A music degree can lead to a wide range of professional and practical employment opportunities: accompanist, arranger, arts administrator, band director, composer, conductor, educator (K–12, college-level, community music schools, private studio), film/TV/video game scoring, music store owner, merchandising, music critic, musical theatre, performer, songwriter or jingle writer.

Your music degree could also lead to additional professional areas, including: arts fundraiser or grant writer, entertainment lawyer, event management, film music director, Foley artist, instrument designer, marketing, media development, music agent, music app developer, music curator or librarian, music programmer, music publishing, music therapist, musicologist, opera coach, orchestrator, pit orchestra musician, producer, public relations agent or coordinator, radio programming, recording engineer, royalty analyst, session musician, sound design, sound engineer, talent booking or management, talent scout, theatre or concert hall manager, tour road manager or promoter.

Career Outlook

- > The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects 8,700 new jobs for musicians and singers through 2022.
- > The job market for musical directors and/or composers is projected to grow by 3,500 jobs through 2022.
- > Teaching positions ranked fourth (high school), sixth (middle school) and 10th (elementary school)—based on growth potential and job and salary satisfaction—among social service jobs in a 2014 *U.S. News & World Report* study.
- > The median salary for high school teachers was \$55,000 in 2012.
- > Among professions requiring a four-year degree, elementary, secondary and middle school teaching were predicted to have the third, fourth and seventh most annual job openings, according to a 2014 study by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Alumni Success Stories

“The accessibility of the faculty and resources of the music department made my goals feel very attainable. Coming from a background of little classical training, the realistic encouragement of a few professors helped me break through many barriers of self-doubt. The experience and knowledge in the world of music the faculty holds is extensive and very well noted, and the way this faculty is able to translate that to their students is amazing.” —Nick Vasquez (SAU 2008), currently gigging, teaching private lessons and working part time for a company that converts old film to digital

“I feel the most important thing I learned was to step outside of my comfort zone; to not be afraid of making mistakes. Every time I followed that advice I gained amazing experiences, found success, and even surprised myself. Now, as a music educator, I continue to expand and discover hidden strengths. I hope to instill this lesson into my students.” —Nicole Schmidt (SAU 2012), currently K–12 music educator at Prince of Peace Catholic School

Where Some of Our Graduates Work

Our grads are doing great things. Some of our Bachelor of Music Education grads are working as music teachers and directors at places such as Boscobel High School in Wisconsin, at Prince of Peace Catholic School in Clinton, Iowa, at Rivermont Collegiate in Bettendorf, Iowa, and Muscatine High School.

Some Bachelor of Arts in Music grads are working for West Music and Griggs Music as managers, sales people, and technicians. Others are gigging musicians, directors of theater production companies and directors of liturgy and music at churches.

Your Career: Networking, Internships and Jobs in the Quad Cities

The Quad Cities is a welcoming and fun place to live as a college student. More than that, it offers a great community to help you prepare for—or even start—your career. Arts organizations in the Quad Cities are a rich community resource. The Quad City Arts Visiting Artist program, Adler Theatre, iWireless Center, Circa 21 Dinner Playhouse and Genesis Guild present performances, often spotlighting area actors, vocalists and musicians. For students interested in education, SAU has strong connections to more than 150 public and private schools in the area. All this makes the Quad Cities an exceptional place for networking, internships and jobs.

Get in Touch With Us Today

We invite you to visit St. Ambrose to learn more about the opportunities here. Our quality academic programs provide one of the best private education values in the Midwest. Check it out for yourself: contact our Admissions Office, 563/333-6300 (toll-free 800/383-2627) or admit@sau.edu, or go online to www.sau.edu.

St. Ambrose University offers a Bachelor of Arts in Music and a Bachelor of Music Education. For complete curriculum information and course descriptions, consult the Course Catalog at www.sau.edu/catalog.