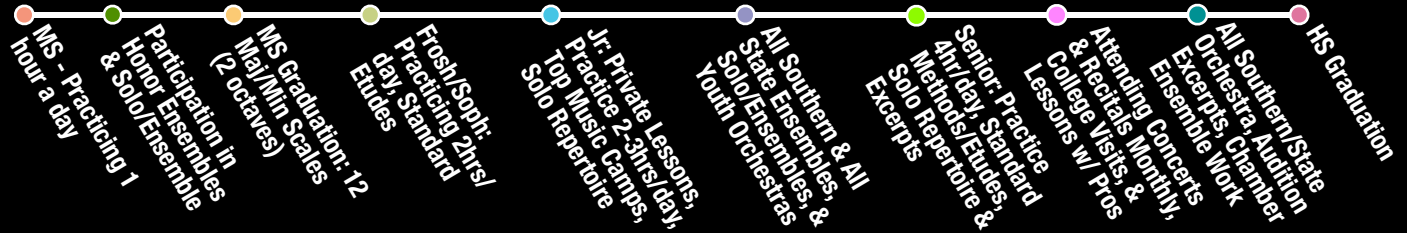


PREPARING TO BE A MUSIC MAJOR

MIDDLE SCHOOL/HIGH SCHOOL BENCHMARK TIMELINE



BEING A MUSIC MAJOR

The undergraduate music degree is the second hardest major at the university level. It is only for the most dedicated and the experience is nothing like high school music programs. The music expectation is that you have to best your fellow students to achieve success. Proper university music departments are highly competitive in every aspect. This guide is designed to aid and focus your ambition towards this goal.

10,000 PRACTICE HOURS BREAKDOWN (Based off of 300 DAYS PER YEAR)

5 HRS/DAY	6.6 yrs (1,500 hrs/yr)
6 HRS/DAY	5.5 yrs (1,800 hrs/yr)
7 HRS/DAY	4.7 yrs (2,100 hrs/yr)

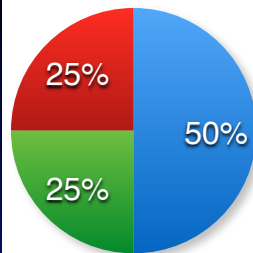
Malcolm Gladwell wrote that mastery occurs when a person achieves 10,000 hours of "deliberate practice". Top musicians practice beyond that mark. This chart gives you an idea of how much daily practicing is expected as a music major at a 4 year university.

THE TOTAL MUSICIAN

On top of knowing everything about your own instrument, you are expected to know:

- ★Vocal: Ensemble, Sight Sing, Solfège, etc.
- ★Read & Play Piano: Accompaniment, etc.
- ★Music Theory: Dictation, Ear Training, etc.
- ★Music History: Composers, Eras, Styles, etc.
- ★Regularly Attending Concerts & Recitals

If you are serious, your band director will help you achieve these goals.



MUSIC MAJOR DAILY PRACTICE EXPECTATIONS

- Fundamentals, Methods, & Etudes
- Solo Repertoire & Excerpts
- Ensemble Music



SUGGESTED PREREQUISITES:

DEDICATION & FISCAL UNDERSTANDING

Your friends and family will not understand how much time you will need to spend on music. Remember, a career in music will depend on you being better than everyone else musically (including music education majors). Any jobs you have must work around your school and practice schedule.

YOUR INSTRUMENT

You must know everything about your instrument: professional models and equipment, top musicians and recordings, styles of sound, and instrument doubling. Listen to orchestra standards daily and different recordings of the same piece to hear the different musical interpretations.

REPERTOIRE: STANDARD METHODS, ETUDES, SOLOS, & EXCERPTS

By your junior year you should have already built up a collection of method books, etudes, solos, and orchestral excerpts.

EXPERIENCE IN HONOR ENSEMBLES, MUSIC CAMPS, FESTIVALS

Participation in All Southern and All State ensembles, top music camps, and top orchestras and ensembles in the area. You are competing with the top musicians. You should be playing chamber music with other top musicians in the area (they do not have to be your age, ask your band directors to form a group).

PRIVATE LESSONS

Weekly lessons for a minimum of 2 years prior working on the repertoire above. Most music majors have had lessons since before middle school.

CHORD STRUCTURES & EAR TRAINING

Basic music theory (key signatures and chords), interval training, and dictation.

ATTENDING CONCERTS & RECITALS

Student recitals are free, faculty recitals are inexpensive, and there are student rush tickets available for most orchestras. Seniors should be attending recitals and concerts monthly.

