



MUS 325

The Music Teaching Profession

Course Syllabus: Spring 2026

Instructor Information

Instructor:	Dr. Darla Meek, Lecturer in Music Education
Webpage:	www.darlameek.com
Classroom Location:	Music Building, Room 211
Office Location:	Music Building, Room 222
Office Phone:	903-886-5294
Office Fax:	903-468-6010
University E-mail:	Darla.Meek@etamu.edu
Preferred Form of Communication:	email
Communication Response Time:	48 hours, or please email again.
Office Hours:	Tuesday/Thurs 1:30–4:30 pm Wed/Fri appt via Zoom

Course Information

Course Description

Three semester hours. The course provides prospective teachers with a beginning foundation for understanding learners, enhancing student achievement, and understanding the teaching environment. The course will emphasize the structure, organization, management, and governance of the American school system as well as current issues related to the teaching profession. The legal, ethical, and multicultural foundations of teaching will be discussed.

Required eTextbook

Teaching Texas: A Complete and Practical Approach to Understanding and Applying the Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities (PPR) TExES by Teri Bingham. This ebook will be embedded into the D2L shell. The cost is approximately \$50. We will work through each of the 13 modules, one per week, and complete a chapter test every week.

Required Software

Tk20: For all prior, current, and upcoming courses that relate to state licensure, you are required to purchase TK-20. This online binder documents that you have met certain criteria for the University to

recommend you for licensure. The cost is \$139+tax fee for a one-time subscription that you will use in all future education courses. Link: <https://etamu.tk20.com/campustoolshighered/start.do>

Music Education D2L Shell: Upon acceptance into the Educator Preparation Program, all music education majors have access to a D2L shell titled Music Education Program. In this shell you can keep track of your non-curricular program requirements (instructions for completing the Application for Admission to the Educator Preparation Program, Field Based Experience [FBE] Packet, Application for Student Teaching, etc.). This shell also contains music education policies, procedures, and other important information.

Professional Memberships

It is expected that all students in the educator Preparation program be active members of TMEA and NAFME. Membership forms may be accessed online here:

- <https://www.tmea.org/membership/>
- <https://nafme.org/>

ETAMU students with NAFME membership are automatically members of the ETAMU Collegiate Chapter. Collegiate members have access to a wealth of research journals, webinars, advocacy materials, and more. The ETAMU chapter sponsors workshops and other events for the benefit of pre-service and in-service music educators.

Student Learning Outcomes

Students will:

- apply the philosophical foundations and justification for music education to become effective advocates, and to develop a personal philosophy for music education
- compare, contrast and apply various music teaching models
- describe and apply concepts of vertical alignment of PK-12 music standards to lesson and curriculum planning
- describe the historical development of music education in the United States and apply historical development to current practice
- synthesize information from legislation and current / cultural events to maintain relevance in the music education curriculum
- develop a pre-professional portfolio in preparation for upcoming student teaching and career entry.

Support Objectives (State Requirements):

Students will:

- ensure high levels of learning, social-emotional development, and achievement for all students through knowledge of students, proven practices, and differentiated instruction

- clearly and accurately communicate to support persistence, deeper learning, and effective effort
- reflect on practice
- meet expectations for attendance, professional appearance, decorum, procedural, ethical, legal, and statutory responsibilities
- demonstrate professional ethical conduct, practices, and performance including ethical conduct toward professional colleagues and ethical conduct toward students
- ensure appropriate relationships, boundaries, and communications between educators and students.

Course Requirements

1) The TExES Exam

Students who plan to graduate in December of 2026 must PASS the Music Content Test (TExES) to be approved for clinical teaching. To do this, purchase CertifyTeacher, create study groups to review the material, and take a mock test. When the score is 80% or higher in all domains, approval will be granted to take the Music Content Test. Lastly, take and pass the MCT.

You also must PASS the practice PPR in CertifyTeacher with 80% accuracy in every domain to be approved for clinical teaching. The goal of this course is to prepare you for the PPR. Students who do not pass the PPR Practice Test with a score of 80% in all domains will receive an automatic failing grade for MUS 325.

Detailed instructions can be found below.

2) Field Experience Placements: Students will complete 50 hours of placement in two local schools and submit required documentation in their Tk20 binders. Keep up with your field experience hours (50 hours are required). If you do not complete all 50 hours, you will receive an automatic failing grade and you will have to repeat the course, regardless of how well you did on the other assignments. This will postpone clinical teaching.

Additional assignments to be selected from:

- **Personal Reflection:** Students will respond to questions about their own potential or ability for success in a music teaching career.
- **Context for Learning:** Upon receiving permission to complete FBE hours in a PK-12 school, students will research their district, neighborhood, school, and class and complete a C4L form.
- **Learning Objectives:** Students will translate a selection of TEKS music objectives into student learning outcomes. Your grade is based on your ability to distil instructional content from stated objectives into a cohesive writing style.
- **Advocacy Scenarios:** Students will participate in an advocacy scenario and respond to reflective questions. Your grade will be based on your knowledge of advocacy data, presentation, and organization.

- **Philosophy of Music Education:** Students will submit a philosophy of music education that reflects course content and scholarly writing. Your grade is based on your ability to support your beliefs with course content in the appropriate context and writing ability.
- **Article Review:** Students will submit one written review of an article from a professional journal of their choosing, related to one of the major course topics. Your grade is based on the thoughtfulness of your analysis of the article and ability to relate the topic to current issues in music education.
- **Resume:** Students will craft a resume following the directions in the Resume Guide for Music Educators.

Taking the TExES Exam

The TExES Exam has two parts:

- the Music Content Exam (MCT)
- the Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities Exam (PPR)

You must take and pass both the MCT and the PPR to apply for certification to teach in the state of Texas. We work very hard to prepare you for these requirements and are proud of the university's very high success rate.

Beginning with the graduating class of May 2027, all music education students must PASS both the Music Content Test and the PPR to be approved for clinical teaching. Over the next few semesters, we are gradually working toward this end. Tentative schedule:

If your Graduation Date is...	Your task for the Penultimate Semester	Your task for the Clinical Teaching Semester
May 2026	Fall 2025 – You must PASS the Music practice test (CertifyTeacher) with 80% accuracy in every domain to be approved for clinical teaching.	Spring 2026 – You must PASS the Music Content Test (TExES) to graduate. You must PASS the practice PPR (CertifyTeacher) with 80% accuracy in every domain to graduate.
Dec 2026	Spring 2026 – You must PASS the Music Content Test (TExES) to be approved for clinical teaching. You must PASS the practice PPR (CertifyTeacher) with 80% accuracy in every domain to be approved for clinical teaching.	Fall 2026 – You must PASS the PPR Test (TExES) to graduate.
May 2027	Fall 2026 – You must PASS the Music Content Test (TExES) to be approved for clinical teaching. You must PASS the PPR Test (TExES) to be approved for clinical teaching.	

Music Content Test (MCT)

Take the Music Content Test MCT first. You will need School of Music approval to take the MCT. To earn this approval, you must pass the practice test from CertifyTeacher (see instructions below) with a score of 80% or better in EVERY DOMAIN.

To get approval to take the MCT, complete this Laserfische form:

<https://dms.tamuc.edu/Forms/TEXES-Certification-Program>. You will be asked to submit your scores from the practice test.

Once you submit it, it will first be sent to Dr. Meek. Her approval will be sent to the Department of Educator Certification. Ms. Bryan in Educator Certification will then contact you with instructions. Please contact Ms. Bryan directly if you have difficulties registering for the exam.

Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities Exam (PPR)

After you pass the MCT, follow the same process to receive authorization to take the PPR. You will receive an email from the Educator Certification office with instructions on how to register for your PPR exam.

How do I prepare for the tests?

[CertifyTeacher](#)—Preparation Software for Educator Certification Information

Interactive Practice Tests, Representative Tests, Practice Sessions, & Flashcards for Review are all included in the Purchase Price. With the East Texas A&M University membership, the purchase price will be approximately \$50. Please follow the directions below very carefully, to take advantage of this great opportunity. Practice tests for both the PPR and the MCT are available in CertifyTeacher.

Follow these steps:

- 1) Go to <http://www.certifyteacher.com>
- 2) Select the study guide you wish to purchase – make sure to select the online version option. Remember – access is granted until you receive a passing grade from the state
- 3) Click Login under the Apply Promo Code option in the My Shopping Cart page
- 4) Click Sign In under “I Don’t Have an Account Yet” to create your account – make sure to use your university e-mail address when creating the account – the promo code will not work for any other e-mail.
- 5) Enter the Promo Code **TEXES4728** when prompted. The price will drop to the discount price after that.
- 6) Select Accept in the Six Clock-Hours Requirement window for your promo code to be validated.
- 7) Complete the purchase transaction by providing your credit card information. You will be able to access your online readiness review solution seconds after the purchase transaction is complete

- 8) You are entitled access to your (Certify Teacher) Test Prep Solution for up to 3 years from the date of purchase or until you pass your state assessment, whichever comes first. Your program will prompt you to renew your access every 35 days. Renewing your product is free of charge.

The East Texas A&M University Testing Center

- The East Texas A&M Assessment Office offers numerous TExES Representative Forms (official practice tests) for \$20
- All versions of the PPR are available.
- The tests are five hours long.
- You must have your instructor's approval before you are allowed to register. Your instructor will then contact the Assessment Office.

Other Resources Available through the Waters Library

- Mometrix eLibrary (On the homepage of the database, type "Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities" and hit search. You can also type "Music Content" for music materials.)
- Learning Express Library (on the homepage of the database, type "Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities" and hit search)
- TMEA Study Guide <https://www.tmea.org/divisions-regions/college/texes-review/practice-exam>
- Pearson: <http://www.tx.nesinc.com>
- ETAMU Google folder of helpful study information: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1pHsWW03sSzq2Oix07O9ESBy9wtwYgfp5?usp=sharing>
- East Texas A&M University Mentor Center – Online Representative Exam 903-468-3144
- TExES study guides can be found in the Velma Waters Library
- Study.com: <https://study.com/academy/course/texes-music-ec-12-test.html>
- https://www.tx.nesinc.com/PageView.aspx?f=GEN_PreparationMaterials.html

TExES (Music) Preparation Manual

- Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities EC-12 (160)
- http://www.tx.nesinc.com/TestView.aspx?f=HTML_FRAG/TX160_PrepMaterials.html
- Music EC-12 (177) Content Preparation Manual
- http://www.tx.nesinc.com/TestView.aspx?f=HTML_FRAG/TX177_PrepMaterials.html

How do I register to take the test?

Visit the Texas Educator Certification Examination Program website here: <http://www.tx.nesinc.com/> Information about specific testing times can be found on this website. Choose the location to determine what dates are available for that particular testing site. TExES exams have different times/dates according to the location site chosen.

What if I do not pass the MCT or PPR?

If you do not pass one of the two exams on the first try, you will have to wait 30 days before retaking the exam. You will need to be authorized to register for any additional retakes. Requirements for reauthorization will be determined on an individual student basis. It is important to remember that you have up to 5 attempts to pass each exam.

If you are unsuccessful on the Music Content Test or PPR, access the Study Plan Tracker. This embedded program within Certify Teacher will help you address the areas of concern based on your completed Exam Mode 0. This “remediation” plan will generate assignments based on the domains/competencies below 80%. Study Plan Tracker must show 100% complete on ALL areas prior to submitting.

Use the same laserfishe link <https://dms.tamuc.edu/Forms/TEExES-Certification-Program> to get approval to retake the test. You will be asked to submit your Study Plan Tracker scores.

TEA Standards

Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for your content area:

<http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index2.aspx?id=6148>

Texas Teacher Standards (Chapter 149). All teacher candidates should be familiar with the Texas Teacher Standards in Chapter 149 which can be found at

<https://tea.texas.gov/sites/default/files/ch149aa.pdf>

Texas Music Teacher Standards

<https://tea.texas.gov/sites/default/files/allmusic.pdf>

Grading

A final grade will be calculated using the following scale:

Attendance and Engagement	30% of final grade
Assignments	35% of final grade
Field Experience / Notes / Prompts	35% of final grade

Grading Scale

A = 90 to 100% / B = 80 to 89% / C = 70 to 79% / D = 60 to 69% / F = 59 and below

How to keep track of your grades. Your grades will be posted in the D2L shell. Some assignments are automatically graded. Others (written work, for example) will be graded manually and may take extra time.

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Use of the learning management system (D2L) and Tk20 where you will document information about your field experience.

Instructional Methods

This is a discussion-based hybrid course with two hours of face-to-face learning each week combined with one hour of online virtual learning.

Technology Requirements

All course sections offered by East Texas A&M University have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

- LMS Requirements: <https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>
- LMS Browser Support: https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

Access and Navigation

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@etamu.edu.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, an ETAMU campus open computer lab, etc.

Communication and Support

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here: <https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

Course-Specific Procedures / Policies

Virtual Learning Expectations

The following expectations are provided should virtual synchronous events be utilized for any reason (such as class, convocation, or a workshop):

- Students should maintain a professional appearance as would be expected in the classroom.
- Students attending synchronous classes should have their video turned on and be attentive throughout the class. Please position your camera in a well-lit professional environment so that your face is displayed.
- Virtual attendance will be taken for any class that is met virtually. The camera must remain on and the student must actively participate to receive credit for the class or workshop.
- Consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with others in an online forum: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

- Consider this course to be a study guide for the PPR portion of the TExES test.
- Download any materials that are not in the course pack from D2L and organize them in an orderly fashion in your notebook.
- Attend every class and perform to the best of your ability.
- Prepare all assignments thoroughly and completely.
- Refer to MyLeo Online/D2L Brightspace for assignment instructions.
- Contact the instructor with any questions.

All students are expected to follow the Tenets of Common Decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the Student Guidebook: <https://www.etamu.edu/student-code-of-conduct>. The tenets apply to all communication to the instructor and your classmates.

Demonstrate commitment to your course of study by contributing thoughtfully to class discussions, turning in assignments in a timely manner, being prompt and dependable, supporting your peers and the instructor, and accepting critiques graciously. Be open-minded about other's opinions and thoughts, encouraging them to stretch their boundaries and take risks, and listen attentively to their performances.

Cell phones should be turned off before class begins and concealed from view throughout the duration of the class period. Please take care of any necessities (food, drink, restroom) before coming to class so that we may proceed without interruption. If you need to bring a bottle of water, please take care keep the cap secured. Dispose of all food and chewing gum before class begins. No food, chewing gum, or drinks other than water are allowed in the classroom.

Please be careful with our classroom materials and use them only when instructed. Failure to bring class materials will result in a loss of 50 points.

Be open-minded about other's opinions and thoughts, encouraging them to stretch their boundaries and take risks, and listen attentively to their performances. Failure to conform to these expectations of behavior will result in a lowered grade. Engagement/Performance grades will be given according to the instructor's discretion:

- An A will be earned by the student who arrives early with all materials, exhibits superior attentiveness, is fully prepared for class, participates with enthusiasm, and is a leader and role model to others.
- A B will be earned by the student who exhibits excellent attentiveness, is prepared for class, participates with enthusiasm, and is a valued asset to others.
- A C will be earned by the student who exhibits average attentiveness, preparation, and class participation.
- A D will be earned by the student who exhibits little attentiveness, preparation, and participation.
- An F will be earned by the student who exhibits no attentiveness, preparation, or participation. This student will be instructed to drop the course.

Attendance, Engagement and Civility Policy

Regular and prompt attendance and active engagement in the class is expected. Students who do are present but not engage in the discussion will earn an engagement grade at the discretion of the instructor.

It is expected that, as future teachers, education students model professional and courteous behavior by attending every class and arriving to class on time. Unexcused absences are unprofessional, and they will not be allowed when you are a clinical teacher or a professional educator in the field. Excused absences include illness with a doctor's note, jury duty, or the death of an immediate family member. If you must miss class for any reason, such as of sudden illness or car trouble (for commuters only), you are expected to communicate with the instructor via text or email before class begins. Absent students will, by default, earn a grade of zero for that day's work until proof of excused absence is provided. Failure to provide a physician's note, jury summons, or other proof confirming the legitimacy of the absence will result in the classification of that absence as unexcused.

The instructor reserves the right to drop any student who misses more than two classes, regardless of the reason. If absences are accumulated after the drop date, the student will receive a failing grade. Take care to note any required university-sponsored events, tour dates, or other activities that may cause you to miss class and communicate this to the instructor by **January 28**. These will be considered on a case-by-case basis. They are not automatically excused. Final classification of absences will at the sole discretion of the instructor. Do not schedule any personal obligations, including recitals, hearings, or rehearsals, during class time.

Arriving to class late and leaving early are also discourteous and unprofessional. Two instances will equal one unexcused absence.

Students are expected to remain fully engaged in class activities during class time. Any student who disengages from class (texts, checks social media, works on assignments for other classes) will be asked to leave the classroom and an unexcused absence will be recorded in D2L.

Late Assignments or Work

Late papers, assignments, and exams are not accepted *unless prior arrangements have been made*. A student who is absent on the day of a quiz or exam will receive a "0" for that quiz/exam *unless prior arrangements have been made* (in the case of university-sponsored absences in accordance with campus policy).

Use of Computers and Cell Phones

As a courtesy to the instructor and the other students, please silence all cell phones before class. Computers and tablets may be used for taking notes or accessing course materials. Other use of technology during class (texting, emailing, social media, homework from other courses, etc.) is not permitted. At the discretion of the instructor, you may be asked to put your technology away or you may be asked to leave the classroom.

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

University and School of Music Information

University Mission Statement

East Texas A&M University nurtures and educates for success through access to academic, research, and service programs of high quality.

School of Music Mission Statement

The East Texas A&M University School of Music promotes excellence in music through the rigorous study of music history, literature, theory, composition, pedagogy, and the preparation of music performance in applied study and ensembles to meet the highest standards of aesthetic expression.

Students Requesting Accommodations Due to Disabilities

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
East Texas A&M University
Velma K. Waters Library- Room 162
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
Email: studentdisabilityservices@etamu.edu
Website: [Student Disability Services](https://www.etamu.edu/student-disability-services/)
<https://www.etamu.edu/student-disability-services/>

Please note that faculty members are unable to make accommodations unless they have received a letter from SDRS.

Nondiscrimination Notice

ETAMU will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained. Please let me know what pronouns you would prefer I use for you in class and in conversation.

Musician Health and Safety

Valuable information and resources are provided in the D2L course shell to assist the musician in the prevention of injury and to provide a resource for discovering information about injury assessment and injury recovery. The module is titled "NEED HELP?"

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in East Texas A&M University buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and ETAMU Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to (<https://inside.tamuc.edu/aboutus/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>) and/or consult your event organizer). Pursuant to PC

46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all ETAMU campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

MUS 325 Course Calendar (subject to change)

Week	<i>Teaching Texas</i> module due	Content	Tasks Due
Week 1	Chapter 1: Designing Instruction and Assessment to Promote Student Learning	Welcome Syllabus FBE Field Placement Information, the FBE Handbook, & Tk20 Creative Lesson Planning: "Teach Like It's Music" (Goodkin) Professionalism Ethics Myers Briggs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Purchase TK-20 and complete Application for Student Teaching. 2. Purchase CertifyTeacher, form study groups, and study for the Music Content portion of the TExES test. 3. Select two schools in one district for your FBE Hours. Initiate the process for observing/working in your chosen district.
Week 2	Chapter 2: Multiculturalism and Education: Opportunities for All Students	Cultural Competence "Thinking About and Responding to Culture in General Music" <i>from Teaching General Music</i> by Abril & Gault	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Personal Reflections on Professionalism due 2. Complete The Application for Student Teaching in Tk20
Week 3	Chapter 3: Designing Effective Planning	Growth vs. Fixed Mindset History of Music Education	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Complete The Application for Student Teaching in Tk20
Week 4	Chapter 4: How Learning Occurs	How to Pass the TExES	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Complete an Article Review

Week	Teaching Texas module due	Content	Tasks Due
			2. Complete The Application for Student Teaching in TK-20
Week 5	Chapter 5: The Importance of a Positive Classroom Environment to Enhance Academic Achievement and to Promote Effective Social Interactions	Choosing excellent articles	1. Context for Learning due 2. 5 hours FBE in the Handbook
Week 6	Chapter 6: Managing Student Behavior	Education Theorists	
Week 7	Chapter 7: Principles and Strategies for Effective Communication	Philosophy of Music Education	PPR Assignment due
Week 8	Chapter 8: Student Motivation and Engagement		
Week 9	Chapter 9: Using Technology as an Effective Instructional Tool		
Week 10	Chapter 10: Assessment	Getting the Job: ePortfolios, Resumes, Interviews	
Week 11	Chapter 11: Increasing Parental Involvement: A Key Component of School Improvement and Reform		Philosophy of Education due
Week 12	Chapter 12: Reflective Practice and Professional Responsibilities		Completed resume due
Week 13	Chapter 13: Legal and Ethical Requirements for Educators	Contemporary Issues and Advocacy	
Week 14	No module due	Contemporary Issues and Advocacy Part 2	1. ePortfolios due 2. Advocacy Scenarios due

Week	<i>Teaching Texas</i> module due	Content	Tasks Due
Week 15	No module due	Closing out the semester	<p>The complete FBE Packet is due (Cover Sheet, Logs, Reflection Prompts & Rating Forms from the Mentor Teachers)</p> <p>Passing scores for MCT due Score for Practice PPR due Upload all to TK-20.</p>
FINAL		FINAL EXAM	