

McKendree University
Music Program

10 key tips for success as a music major or minor at McK !

1. Go to class!

Attendance in class will always be to your benefit! Be there! Also, you *must purchase the books* required for your classes! If you don't, it is like buying a car and refusing to get oil changes – sooner or later the car will break down!

2. Know the Music Program's grading policy! It is as follows:

Please turn assignments in on time! In music classes, a late assignment loses one letter grade for each school day it is late. Therefore, if you hand in an A assignment but it is 4 school days late, it will receive an F.

3. Go to your lessons and practice, practice, practice!

If you miss a lesson and did not contact the instructor before hand, he/she is not required to make it up unless there were extenuating circumstances. You should call your professor if you can't make your lesson due to illness or an emergency.

If your instructor cancels or misses more than one of your lessons and the lessons are not made up, please tell Dr. Ypma as soon as possible – DO NOT wait until the end of the semester to tell us!

Music Applied Lessons Practice expectations:

Performance majors: at least 2 hours a day/6 days a week

Music Education/Church Music/Music Business: at least 1-1 ½ hours a day/6 days a week on primary instrument

Minors – at least ½ hour a day/6 days a week

All students taking lessons must play for juries at the end of each semester. Dates will be announced during the semester and are usually held the last week of classes or during final's week.

4. Attend rehearsals!

All music majors and music minors on scholarship must participate in an academic (MUE) ensemble and **must take the course for a grade** whether you take it for credit or not. (Courses with an E prefix are extracurricular.)

5. Go to Concerts!

All **music majors** are required to attend 8 concerts a semester (every semester you are enrolled in classes) of which 4 must be professional concerts. The other four concerts should be student senior/junior recitals; if there are not four student recitals during the semester, a student ensemble concert (in which you are not performing) may be used as a substitute.

All **music minors** are required to attend 4 concerts a semester of which 2 must be professional concerts. (Minors are not required to do this after you have completed the 4 required semesters of lessons on their primary instrument.) The other two concerts should be either student recitals or student ensemble concerts in which you are not playing.

You should also attend all faculty recitals! These are considered Professional Concerts.

Programs must be signed by a professor and all programs should be turned in to the instructor of your Performance Lab.

Additional notes regarding concert attendance:

- If you are working at the concert (lights, usher, etc.) you may *not* count that concert as for your attendance requirement.
- Page turners should see Dr. Ypma regarding this issue.

6. **Music majors** need to attend all required Department Performance Classes and Studio Performance Classes! (This is a requirement for only music majors.)

7. **Music Majors:** If you need to work with an accompanist for a performance, contact your accompanist early and rehearse with them. (See attached policies regarding accompanists and recital auditions.)

(Music Minors: If you and your teacher should decide you are going to perform in one of the performance classes, you will need to follow the same accompanist guidelines the majors do.)

8. Communicate with your professors and advisors and in a professional manner!
9. Take care of our facilities and instruments so they will be working for future students. This means...

Theory Lab (Eisenmayer 204):

No food or drinks in the theory. If you are seen in the lab with food and/or drink, you will have *no lab privileges for 4 weeks!*

Please contact Dr. Mark Connor if there are any problems with the computers or pianos.

Pianos

Do not place anything sticky or wet on any of the pianos on campus!

Please close the windows in the Eisenmayer practice rooms when you leave.

Please let Dr. Ypma know if there are any problems with any of the pianos.

10. Take care of yourself

Eat healthy! Sleep every night! Exercise! Don't smoke! You need to peak for performances, and so like an athlete, you need to think ahead and take care of yourself.

Attachments:

DPC/SPC information

Accompanist information

Recital Audition form