Performer’s Certificate Gainful Employment Disclosure

Program Information

Northern Illinois University complies with the U.S. Department of Education’s Gainful Employment requirements by disclosing information to applicants regarding the Performer’s Certificate program.

The links below provide occupational information from a national database (O*Net OnLine) about the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) profession classifications of Postsecondary Music Teacher, Music Director (Conductor), and Musician.

- 25-1121.00 Art, Drama, and Music Teachers, Postsecondary
- 27-2041.01 Music Directors
- 27-2042.00 Musicians and Singers
- 27-2042.01 Singers
- 27-2042.02 Musicians, Instrumental

Graduates of the School of Music’s Performer’s Certificate program have combined the program with the Master of Music at NIU, have pursued further graduate studies (Master of Music or Doctor of Musical Arts) at other institutions, and pursued employment among the following employment possibilities, often combining several into a portfolio career:

- Recording Artist (solo or as a member of a group)
- Orchestra or Choral Member
- Chamber Ensemble Member
- Solo Performing Artist
- Accompanist/Collaborative Musician (for solo or ensemble work)
- Military Music Ensemble (Band, Jazz Band, Choir, Orchestra)
- Private Studio Teacher
- Cantor
- Recording Session Musician (commercials, industrial films, etc.)
- Floor Show performer (singer or musician for Las Vegas/Branson/cruise ship-type shows)
- Theatre Pit Musician
- Church Music Director or Performer
- Freelance Performing Artist
- General Business musician (weddings, corporate functions, bar/bat mitzvahs, the like)
- Jazz Group Member
- Music manufacturer’s product demonstrator/sales representative
- College/university instrumental or vocal teacher
- Movie/television soundtrack recording musician

Normal Time to Complete the Program

This program is a 24 semester-hour program that can be completed in one academic year if a student takes 12 credit hours each semester for two consecutive semesters. The actual time to completion for any student may be more or less than 1 year depending on the number of courses the student takes during each term and whether the student is participating in the Performer’s Certificate program in conjunction with other graduate study.
Of the students who completed the program during the 2015-16 year, 30% completed the program in one year, 80% completed in 2 years or less.

**Cost**

In-state tuition per semester credit hour for graduate students for 2016-17 is $493.63. All students are subject to mandatory fees. An Illinois resident enrolling in this program for the Fall and Spring semesters of the 2016-17 academic year, taking 12 hours each semester and completing the program in the year would pay on average:

$ 11,847.12  Tuition and Fees (this does not include health insurance or any optional fees)
$  150.00  Average Course Fees
$ 11,997.12  Total

On average full-time graduate students spend $900 per year for books and supplies.

Non-Resident (out-of-state) tuition is $850.63 per semester hour. Total non-resident tuition for 24 semester hours is $20,415.12. Other costs are the same for students who are not Illinois residents.

Information about all tuition and fee charges as well as a tuition estimator can be found on the Office of the Bursar webpage. Tuition and fees are established for one academic year and are subject to annual review. Please see the Tuition Estimator for the most up to date information.

**Student Load Debt**

In general students who are fully admitted to this program and enroll full-time for both fall and spring semesters can borrow up to $20,500. This loan amount is not required to cover the cost of the program and students are advised to only borrow the amount needed.

NIU does not disclose information about median loan debt for this program because the Department of Education has determined, based on the number of students who participate in and complete the program, disclosing this information would not meet privacy guidance.