

**Thoughts on Music for Students
who are Not Majoring in Music or Music Performance in College**

1. Non-major musical options may be either curricular (for class credit (sometimes partial class credit)) or extracurricular (not for credit).

Curricular Options may include

Private lessons or small and large ensembles for (partial) class credit (often called applied music); or

Academic classes in the Music Department that focus on various musical topics

Tips:

- If the school counts music as a curricular course, that college may restrict the total number of credit hours that students can take per term. So, if a student wants to take private lessons in more than one instrument / voice, or take part in private lessons and an ensemble, they may bump up against these credit hour limits. Research how different colleges handle this issue.

- Check to see if lessons / curricular classes are open to all students, or if you have to be a music major to participate.

Extracurricular Options – Student organized ensembles (acapella groups, bands, etc) or school organized options that are not for class credit. Schools may treat private lessons and ensembles as extracurricular activities.

2. When looking at schools with a conservatory or audition based school of music, research how many music opportunities are open to non-conservatory or non-music major students. A school may be known as a good music school, but it may or may not have many options for non-music majors.

3. For both curricular and extra-curricular offerings, check to see if an audition is required. If so, are there alternatives that don't require an audition in the event your student is not admitted? (For example, schools with an audition based orchestra may have an open admission wind ensemble).

4. Even if you are not majoring in music, still do your research. If music has been a big part of your student's life, they may receive many personal benefits from continuing it in college. Here's a quote from my son's college's music department: "Students often find that the personal focus and familiar routine of applied music studies [private lessons] helps keep life centered and in balance."

Study the website – figure out what musical offerings are available. Different schools put music information in different places on their website, and it can be confusing. For example, some schools include "extracurricular" music offerings under the Music Department webpage. Others may include music info under "life on campus" oriented webpages.

Look at social media accounts for the school and for its music department and music ensembles (if applicable).

Ask people on campus (tour guides, admission reps, professors) about the music program. Ask your NT music teacher or your local private lesson teacher if they know anything about the school(s) that you are considering. What is the school's reputation for music? Is the school investing in the music program? How involved are students with music on campus? Do visiting artists come to perform on campus (look at upcoming events)? Are there opportunities for things like master classes, etc.?

Look at the music facilities when you visit campus. Is there a place where you can imagine wanting to practice? What is the quality of the facilities? Is it easy to get a practice room if you are not a music major? If you need to use school owned instruments, what is the quality of those instruments?

Attend music performances when you visit campus, if possible. If not, look for events that may be live-streamed or for YouTube videos of past performances.

Look into private lesson teachers, if applicable. Are they full professors? Are they high quality local teachers? How will you be assigned your private lesson teacher? Is it audition based? Is space limited?

How does the school charge for things like private lessons? Is it covered by tuition? Is it extra?

Think about trying something new! Research whether you can start a new instrument or voice lessons as a beginner.