

## ***Certificate in Music: Percussion Specialist***

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### ***The University of North Alabama***

The Certificate in Music: Percussion Specialist program is designed to prepare students who wish to go into a primary or secondary field as a percussion instructor to be adequately prepared for the current trends and job demands in the field. The Percussive Arts Society defines a Percussion Specialist as “anyone who teaches percussion in grades 6-12: public, private, charter schools.” Such a position often does not require a music education degree or certification. Traditionally, a position of this nature is open to one who has taught percussion ensembles, beginning percussion classes, private lessons, and the marching percussion ensemble.

In recent years, the job expectations of the percussion teacher have expanded due to the growth of the marching arts, the use of electronics in concert band composition, greater theatrical elements being required by percussion compositions, and other current trends. The percussion teacher of today must often be a show designer, audio engineer, stage director, and arranger, as well as a percussion pedagogue. This certificate is designed to address these varied roles through specific coursework in the variety of areas in which the modern percussion instructor must work. This certificate is designed to be completed within the elective hours for the BA or BS in Music Degree.

The genesis of his came from seeing online conversations by people like Ian Grom, Kevin Shah, Robbie Green, Michael Huestis and more. In those conversations they would often lament that many of the future roles for percussion teachers (designer, audio technician, etc.) are not addressed anywhere in a traditional 4 year music program. Yes, programs have courses like “Music Technology” but those are often introductory classes. In addition, there is very little pedagogy devoted to the marching arts, which are an ever growing and expanding field, as well as one of the fastest ways to reach the largest number of future students. Additional influence: Ivan Trevino’s “My Pretend Music School.” <https://ivandrums.com/2014/09/21/my-pretend-music-school/>

This also opens the program up to students who are interested in a different career outside of music but know that they wish to continue being able to work with groups as a percussion instructor/private teacher. Many of these students have multiple interests beyond music, and are not served by a traditional music degree, but know that they still want music as a part of what they do. We also looked at the fact that these people would be going out to teach, and in schools we would recruit from. The more we could help them be better, the better their programs would be, and therefore the stronger our recruiting base would be.

The career field for people working and designing exclusively in the marching arts has also grown, with many people making their primary living from that path. A traditional music program does not help to prepare them for that pathway.

**Advantages we had** Location – in the Shoals, the heart of much of the recording industry. There is already a lot of interest in sound design etc. due to that.

Additionally, we have a robust Entertainment Industry program. This meant the audio courses did not have to be created. Same with theater.

490 Courses here allow us to create whatever we see a need for. This is where the Arranging and Pedagogy classes were able to be created.

The marching band style here is much more in line with the DCI/WGI/BOA approach. This means that the students are exposed to design elements in arranging and audio that are similar to what they will see. This also means we have available all of the equipment for them to work with.

We know from the density of programs around here that there is a need and desire for people that are prepared to teach percussion. We typically have more programs looking for instructors than we can provide.

Admin very interested in Microcredentials.

### **Learning Outcomes**

- Expanded knowledge and understanding of the field of percussion performance, and pedagogy.
- Enhanced perspective on and knowledge of theatrical design elements that are increasingly common in both concert and marching percussion performances.
- Broad knowledge base about audio design, and related performance implications.

### **CAT-250 Rendering (3)**

The class provides an overview and rudimentary study of the general areas of theatre design. The course includes the study of rendering and drawing of design elements as well as the materials and construction techniques required to implement designs in major productions.

SLO: Gain knowledge in the hands-on design of sets and props, including proper tool usage and selection, carpentry, and basic construction techniques.

### **MU 151 Class Percussion (1)**

Basic instruction in voice and instruments in a class situation. Each class meets two periods per week for one credit hour. SLO: Expanded knowledge of the educational techniques for percussion instructor in a classroom situation.

### **MU 123-223 Music Composition and Arranging (3 credits, 1 credit per semester)**

Individual instruction in voice, instruments, and composition by arrangement. One credit hour for each half-hour lesson per week, with five hours preparation required for each lesson.

SLO: Study of the basics of musical composition, followed by studies specific to writing and arranging for both concert and marching percussion ensembles.

### **MU 315 Percussion. (2 Credits, 1 credit per semester)**

Individual instruction in percussion instruments. One credit hour for each half-hour lesson per week, with five hours preparation required for each lesson; may be taken for one or two credit hours.

SLO: Expanded knowledge, and application of the percussion performance skills.

### **MU 392 Instrumental Literature and Pedagogy (2)**

A study of percussion literature from the pre-Baroque to the present, including analysis, performance techniques, teaching techniques, materials, practices, and theories for the student's major instrument. Prerequisite: assignment by departmental approval.

SLO: Students will gain a thorough knowledge, and in-depth perspective, of the standard literature for solo and ensemble percussion instruments, as well as an enhanced study of current pedagogical techniques in percussion.

### **MU 490 Pedagogy of Marching Percussion Instruments (1)**

Analysis, performance techniques, teaching techniques, materials, practices, and theories for the world of the marching percussion ensemble.

SLO: Students will gain an expanded knowledge of approaches to education specific to the marching percussion ensemble. These areas include proper staging and visual design for the ensemble; performance techniques specific to the marching percussion ensemble; and rehearsal techniques for the marching ensemble.

### **MU 372. Introduction to Music Technology. (3 Credits)**

This course serves as an introduction to technology as it pertains to music, including consideration of cross-disciplinary computer hardware and software, digital video and audio equipment and software, electronic sound equipment, MIDI concepts, and related software programs, the music-writing software Sibelius, as well as historical considerations in the development of technology for the teaching/learning process.

SLO: Students taking this course will learn the basic fundamentals of music technology use. This course features the basic elements of sound design, making sound samples, utilizing MIDI, and routing the sounds into the synthesizer or mixing board. These are many of the key elements of electronic musical composition.

**ENT 335 (3 credits) Survey of Audio Recording.** Audio recording techniques of professional studio recording are studied including basic audio electronics, analog and digital tape machines and related outboard recording gear, microphones, studio set-up; and recording, mixing, editing, and engineering functions of studio recording. The relative place and significance of recording studio operations is presented.

SLO: Students taking this course will learn the specific field of audio recording, including composition techniques recording techniques, as well as the basics of signal routing..

**ENT 340 (3 credits) Live Production Technology.** A broad overview of the live production industry. Primarily hands-on training for touring crew, including but not limited to live audio and video production, lighting for concert and theatrical applications, projection systems and live entertainment broadcast production. Prerequisites: ENT 335. SLO: Students taking this course will learn the specific field of audio engineering, balance, and equipment in the world of live audio and performance production, which is gaining increasing importance in both concert, and marching percussion performance.

### **21 Credits for Completion**

**Financial Expense to the University:** No additional foreseen expense, as these are courses that are already offered at UNA.

**Enrollment:** It is connected to the BA/BS degrees, which currently is 5 percussion students. However, It is predicted this would likely increase.

**Recruiting:** As UNA would be the first institution to offer such a program, it should have a positive impact on recruiting. This area of "Percussion Specialist", and these requisite skills sets are seeing an increase with the growth of the pageantry arts in particular (Marching Band, Drum Corps, and Winter Guard International). UNA would be the first school to offer a formal program that addresses professional preparation and growth in these areas.

**Retention:** The impact of retention should be significant. It is a certificate in which many percussion students will see a direct future application of their studies to a growing field.

### **Admission Requirement**

Students in the Certificate in Music: Percussion Specialist program are required to successfully complete an entrance audition administered by the UNA Department of Music.

## Certificate in Music: Percussion Specialist

The Certificate in Music: Percussion Specialist program is designed to prepare students who seek a percussion specialist position in a primary or secondary school setting to be informed of the current trends in the discipline and to be adequately prepared to meet the specific job demands of the field.

Requirements for the Certificate in Music: Percussion Specialist

<b>Code</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Hours</b>
TH-250	Theatrical Design	3
MU 392	Percussion Literature	2
MU 151	Class Percussion	1
MU 123-223	Music Composition	3 (1 credit per semester)
<b>MU 372</b>	<b>Introduction to Music Technology</b>	3
MU 315	Percussion	2
MU 490	Pedagogy of Marching Percussion	1
ENT 335	Survey of Audio Recording	3
ENT 340	Live Production Technology.	3
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<i>Total hours</i>		21

The Program was sent through all normal curriculum processes.

Department Curriculum Committee

College of Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee

University Curriculum Committee

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**The thing we wish was included** (victim of hours): a business/accounting course. Many take it as an elective as this does not use all of their electives.