

MUS 260-001

Establishing Foundational Musicianship in Children

Term: Fall 2026 **Credit hours:** 3

Meeting days/time/location: Tues/Thurs 9:30–10:20am Lucille Caudill Little Fine Arts Library, Rm 212
Fri 8:00–9:50am practicum at an elementary school

Practicum begins Friday, Sept. 4, at an approved local elementary school (general music). While officially scheduled for Fridays from 8:00–9:50am, you may arrange another 2-hour window if needed. Expect to observe 1–2 lessons (minimum 50 minutes; leaving at 9:30am for a 10:00am campus class is fine). Attendance is tracked weekly, and missing practicum counts as a course absence. View the list of schools/teachers [here](#).

Prior to visiting your school, go to [Volunteering in FCPS web page](#) and scroll down to the "Submit the Volunteer Application" button. Choose the school your practicum will be at. When you arrive at the school, go to the main office to check in. Give yourself at least 15 minutes to park, check in, and walk to the music room.

Field Placement Incident Reporting

To maintain safety and professionalism, report any field placement incidents (injuries, suspected abuse/neglect, harassment, confidentiality breaches, or safety concerns) immediately to your cooperating teacher and Dr. Vasil. You must also submit the UK's Incident Report Form within 24 hours. Failure to report may affect your program standing or certification. Always adhere to the UK Student Code of Conduct. [Incident Reporting Form](#)

Instructor Information

Name: Dr. Martina Vasil

Teaching Assistant: Heidi Guenther, PhD Student in Music Education

Office Location: 421 Rose St, Old Engineer's Residence, Rm 203 (upstairs)

UKY email address: martina.vasil@uky.edu

Office hours (in person and/or virtual): TBD

How to set an appointment: [Click here](#) to schedule an appointment on Zoom.

Preferred communication method: Email

Timeframe for responses: Professor will respond within 48 hours during the week, by Monday if contacted Friday evening or on the weekend.

Course Description

MUS 260 examines the philosophy, curriculum, and process involved in promoting the musical development of children in elementary school environments.

[Week-by-Week Course Schedule \(Subject to Change\)](#)

Course Prerequisites

Sophomore-standing in music education.

Required Materials/Membership

- Kala or Makala ukulele. Soprano ukulele for small hands, concert or tenor ukulele for large hands ~\$40–90 Don Wilson Music, [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com), or any local music store.

- A journal and pen/pencil for handwriting class reflections and weekly note taking at practicum
- Vasil, M. (2023). [A practical guide to teaching elementary music](#). Pressbooks. [free, e-book]
- Soprano recorder (free, provided)
- Computer/tablet for in-class activities
- [American Orff-Schulwerk Association College Membership](#) [free with student ID and course schedule]

Other Expenses

There will be costs associated with owning a vehicle due to off-campus practicum experiences.

Course Activities Outside of Regular Class Meetings

You are required to attend a general music workshop/conference (min. 3 hours) in person this semester. More information [here](#). The Orff conference and workshops are free for students. If Dr. Vasil is not at the event you attend, take a picture with the presenter and upload to Canvas as proof of attendance. **You will also complete a service project, which is creating and delivering a one-day workshop for children in Fayette County in Nov.**

Skill and Technology Requirements

Students will need to have:

- Access to Microsoft Word (via Google docs or OneDrive), NOT Pages
- Active UKY email account
- Active Canvas account (check weekly at the minimum)
- A video recording device for your teachings (usually a phone)

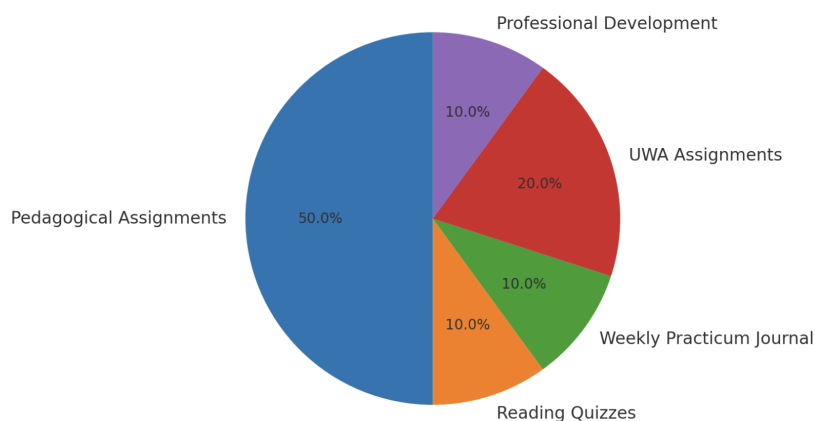
For technical assistance, contact ITS Customer Services 24/7 at 859-218-HELP (4357) for urgent needs. For non-urgent matters, choose the option that works best for you at <https://techhelpcenter.uky.edu/gethelp>

Student Learning Outcomes

SLO 1	KTPS 1	Analyze patterns of PreK–5 learner growth and development across cognitive, linguistic, social, emotional, and physical domains, and design developmentally appropriate and challenging music learning experiences.
SLO 2	KTPS 2, 3	Create inclusive, culturally responsive learning environments that foster diversity, positive social interaction, active engagement, self-motivation, and both individual and collaborative learning.
SLO 3	KTPS 4, 8	Demonstrate understanding of central concepts, structures, and tools of inquiry in general music, and apply instructional approaches (e.g., Dalcroze, Kodály, Orff-Keetman) to build deep understanding and meaningful application.
SLO 4	KTPS 5, 7	Integrate music concepts with local and global issues to develop critical thinking, creativity, and collaborative problem solving, and plan instruction that draws on content knowledge, curriculum, pedagogy, and learner/community contexts to meet rigorous goals.
SLO 5	KTPS 6	Implement multiple assessment methods to engage learners in their growth, monitor progress, and adjust instruction based on results.
SLO 6	KTPS 9	Engage in ongoing professional learning and use evidence to continually evaluate and improve instructional practice.

Course Details

Assignment Categories



[Pedagogical Assignments \(50%\)](#). The core of your professional preparation in this course; this includes observing children, analyzing repertoire and approaches, designing and teaching a lesson, and reflecting on student learning. Each assignment builds directly toward the UWA 3: Deliver report.

[Reading Quizzes \(10%\)](#). Short autograded quizzes for each textbook chapter to help you retain key concepts before we apply them in class.

[Weekly Practicum Journal \(10%\)](#). Structured observation journals from your weekly practicum visits. Each entry focuses on a specific lens and feeds directly into the UWA 3: Deliver report. Reflective writing is how you turn what you observe into what you know as a teacher.

[UWA Assignments \(20%\)](#). The Unit-Wide Assessment 3 (UWA 3): Deliver is a data-driven instructional design project that includes a profile of the school and students you observed, 1–2 lesson plans you designed and taught, pre- and post-assessment data you collected, and an analysis of the impact of your teaching on student learning. The final submission includes the written report and a short individual video summarizing your most significant finding from the data.

[Professional Development \(10%\)](#).

- **Service Project.** You will design and teach lessons for children at various elementary schools on a specified day. (you'll have a dean's excuse)
- **Field Hours.** 7 hours of practicum, 4 hours from the service project, and 3–4 hours of a general music workshop are required for a Complete (14–15 field hours total). These are built into the course. If you miss a practicum day, you are responsible for making up those hours. Log your hours on KFETS (you need 200 field hours to be eligible for student teaching). Submit a screenshot to Canvas. If you have spoken with Dr. Vasil about doing the workshop in the spring due to an unavoidable conflict, you only need to submit 11 hours.
- **General Music Workshop.** You must attend a general music workshop or conference (minimum 3 hours) in person this semester. **If you cannot attend during the fall, you will receive an Incomplete until you do**—you can attend in the spring or complete four hours of elementary music sessions at KMEA. Students do this successfully every year. Once you show Dr. Vasil proof, your grade will be updated from an Incomplete to what you earned in class.

Grading Scale

Each student's overall course grade will be computed according to the following breakdown:

A = 90–100% B = 80–89% C = 70–79% D = 60–69% E = Below 60%

Grading Criteria

A = Excellent work; every component of the assignment is completed thoroughly and the student demonstrates a full understanding of the content.

B = Good work; not all components of the assignment are completed thoroughly and the student mostly demonstrates an understanding of the content.

C = Average work; few components of the assignment are completed and the student demonstrates limited understanding of the content.

D = Below average work; too few components of the assignment are completed and the students demonstrates a lack of understanding of the content.

E = Assignment not turned in.

Midterm Grades

Midterm grades will be posted in myUK by the deadline established by the University Senate and published in the [Academic Calendar](#).

Attendance Policy

Being in class is essential to have the experiences necessary for you to gain a full understanding of the materials and concepts.

Tardiness

It is preferred you arrive a few minutes early to class (i.e. “being on time is late!”). The first five minutes of class, a code is shared to log in your attendance on Canvas. If you are more than 5 minutes late, it will be recorded as an absence. Please talk to Dr. Vasil or email her if you missed the code due to unforeseen circumstances and she can remedy the absence. However, if a pattern of tardiness emerges, these are the policies—3 tardies in a row (more than 5 minutes late) will result in 1 unexcused absence. 6 tardies over the whole semester (regardless of the reason) will also result in 1 unexcused absence.

Unexcused Absences

You can have 2 unexcused absences. Absences are typically unexcused when there is no communication with Dr. Vasil about the reason for missing, or the absence doesn’t fall under the category of excused absences (listed below). An example of an absence that I don’t find reasonable for missing class is scheduling a non-medical appointment during class time. Starting with the 2nd unexcused absence your grade will be lowered by a letter grade per unexcused absence.

1st and 2nd Unexcused Absence	3rd Unexcused Absence	4th through 6th Unexcused Absences	7th Unexcused Absence
Academic Alerts issued. Reminder of 3rd absence policy.	Academic Alert issued. Minus 1 letter grade (i.e., if you have an A, dropped to a B).	Academic Alerts issued. Minus 1 letter grade for each additional unexcused absence (i.e., the B is now a C, D, or E).	You can withdraw from class (W) or discuss an Incomplete (I).
~Contact Dr. Vasil with reason for absence and it will likely be excused. ~Submit documentation of absence if possible. ~Complete make-up work within a week. ~Monitor your absences and attend all classes.			Registrar notified.

Excused Absences

Students are expected to attend all class meetings for the course unless they have a documented reason to miss class (aka, an excused absence). Excused absences are defined in the section below as per university policy

Significant illness of the student or serious illness of a member of the student's household (permanent or campus) or immediate family. The Instructor of Record shall have the right to request appropriate verification.*

**The term "significant illness" includes mental as well as physical illness. The standard of verification for "significant illness" that an instructor requires shall be equally stringent for physical and mental illness. For example, if a note from University Health Services that the illness of the student is "significant" is considered to be acceptable verification, then a note from the Counseling and Testing Center or the VIP Center that the illness of the student is "significant" shall likewise be considered to be acceptable verification. [SREC 9/9/20]*

The death of a member of the student's household (permanent or campus) or immediate family. The Instructor of Record shall have the right to request appropriate verification. For the purpose of this rule, immediate family is defined as spouse or child or parent (guardian) or sibling (all of the previous include steps, halves and in-laws of the same relationship); and grandchild or grandparent.

Trips for members of student organizations sponsored by an educational unit, trips for University classes, and trips for participation in intercollegiate athletic events, including club sports registered with the university as well as varsity sports. When feasible, the student must notify the Instructor of Record prior to the occurrence of such absences, but in no case shall such notification occur more than one week after the absence. Instructors of Record may request formal notification from appropriate university personnel to document the student's participation in such trips.

Major Religious Holidays. Students are responsible for notifying the Instructor of Record in writing of anticipated absences due to their observance of such holidays. Faculty shall give students the opportunity to make up work (typically, exams or assignments) when students notify them that religious observances prevent the students from doing their work at its scheduled time. Faculty should indicate in their syllabus how much advance notice they require from a student requesting an accommodation. Faculty shall use their judgment as to whether the observance in question is important enough to warrant an accommodation, although the presumption should be in favor of a student's request. The Offices of Institutional Diversity, the Dean of Students, and the Ombud are available for consultation.

Interviews for full-time job opportunities after graduation and interviews for graduate or professional school. The student must notify the Instructor of Record prior to the occurrence of such absences. Instructors of Record have the right to request appropriate verification.*

** "Appropriate verification" may include evidence that the student had little or no control over the date and time of the interview and that the student is not able to reschedule the interview to a nonconflicting time reasonably close to the originally scheduled time. [SREC: 4/1/2017]*

Any other circumstances which the Instructor of Record finds reasonable cause for absence. This may include mental health days and unexpected life events (e.g., getting a flat tire).

20% Excused Absence Policy



If you miss 20% or more of classes because of excused absences, you can choose to receive a "W", or I may award an "I" for the course if you decline to receive a "W." We have 39 class meetings this semester. 20% is 7 classes. You can make up missed practicum days but not T/R meeting days. If you have 7 excused absences, you should withdraw from the class.

Mental Health

Your mental health is important to me. If you need campus resources, including referrals to the UK Counseling Center, please contact (TRACS) Triage, Referral, Assistance and Crisis Support at 859-218-7227 or by completing the Get Help form at <https://studentsuccess.uky.edu/get-help> If you need to miss a class to access these services, my class absence policy is explained in this syllabus. Should there be extenuating circumstances for absences, please contact me at the information on this syllabus. For some students with a diagnosed mental health condition, there may be a need to secure accommodations through the [Disability Resource Center \(DRC\)](#). These accommodations may be a source to help you manage attendance and course expectations. You can contact the DRC at their website to understand the process of requesting accommodations.

Assignment Policies

Assignment Submissions

All assignments are submitted on Canvas.

Returning Assignments to Students

Assignments will be graded and returned on Canvas within a week (7 days).

Late Assignments*

Always contact me if you need more time on assignments. **If you don't communicate with me prior to the due date, I follow this policy:**

Submitted on or prior to the due date/time	Submitted within 24 hours of due date/time	Submitted 24–48 hours of the due date/time	Submitted after 48 hours of the due date/time
Full Points Awarded	1 Letter Grade Deducted	2 Letter Grades Deducted	No Points Awarded

*The chapter quizzes and assignments due during finals week cannot get extensions.

Prep Week

There are no assignments due during Prep Week since you have a final exam during finals week.

Generative AI (Chat GPT) Course Policy

GenAI tools such as ChatGPT may be used in this course for the purposes of pre-submission activities such as starting an outline for a lesson or brainstorming ideas for how to best serve the students in your classroom. However, you are responsible for submitting work that meets the assignment standards for quality and relevancy for the students you are teaching. Before submitting any assignment that was aided in any way by GenAI, you are responsible for ensuring the suitability of the lesson for your students, considering age, culture, and more. You are responsible for ensuring that any content drawn from other sources, including chat GPT, is recognized through a citation or acknowledgement. By keeping track of your AI use and sharing your experiences, we all gain understanding, identify potential issues in this rapidly changing field, and discover better ways to use the resources for our objectives. If you have any questions or concerns about this policy, contact me before submitting any assignments.

Classroom Behavior

When you are not instructed to use your device in class, please keep it out of sight and muted. When instructed to use a device in class, please stay focused on the lesson and don't text, message, or complete other tasks. While it is preferred that you take notes by hand, if you choose to take notes on a laptop, please choose a seat in the back of the room or on the end of a row. Research shows that when a neighboring classmate is on a device, it is distracting for neighboring students and reduces learning.

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0360131520301007>

Other Policies

Academic Policy Statements

Click here to view the Senate's [Academic Policy Statements](#).

Academic Offenses (Plagiarism and Cheating)

Click here to view the rules on [plagiarism](#) and [cheating](#).

Student Resources

The University offers a variety of resources to students. Visit the [Resources Available to Students](#).

Check out UK's [Distance Learning Library Services](#) and [Tutoring and Coaching Resources](#).

Course Recordings

The University of Kentucky [Code of Student Conduct](#) defines Invasion of Privacy as using electronic or other devices to make a photographic, audio, or video record of any person without their prior knowledge or consent when such a recording is likely to cause injury or distress. Meetings of this course may be recorded. All video and audio recordings of lecturers and class meetings, provided by the instructors, are for educational use by students in this class only. They are available only through the Canvas shell for this course and are not to be copied, shared, or redistributed. As addressed in the Code of Student Conduct, students are expected to follow appropriate university policies and maintain the security of linkblue accounts used to access recorded class materials. Recordings may not be reproduced, shared with those not enrolled in the class, or uploaded to other online environments.

Sometimes the instructor may want to take a picture or video record the class to share on their personal social media. Please let the instructor know now if you prefer not to be included in those posts. If the instructor or a University of Kentucky office plans any other uses for the recordings, beyond this class, students identifiable in the recordings will be notified to request consent prior to such use. In anticipation of such cases, students may be asked to complete an "authorization of use" form by a faculty member. Video and audio recordings by students are not permitted during the class unless the student has received prior permission from the instructor. Any sharing, distribution, and or uploading of these recordings outside of the parameters of the class is prohibited. Students with specific recording accommodations approved by the Disability Resource Center should present their official documentation to the instructor.

Course Copyright

All original instructor-provided content for this course, which may include handouts, assignments, and lectures, is the intellectual property of the instructor(s). Students enrolled in the course this academic term may use the original instructor-provided content for their learning and completion of course requirements this term, but such content must not be reproduced or sold. Students enrolled in the course this academic term are hereby granted permission to use original instructor-provided content for reasonable educational and professional purposes extending beyond this course and term, such as studying for a comprehensive or qualifying examination in a degree program, preparing for a professional or certification examination, or to assist in fulfilling responsibilities at a job or internship; other uses of original instructor-provided content require written permission from the instructor(s) in advance.

Musicians' Health & Safety

In addition to direction received in private lessons, master classes, and guest lectures, it is recommended that students involved with music performance stay abreast of current information and resources relating to musicians' health and safety. With the many hours of daily practice and rehearsals it is vital to be aware of preventative measures that musicians can take to avoid serious problems. To this end, please visit the College of Fine Arts' website dedicated to injury prevention and musicians' health:

<https://finearts.uky.edu/music/musicians-health-and-safety>

Classroom Emergency Preparedness and Response

Nothing is more important than the safety and well-being of our campus community. While the UK Police Department continues to enhance campus safety measures, it's important to remember that everyone has a responsibility in keeping our community safe. To find more information visit [Emergency Response Guide](#).

Emergency Reporting

If there is an emergency, DIAL 911. To report suspicious activity or non-emergency situations, call the UK Police Department at 859-257-8573 or #UKPD from any mobile phone. If an emergency occurs in a classroom or residence hall with a red emergency button, press to quickly notify UKPD. Emergency responders will immediately be dispatched to your location.

Action

During an emergency, you are responsible for your own safety. If an emergency occurs during class, your instructor will provide further direction based on university and department emergency plans.

Warning Systems

- **UK Alert:** The university provides emergency notifications through UK Alert, which sends messages via email, text message, phone calls, building alarm systems, digital signage, social media and outdoor sirens. If you receive a UK Alert message during class, notify your instructor and classmates immediately. For more information, visit <https://police.uky.edu/get-notified/uk-alert>
- **LiveSafe:** The university provides additional emergency preparedness information and safety tools through LiveSafe, a free mobile app for iOS and Android. You can report suspicious activity, message with UK Police and virtually escort your friends through the SafeWalk tool. For more information, visit <https://police.uky.edu/safety/livesafe>
- **Blue Emergency Towers:** Blue Emergency Notification Towers are strategically placed at over 50 locations across campus to provide outdoor alert tones and broadcast emergency messages with loud speakers. Each tower also features an emergency push button speaker phone that reaches UKPD and a camera mounted above the tower. For more information, visit <https://police.uky.edu/safety/blue-emergency-towers>

Medical Emergency

If there is a medical emergency, dial 911 and do not act outside the scope of your medical training. After dialing 911, inform your instructor of the situation.

Evacuation

It is required to evacuate for a fire alarm or when university officials order us to do so. Evacuation routes are marked with illuminated exit signs throughout the building. Avoid using elevators during any evacuation.

Emergency Sheltering

- **Storm Sheltering:** Report to the recommended shelter locations. Recommended shelter locations are marked throughout the building. If shelter locations are unavailable, protect yourself from lightning and flying debris by moving to an interior room or hallway on the building's lowest level. Avoid outside doors and windows and get under a sturdy table and use your arms to protect your head and neck.
- **Shelter-in-Place:** If a shelter-in-place order is issued, you will learn about this through UK Alert, the university's emergency notification system. If you are inside, stay where you are unless the building you are in is affected. If the building is affected, and the fire alarm has been activated or directed by law enforcement, you should evacuate. If you are outdoors, proceed into the closest UK building or follow instructions from emergency personnel or alerts. It is ideal to shelter-in-place in an interior room with the fewest or no windows and no doors to the outside if possible. Shut all windows and close exterior doors. If a hazardous chemical release occurs outside the building, follow these same procedures.
- **Active Aggressor:** In a situation where an aggressor is trying to attack you or others, follow three steps:

1. Run - Attempt to get away from the attacker.
2. Hide - If you cannot run, barricade yourself in a safe place. Turn your phone to silent and dim your brightness. If possible, use the LiveSafe App to message UK Police and alert them to your location. If you don't have the app, dial 911. If you cannot speak, leave the line open and allow the dispatcher to listen.
3. Fight - If you cannot run or hide, do whatever you need to do to stop the attacker.

UK Police will communicate additional information through the UK Alert system during an active aggressor situation. Every UKY email automatically receives UK Alerts. You can also sign up in myUK to receive alerts via text and phone call.