



**The Music Education Majors TOP TEN:
What You Need To Do NOW Before You Start Your First Job**
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Here are the TOP TEN things you need to do now before you start your first job...

10. _____
9. _____
8. _____
7. _____
6. _____
5. _____
4. _____
3. _____
2. _____

STOP!

*Don't go to the next page unless you want to ruin your week in Chicago.
Oh come on, play along!*

And the #1 thing you need to do now is...

1. _____

10. Prepare To Fail

- Flexibility
- Compromise
- Perspective
- Learn to be humble
- Ask for help
- Reflection, what did you learn?

9. Start Networking

- What are you waiting for?
- Learn to be a great listener
- Find a mentor(s)
- Stay in touch with college friends and former teachers
- How do you become marketable?
- What makes you likable, and how can you use that to your advantage

8. Brush Up On Your Acting Skills

- Being on and off stage
- Developing your podium personality

7. Acquire Some Business Management Skills

- Rule #1, don't touch the money
- Managing staff
- Paperwork
- Planning for the future
- Best practices for fundraising
- Travel, supplies and services, and new equipment
- What is the role of the director with booster groups?
- Who can you go to for help or clarification?

6. Enhance Your Communication Skills

- What is good communication?
- How will you communicate with students, colleagues, parents, and administrators?
- Computer skills
- Teach conceptually, not just skills
- How many ways can you say it? Draw a picture
- Are you approachable?
- What do you communicate when you're not talking?

5. Listen To Quality Literature

- The standards vs. new literature
- Listen to all levels of difficulty, but focus on Grades 2-4
- Let this guide your listening and study:

*The quality of your teaching begins and ends with the music
you select to play with your students.*

4. Observe

- Learn from those who are already doing the job today
- Watch master teachers
- Don't limit observations to the "top ensemble" in a school. Watch the second group.
- You can learn from every program (big/small, rural/urban, good/average)

3. Develop Your Philosophy

- Why do you want to teach?
- Who inspired you? What good qualities can you take from that person and make them your own?
- What will be your priorities?
- How will you balance curricular vs. extracurricular activities?
- How will you teach the many levels of student ability?
- How will you handle the relationships with students, parents, and administrators?
- How will you balance career and family?
- How will you define success?

2. Strengthen Your Personal Musicianship

- Strive to be the best musician and performer on your instrument
- Teach private lessons; connects teaching to learning
- Volunteer and work with groups (sectionals, camps, any chance to teach)
- Gig

1. Learn Secondary Instruments

- Provides insight with troubleshooting performance issues and repairs
- Pedagogy (fingerings, pitch tendencies, etc.)
- Cleaning and maintaining
- Minor repairs

Final Words

Have a PASSION for Music
LOVE Working with Students
DESIRE to Continue to Grow as a Musician

Thank you for being here today!

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