

Student Experiences of Undergraduate Music Education Curricula

Background

Several calls have been made to reconsider music teacher education, recognizing the need for different experiences and programs to be integrated into the undergraduate experience (Austin, 2021; Campbell et al., 2016; Dansereau et al, 2022). Undergraduate music education majors are pulled in multiple directions as performers, educators, and scholars which creates stress and pressure on their performance in all areas (Conway, 2002; Conway et al, 2010), as well as their mental health (Payne et al., 2020).

Guiding Questions

Overarching Study Questions

- How do students' lived experiences compare to the documented requirements of their degree plan within undergraduate music education programs?
- How do students' experiences, in light of the expectations and requirements of their music education degree programs, impact their professional, academic, and personal identities?

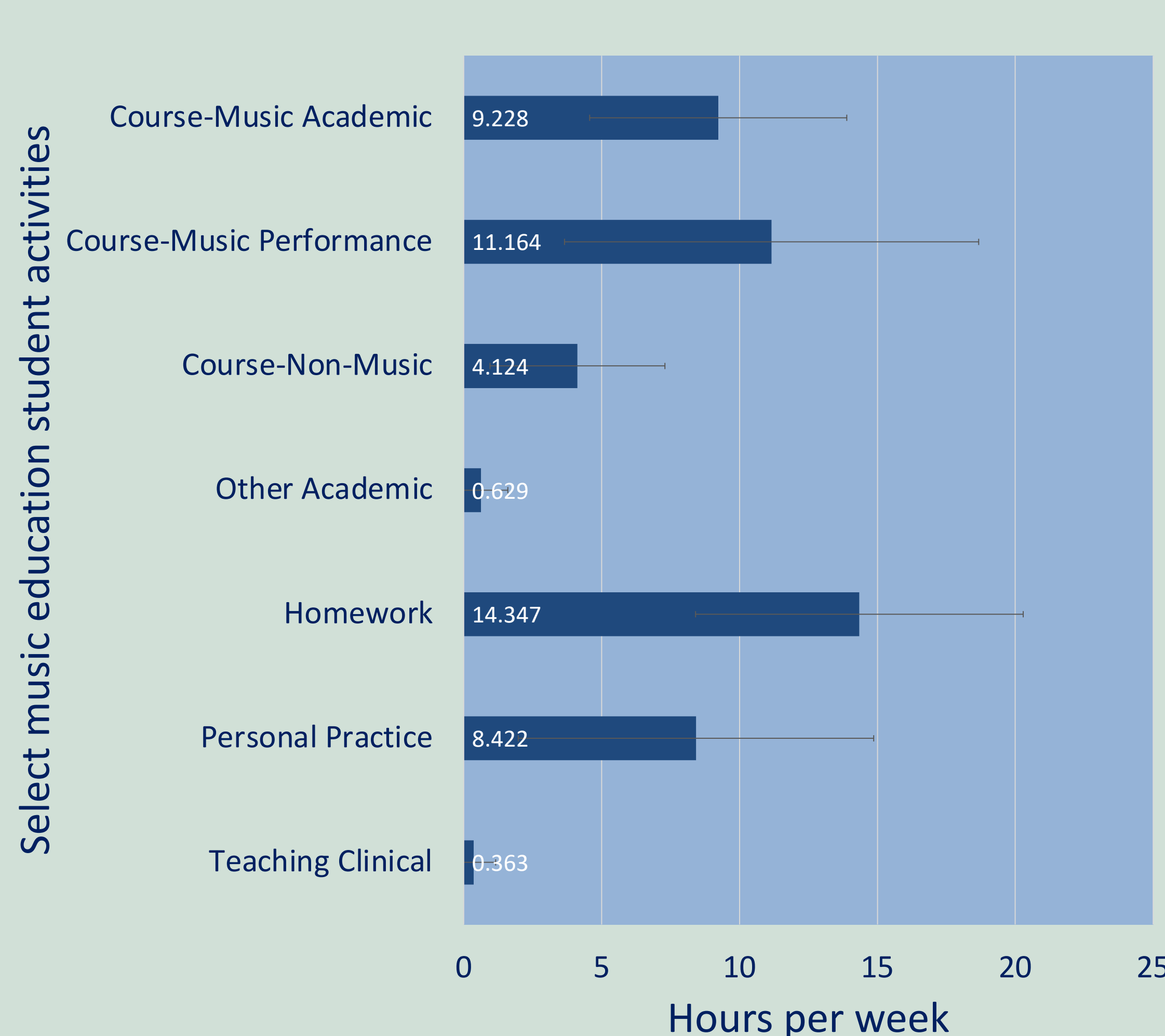
Specific Study Sub-Question for This Poster

How do undergraduate students experience their lives on a weekly basis while in music teacher preparation programs?

Methodology

- 31 students at 6 colleges/universities recorded their daily schedules on an hourly basis for one week in mid-April or mid-September
- Each schedule was coded by two research team members into one of 19 pre-determined activities

Weekly Time Usage by Undergraduate Music Education Students



Activity	Mean	S.D.	Minimum	Maximum
Sleep	55.1	9.04	33	74
Self-care	32.7	9.9	18	48.8
Homework	14.4	5.9	3.5	29
Social	12.3	8.3	0	31
Course-Music Performance	11.2	7.5	0	45
Course-Music Academic	9.2	4.7	0	23
Personal Practice	8.4	6.4	0.5	30.6
Work-Other	6.1	10.1	0 (13)	49
Commuting	4.3	5.3	0 (12)	18
Course-Non-Music	4.1	3.2	0	10
Other	2.3	3.4	0 (10)	16
Performance	1.4	2.3	0 (17)	8
Work-Music Education	1.4	3.0	0 (5)	11.8
Rehearsal-Non-credit	1.4	4.0	0 (20)	22
Campus Organization	0.9	2.0	0 (22)	8.8
Recital Attendance	0.9	1.4	0 (15)	6
Other Academic	0.6	1.0	0 (14)	4
Religious Obligation	0.6	1.4	0 (24)	6
Teaching Clinical	0.3	0.8	0 (25)	2.5

Next steps

- Continued collection of data from undergraduate students in music education at various institutions
- Comparison of student experiences across the academic calendar
- Comparison of student experiences with expectations outlined in course catalogs, syllabi, and other materials

Activity Definitions

Course-Music Academic: Class meetings for non-performance-based music/music education classes (e.g., theory, aural skills, history, composition, education)

Course-Music Performance: Class meetings for performance-based classes, including ensembles, studio, lessons

Course-Non-music: Classes outside of the music or music education curriculum (e.g., University core, non-music minor, exploratory)

Other-Academic: Academic-based activities that do not fall into categories above

Homework: Non-performance-based, out-of-class work including individual and group projects

Personal practice: Individual music practice for any music setting including primary and secondary instruments

Rehearsal-Non-credit: Rehearsals for non-credited music ensembles (e.g. community groups, extracurricular ensembles)

Teaching Clinical: Unpaid in-school experiences for music education such as practicums, observations, and teaching internships

Performance: Concert/recital performances in which the student is performing

Recital attendance: Concert/recital attendance as an audience member

Work-Music Education: Any paid job associated with music or education including teaching lessons, small/large group instruction, performance, tutoring, nannying, etc.

Work other: Non-music or non-education paid job

Social: Any sort of social activity or entertainment not included in self-care (e.g. eating with friends), including personal hobbies not related to music education

Campus organizations: Non-performance co- and extra-curricular activities including Greek organizations, athletic activities, social and professional organizations

Sleep: Includes nightly sleep and naps

Self-care: Personal care and maintenance including meals, laundry, cleaning, grocery/supply shopping, physical fitness (not including sleep)

Religious: Any sort of religious obligation for the student's own beliefs (as opposed to performing in a choir for money)

Commuting: Travel to or from required school activities, including classes, practicums, performances, etc.

Other: Any non-academic-based activities that do not fall into categories above



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Critical Examination of the Curriculum ASPA
 Society for Music Teacher Education