Music has long been an essential part of religious rites, from the beginnings of human history to contemporary worship traditions. The Church Music Certification Program at the University of Dayton has several purposes:

To provide supplemental training for music ministers and church music leaders in the areas of music fundamentals, worship planning, leadership and music resources.

To promote technical musical competency as well as liturgical, scriptural and theological understanding.

To integrate musical, liturgical and pastoral understanding and judgement.

To provide a foundation for future growth and leadership in church music ministry.

To introduce participants to the riches of ecumenical, multicultural and global expressions.

The University of Dayton’s Church Music Certification Program is beneficial to individuals without a music degree, but who currently work in church music ministries and wish to cultivate their knowledge and abilities, and to those who already hold degrees in music but need guidance in the specialized profession of church music.

Certificate requirements

Technical Studies (8 credits)

MUS 399 Organ, voice, guitar or piano performance studies 4 credits (to be taken as four 1-credit lessons)
MUS 240 Fundamentals of Conducting* OR
MUS 435 Advanced Choral Conducting & Rehearsal Techniques 2 credits
MUS 110 Fundamentals of Music ** OR
Additional credits in performance studies or Church Music workshops 2 credits

Historical/Literature (5 credits)

MUS 350 Sacred Music History 3 credits
MUS 452 Contemporary Liturgical Music Repertoire 2 credits

Other Requirements (7-8 credits)

MUS 351 Church Music Administration 2 credits
MUS 390 Liturgical Music Ensemble 1 credit
REL 446 Liturgy OR
Other suitable course to be determined in consultation with the Coordinator of the Certificate Program 2-3 credits
MUS 459 Church Music Internship 2 credits

Church Music Workshops (6 credits)

MUS 505 Teaching Music with Technology 2 credits
MUS 318 Fundamentals of Arranging 2 credits
MUS 461Special Topics in Church Music
Song Leading
Worship Planning
Children’s Choirs in Church Settings
Introduction to Handbells
Integrating Arts into the Worship Experience
Multicultural Worship Music
Worship and Praise
Gospel Music Performance Techniques
African American Sacred Music 1 credit each

Total Credits: 26-27

* Depending on previous background/training—in consultation with Coordinator of Certificate Program.

** People who possess significant experience reading music may opt to take additional workshops or performance studies.