Overview
Designed for secondary music educators, this unique online degree offers instruction in band, orchestra, and choir and enables you to earn a music education master’s while continuing to work full time—using your own school’s programs as your conducting laboratory. Projects are extremely customized for your particular teaching situation, so in addition to earning a master’s degree you’ll be able to immediately revitalize your classroom with applicable skills and knowledge.

You also have the advantage of participating in an exclusive, two-week seminar held on the Colorado State campus each summer. The annual summer conducting seminar includes hands-on workshop sessions taught by CSU faculty as well as some of the most prestigious pedagogues from around the country. The curriculum focuses on score preparation, baton technique, rehearsal strategies, and suggested repertoire. The 2015 seminar also includes sessions on jazz pedagogy, orchestra rehearsal techniques, and the Laban Method of Expressive Conducting.

The online portion of this program allows you to earn your conducting master’s degree while working full time during the school year.

Career Opportunities
Graduates report that the improved conducting skills they learn throughout this program increase their teaching effectiveness dramatically. In addition to an improved classroom, many school districts offer substantial raises to teachers who earn a master’s degree.

Graduates are also prepared for more competitive, combined teaching positions (ex. band/orchestra or orchestra/choir) because the program offers instruction in all three areas. Upon graduation, you will be qualified for additional employment opportunities as well, such as church choir/orchestra positions or conducting community musical theater productions.

Delivery
Online and on campus

Credits
30 credits

Tuition
$551 per credit; financial aid is available

Time Frame
Can be completed in 2 years

Degree Awarded
Master of Music in Music; transcript reflects the Music Education – Conducting specialization

Offered By
School of Music, Theatre and Dance

Learn More
online.colostate.edu/degrees/conducting

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Curriculum
With this graduate degree, you take a variety of courses in advanced conducting, score preparation, rehearsal strategies, the Laban method for expressive conducting, curriculum development, jazz pedagogy, and historical performance and practice.

Online courses
• MU 510 – Foundations of Music Education (3 cr.)
• MU 518 – Analytic Techniques II (3 cr.)
• MU 534 – Music of the Romantic Era (3 cr.)
• MU 630 – Methods of Music Research (3 cr.)
• MU 695B – Independent Study in Conducting (2 cr.)
• Music elective – (3 cr.), to be chosen in consultation with your advisor

On-campus courses
• MU 527A – Conducting Seminar Level 1 (4 cr.)
• MU 527B – Conducting Seminar Level 2 (4 cr.)
• MU 527C – Conducting Seminar Level 3 (4 cr.)
• MU 671 – Graduate Recital (1 cr.)

A maximum of six credits can be accepted from NASM-accredited universities.

Minimum Admission Requirements
• Bachelor’s degree in music from a regionally-accredited institution
• Minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 on all undergraduate coursework

Completion Requirements
• Conducting Seminar comprised of three consecutive summer sessions worth four credits each
• On-campus graduate recital
• 17 graduate-level credits which can be done online or on campus.
• Of the total 30 credits for this degree, a minimum of 24 must be earned at CSU.
• During your final semester of coursework, successful completion of oral examinations must occur before the master’s degree is awarded. A final public conducting project during the third summer serves as the Master’s Recital.