

2025

Career Services Annual Report

MSU COLLEGE OF MUSIC RUNNING START OFFICE

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

37

Grants to students to start businesses, creative projects, or develop themselves as a business (8 RS Competition projects, 28 independent projects, 1 Don Anderson Growth Grant)

*15.6% increase from AY 23-24

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

31

Students completed Arts Internships through the Running Start Office

*Another 7% increase from AY 23-24

89

Gigline connections made for COM students, providing paid performance opportunities

3

Years partnering with Beal's 'Nurture Your Roots' Stations, ft. 7 student recordings

CAREER EDUCATION

110

Students enrolled in career + entrepreneurship courses

*50% increase from AY 23-24

MUS101: Foundations for Success in Music
MUS491 (SS): Finances, the Job Market, & Your Professional Preparation
MUS 491 (Fall): Self Managed Music Career
MUS865: Career Capstone in Music
MUS893: DIY Recording & Licensing
MUS 466/866: Internship in Music
MUS 496: Your Music Business

ARTIST + ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT

49

Guest artists and alums engaged with students in workshops

24%

BIPOC guest artists

WORKSHOPS

23

Outside-of-class events

12

Faculty partners hosted events

491

music student attendees/participants (251 unique music students served)

&

8

In-class presentations

65%

of music participants across events were Music Performance majors

*28% increase from AY 23-24

ADVISING

323

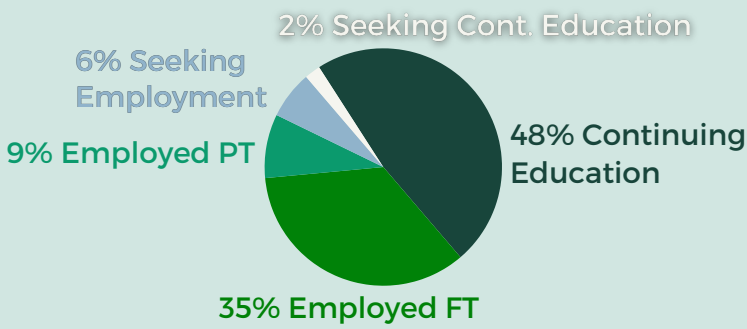
College of Music student meetings with CSN staff

337

student appointments with RS staff (95% music students)

Career Outcomes

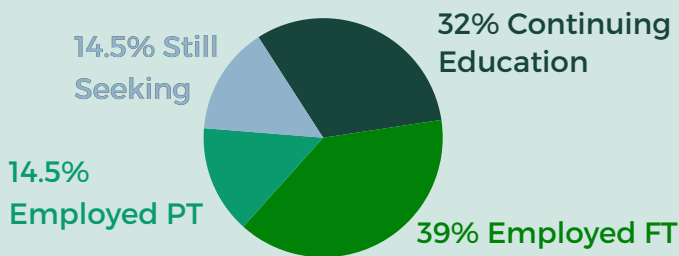
92% Placement Rate for UG



New Knowledge Collected:

45% of 2024 UG graduates said they “participated in at least one internship or co-op opportunity during their time at Michigan State University”

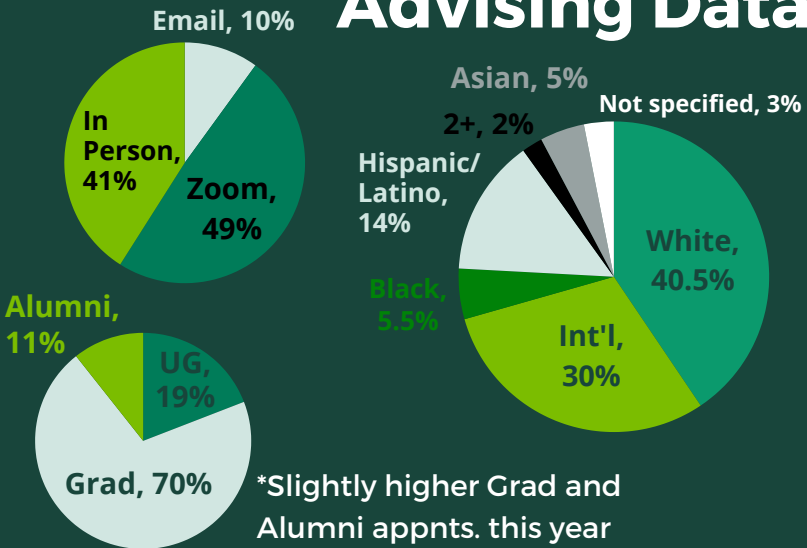
85% Placement Rate for MM



Advising Impact

- “Thank you so much for your time and support. I truly value your guidance and look forward to hearing your suggestions.” -DMA Performance
- “I really want to say thank you so much for making all of this possible for me! I cannot appreciate your help enough.” -BA Music Minor, senior
- “Thank you for all your continued help during this job search, you are the BEST!” -BA Music Ed, alumni
- “I did get offered one of the state jobs we practiced for and I took it. Thanks for your help with practice interviewing.” -MM Performance, alumni

Advising Data



Collaborations & Contributions

MSU College of Music Office of Student Affairs and Services (OSAS):

The Running Start Office joined music academic advisors and Health and Wellness specialists to create OSAS. This team of specialists works to create a holistic and connected advising approach to help centralize important information, communication, and services for music students.

Careers In Sound 2.0: Second annual workshop in collaboration with the College of Engineering, WKAR, and the College of Communication Arts and Sciences + student audio organizations

MSU Limitless Club: Broad and Burgess RSO members providing 1-1 music business consultations

Creative Project Cohorts: Ran May - June 2024, with 10 participants from the MSU College of Music and UofM SMTD between 2 cohorts lead by Running Start’s Christine Bastian and Emily Henley.

CSN Contributions

- Staffed over 20 hours of CSN career fairs and events during AY 24/25.
- Hosted 4 “Interview Strategies” and 2 “Navigating Career Fairs” workshop as part of the CSN Summer, Fall, and Spring Workshop Series 24/25.
- Conducted our 2nd Employer Attitudes Survey on entry-level employment expectations in the arts.

College Contributions

- Further alignment of the Classical & Jazz Gigline via work on the student handbook, internal processes, and rates.
- Office of Student Affairs & Services events:
 - OSAS Lobby Takeovers (2)
- DEIB Committee monetary/event contributions:
 - Dia de los Muertos (October 2024)
 - Crafts N’ Chats (November 2024)
- New College of Music website creation:
 - Creation of all Running Start pages and resource pages (20+ total)

Student Learning + Testimonials

ARTS INTERNSHIP PROGRAMS

4 INTERNSHIP PROGRAMS:
AIAP, DALE, OPERA, & SUMMER MICRO-INTERNSHIP

WHO PARTICIPATED?
10 UGs | 11 Grads
*5 Music Ed majors
*15 Performance majors

100% of responders 'strongly agreed' that they learned a new skill during their internship.

When asked if they would recommend their host site for future internship collaborations, all responders said YES. "Yes, I recommend they host another internship. I feel that the environment at CMSD is welcoming, productive, and helps establish professional social skills in addition to the tasks that are included."

Internship Outcomes:
"This internship affirmed my thoughts about wanting to work in arts admin, and specifically education and community engagement."

"The internship changed my thoughts about the music industry through my introduction to administrative work from the organization's perspective... I would like to become more involved in this work in the future..."

PROGRAM FEEDBACK

When asked "What do you feel you learned or gained from attending this Running Start event?" **90%** of respondents selected "Understanding of career paths in music."

"Keep it coming, everything you do is so helpful!"

"I like the focus on making an artist available for discussion - coffee chats in addition to a wider talk/presentation is super helpful!
Thank you for all of your work! It is very appreciated and you are doing a great job!"

After a year of offering more drop-in, 1-1 style events, we found that students loved the new format!

"I really love the emails and the more interactive events that we have! I also love that the coffee chats give us an opportunity to talk in a more personal 1 on 1 format"

"I love the lobby takeovers, and I think drop-in events during the day like [those] and the coffee chats are super great for a lot of people since we all have crazy schedules!"

2025 EMPLOYER ATTITUDES SURVEY RESULTS

The Running Start program sustained active relationships with internship host-sites while collecting insights from over 40 arts employers during the 2024–2025 academic year. Employers ranked **internships, job experience, mentorship, and project-based work** as the most valuable resume assets for entry-level candidates, affirming the importance of experiential learning in today's arts job market. These findings validate Running Start's strategic expansion of internship and career-readiness programming.

Shifting Employer Priorities
(Employer most-sought after skills)

- Digital Fluency
- Adaptability
- Community Engagement



2024-2025 Snapshots

Brandon Woody's UPENDO
Feb. '25



Instrument Repair Career Day
at Meridian Winds | May '25



DSO Principal Woodwinds Coffee Chats | Feb. '25



Making Money from your Music w/
Chad Rehmann | March '25



2025 Running Start Competition Live Pitch | Feb. '25



Careers in Sound 2.0 | Oct. '24



Student Composer Reading Session, EMAR
Residency with Time for Three | January '25



PROGRESS ON 24-25 GOALS

1

Determine better avenues for data collection on learning.

Collected data on Running Start programming via a short survey in March 2025, which collected 50 responses, alongside our annual programming survey.

2

Continue to revamp the Classical Gigline Service by creating a more student-friendly process for hiring, training, and picking up gigs.

Created a "Top Tier" list of students who have proven to provide high-level professionalism and music for Gigline opportunities. Continued alignment of Classical/Jazz Gigline processes and procedures. Final alignments in progress.

3

Create a robust contract agreement for students doing recordings or other project-based work for On-Campus departments

A sudo-contract has been created and implemented for all Beal Garden's partnerships, to be implemented elsewhere as new opportunities arise.

4

Set up structure and system for new internship hosts to create meaningful internships with streamlined administrative oversight.

High-quality, easy to peruse resources have been created. Additionally, we have now created meaningful resources for the interns, including the creation/update of their LinkedIn profiles when accepting an internship through our office.

5

Find ways to support and re-engage with the mid-Michigan community through experiential learning and partnerships

Built relationships with employers at the spring "Education Career Fair". Hosted two new community-focused internship sites. Increasing Gigline community partnerships by taking over the Beacon Hill & Fox Run series for the 25-26 AY.

2025-26 GOALS

1

Continue to collaborate with the newly established CoM Office of Student Affairs and Services.

Partner on events and offerings, continue to strengthen our cooperative advising system, and continue to find holistic ways to combine academic, career, and H&W advising for music students.

2

Pilot the newly aligned Gigline's, ensuring ease for clients and students.

Implement new updates and alignments while continuing to provide a high-quality experiential learning opportunity in performance to CoM students. Primarily focus on our partnered concert series, & on-campus departmental event requests.

3

Create and host more opportunities for 2026 Running Start Competition applicants to work with major industry professionals on their projects.

Bring in additional mentors for the Running Start Competition Drop-In Consults, and embed mentorship between the application deadline and Live Pitch.

4

Continue to expand Arts Internship Award Program (AIAP) host sites.

Partner with 2 or more unique host sites to host CoM student interns who we have not partnered with in the past.

5

Increase the number of MSU alumni engagements during AY 25-26.

Host another "Alumni Networking Event", bringing in a variety of alumni who graduated from the College of Music and other colleges and now have successful careers in music. Revamp & activate the MSU CoM LinkedIn Alumni page.