



FAQs about the 2026-27 Academic Year

What does auto re-enrollment look like this year?

Great news—if you plan to keep everything the same, there’s no need to change anything! However, once you have talked directly with your instructor and you decide to make a change (extend/shorten lesson time, switch instructors, or withdraw), please [submit a change request using this form](#) by June 21. We cannot guarantee an open spot once open enrollment begins on July 1. In addition to this, students can now add/drop/change lessons on a monthly basis.

How do I schedule my lesson day and time for next year?

Talk directly with your instructor about your fall schedule!

What if I want to add/drop/or change lessons once the term begins?

As one of our new 2027 enhancements, students can now add/drop/change lessons at any time!

I applied for financial aid, will I still be able to request changes?

Yes! Financial aid is open to current students and families were able submit for financial aid in late April through early May. Notification will be sent out in early June. Students will have time to decide if they would like to accept their award before the open enrollment period opens in July, so they can make requests between June and July.

What do I receive with my tuition at OCoM?

When you choose music education at the Omaha Conservatory, you're investing in much more than weekly lessons. Your tuition supports a full membership experience that offers world-class instruction, enriching opportunities, and a musical community that introduces your student to other musicians like them.

Over the past year, many of you have shared a consistent sentiment: **you want more lesson time for your students**. As part of aligning more closely with our refined mission, **we will be moving to year-round lesson programming beginning in August 2026. Our new year-round calendar will include 42 lessons!** Here’s what your tuition makes possible:



Year-Round High-Quality Music Instruction

- 3-5 private lessons each month of the year with Artist-Faculty—professional performers and educators with advanced degrees and deep experience.
- A personalized learning plan that fits your student’s goals, learning style, and pace.
- Faculty time spent preparing, researching, and customizing instruction to meet your student’s unique needs.

Performance & Growth Opportunities

- Two recitals annually that include professional collaborative pianists and dress rehearsals.
- Monthly Performance Club events, and guest masterclasses to build skill and confidence on stage.
- Faculty support for competitions, auditions, and portfolio development for advanced opportunities.

Family Support & Communication

- Clear, ongoing communication and resources to help parents support learning at home.
- Professional administrative staff who manage admissions, events, recital logistics, studio assignments, billing, and daily logistics so families can focus on learning.

Professional Facilities & Equipment

- Access to state-of-the-art teaching studios, performance halls, practice rooms, a keyboard lab, and a computer lab.
- Tuition supports piano tunings, technology upgrades, and digital learning tools that enhance the student experience.

Community & Enrichment



- Free or low-cost admission to concerts, guest artist events, and community gatherings that bring families together through music.
- Consistent year-round lessons ensure a continuous bridge to musical mentorship and form long-lasting connections with other student musicians and Artist-Faculty mentors.
- A rich musical environment that fosters inspiration, creativity, and belonging.

While tuition does not fund scholarships and financial aid, they are a vital part of our commitment to access and celebrating excellence. As a nonprofit community music school, OCoM raises funds through its Development Department to offer **need-based financial aid** and reduce barriers to high-quality music education, as funds allow.

By enrolling at OCoM, your family becomes part of a community that champions musical excellence, inclusivity, and opportunity for all.

See this year's tuition structure [here](#).

Why is tuition higher this year than last year?

In order to ensure long-term health and excellence, OCoM is making strategic investments in the student experience, faculty benefits and policies.

These investments, based on your feedback and the organization's strategic vision, include enhanced faculty sick time and opportunity for career advancement, two additional lessons, dedicated systems to ensure make-up opportunities when faculty conflicts arise, and a payment structure that spreads costs out over the full year. They represent the Conservatory's commitment to delivering the highest quality experience to our students, their families, our instructors and the community.

How will tuition be billed?

Your tuition will be charged automatically to your Opus1 account. **Just like last year, there are no registration fees for returning students!** You can pay the full amount upfront or spread it out over 12 months for your annual tuition invoice. If you pay annually, a reminder will be sent out 2 full weeks before billing occurs to give you time to change your payment preferences.



What happens if I need to miss my lesson?

If you need to miss a lesson, let your teacher or the front desk know you'll be absent. Once we receive notification, we will cancel your lesson in Opus1. You will then be issued a seminar credit. These seminars focus on special topics such as practice strategies, storytelling through music, and other experiences designed to support your student's musical growth. You can use this credit to sign up for a seminar that fits your schedule.

You can find the seminar schedule [here](#) at the end of June!

What if I need to miss several lessons or need to change my lesson time?

We understand that school productions, sports, and academic schedules can create temporary or permanent conflicts with your lesson time. Here's how to handle each situation:

If you need to miss several lessons in a row due to a theater production or other temporary commitments (Temporary Conflict):

If you anticipate missing multiple weeks due to a short-term commitment—like a theater production, school event, or family travel—and need a temporary new time for your lessons, talk with your teacher first to discuss possible scheduling adjustments. Once you communicate with your teacher and they confirm that they can accommodate a temporary change, your teacher can adjust the scheduled lessons in Opus1.

If you need to make a permanent change to your lesson time or length:

Permanent adjustments are absolutely possible at the start of a new school year or when your schedule shifts long-term. First, talk to your teacher first to explore available options and agree on a new plan. Once confirmed, your teacher can adjust the scheduled lessons in Opus1.

What happens if my teacher needs to miss a lesson?

If your teacher needs to miss a lesson due to illness, schedule changes, or personal circumstances, you'll receive a credit to make up a lesson instead of a seminar credit. A lesson credit, which is then used to reschedule your lesson, will appear in your Opus1 account. Once a new time is confirmed with your teacher, your credit will be converted



into a scheduled makeup lesson on your calendar. Rescheduled lessons can occur at any time throughout the year or during designated makeup weeks, as shown on the 2026-27 Academic Calendar.

What is a Seminar, and how does it support my student's learning?

Seminars are group-based learning experiences to enrich and complement private lesson instruction. Led by OCoM faculty, Seminars may take the form of masterclasses, group coaching sessions, performance workshops, or special-topic classes. These sessions are intentionally structured to foster musical growth in new ways beyond the scope of one-on-one lessons.

Here's why Seminars are valuable to a strong musical education:

- **Performance practice in a supportive setting**
Students gain experience performing in front of peers and receiving constructive feedback, helping to build stage presence and confidence.
- **Collaborative learning and peer inspiration**
Watching and engaging with other students fosters a deeper understanding of musical interpretation, technique, and creativity.
- **Exposure to new ideas and perspectives**
Seminars often introduce fresh repertoire, theory concepts, or artistic insights that expand a student's musical toolkit.
- **Community and connection**
Being part of a Seminar helps students connect to the larger OCoM community and supports their identity as developing musicians.

Each student receives Seminar credits when a faculty member must miss a lesson and cannot reschedule. These **credits are valid for 18 months** and can be redeemed for various offerings throughout the year.

While Seminars do not replace the personalization of a private lesson, they are a meaningful and enriching part of the OCoM experience, aligned with our mission to nurture well-rounded, confident musicians.

Will I get to choose which Seminar to attend when I miss a lesson?



Yes! When your student is unable to make a lesson, a Seminar credit is added to your Opus1 account — giving you the flexibility to choose the Seminar that best fits your interests and schedule.

Our full-time resident Artist Faculty plan and lead Seminars, which are offered frequently throughout the year and designed to be engaging, cross-instrumental, and enriching. They provide valuable performance practice, exposure to new ideas, and a chance to connect with peers.

To explore upcoming options, visit our Seminars page on the OCoM website or check our monthly email overview. When you're ready, simply click “Use” on your Seminar credit in Opus1 and choose the session you'd like to attend — it's quick and easy!

What happens when there are weather closures and building emergencies?

When closures occur due to weather or other unforeseen circumstances, lessons are not rescheduled and students will receive a Seminar credit. However, to ensure that students progress, faculty develop a plan or process to provide educational support. Support strategies may include:

- Inviting students to send a practice video for feedback
- Emailing updated goals if prior goals were completed
- Providing a progress summary or written next steps
- Sharing a brief instructional video or resource

These flexible, personalized responses help students stay on track with their musical development and ensure that each child continues to receive meaningful, individualized instruction — even when an in-person lesson isn't possible.

Why don't we get a reschedule when lessons are canceled due to weather?



We understand this can be disappointing, but this policy helps keep tuition stable and honors our Artist Faculty's contracted calendar and professional obligations.

Thank you for understanding as we work to balance quality, sustainability, and student growth across a large community organization.

Why aren't lessons online when there's a weather closure?

To ensure the safety of our students and staff, the building is fully closed during weather closures. Experience has taught us that offering virtual lessons during weather closures creates inconsistent and potentially inequitable learning experiences across families.

That's because, during weather issues, internet connections can become unreliable. Additionally, most faculty do not have the necessary instruments, equipment, or space to teach effectively and professionally outside their studios, and may be serving as primary caregivers that day. That means they cannot replicate that same teaching environment from home.

Most importantly, not all students have access to a suitable instrument, an internet connection, or a quiet learning space at home.

This is one of the reasons we are pleased to launch our new credit system (see page x)!

What happens instead?

- Students receive a personalized practice challenge or instructional focus for the week, designed by their teacher to keep them progressing independently. This will vary by student and studio.
- Families receive a Seminar Credit, which can be used for Seminars, which are:
 - Led by our Artist-Faculty
 - A variety of workshops are intended to enhance practice and performance
 - Creative musical exploratory labs

This approach allows us to continue supporting students with meaningful musical growth—while maintaining our standards of quality and fairness for everyone in the OCoM community.



How can students and families provide feedback or share concerns about these policies?

We welcome your input. Students and families are encouraged to email us at **admissions@omahacm.org** with any questions, concerns, or feedback.

We value your voice and are committed to listening and responding thoughtfully. Please be assured that we will carefully review and consider all feedback during our annual planning process.

2027 is a good example of how your feedback impacts the operations and experience of the Omaha Conservatory of Music. Your perspective helps us continue improving the OCoM experience for all!