

Learning Goals: The Music Program in the Department of Arts, Culture and Media

Program Goals

Our music major curriculum is designed to give students a broad understanding of music. It consists of three components: the music theory sequence, courses in music history, and applied music. The theory sequence gives students a grounding in music analysis. The history courses provide students with an historical and stylistic background in music from different periods and cultures. Applied music, which includes private lessons and ensembles, helps students express themselves musically through vocal and/or instrumental performance. Classroom studies in applied musicianship are designed to further develop their skills of musicianship. Our curriculum includes all types of music, including classical, jazz and world music. An academic background of this kind prepares students for careers in teaching, performing and music technology, as well as related post-baccalaureate studies.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the music major, the student will have learned to function with the three music components described above. In the area of music theory, the student will have learned to work with harmonic analysis, building chords, voice leading and species counterpoint. Additionally, the students will be trained in functional and non-functional harmony, 20th century counterpoint, serialism, and form and analysis. The student will come to understand what makes great music great.

In the area of music history, our two comprehensive Survey of Western Music courses train the student in matters of form and style. The first course begins with chant and organum, medieval, Renaissance and Baroque music, up to 1750. The second course gives focus to music of the Classical era, Romanticism, Impressionism, serial music, and on up to the present. Our survey courses in Jazz, World Music, Music and Film, Rock Music and Culture, and the courses on specific periods of music further provide the music student with a world-wide perspective.

In the area of applied music, private lessons and ensemble experience are coupled with the Applied Musicianship course to provide basic instrumental and/or vocal skills necessary for realizing a piece of music. The music majors have keyboard experience as part of private lessons, and in conjunction with the Music Theory and Applied Musicianship courses.

A good number of students use their training as a music major to pursue careers in music technology and arts management. Our B. A. in music does not offer music education courses per se, but in order to enter the teaching profession it is not uncommon for students who have successfully completed our degree in music to take supplemental coursework elsewhere, or to take Post-Baccalaureate studies in education.

Measuring Outcomes

In order to measure the B.A. in music outcomes we will collect data from three cycles (consecutive academic years) to prepare a spreadsheet of grades achieved in the students' final year of study. The full-time music faculty will convene every three years to review the collected data. Grades earned in the fourth (final) semester of Music Theory will be averaged, since the course is taught in separate units. Final exam grades in the two Survey of Western Music courses, the Jazz and World Music courses will be used to measure outcomes in the music history

component. For the learning outcome in applied music, we will work with the grade average in Applied Musicianship, as this course is also taught in separate units.