

**Music Department
Assessment Report for 2003-04**

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Assessment Criteria and Activities

Entire Department

1. Students are required to pass an audition in an applied area before being allowed to enter the program as majors in music.

Was this assessment criterion implemented? Yes

Was this assessment criterion achieved? Yes

What were the results?

Approximately 95% of the students who performed an entrance audition were accepted into the program.

How will the results be used to improve the curriculum and/or pedagogy of the Program?

The results will not be used for this purpose. The entrance audition is administered prior to our curriculum and/or pedagogy. The entrance audition sets standards for admission to our program and is required by our national accrediting agency, the National Association of Schools of Music.

2. Students must maintain a high level of performance in the applied area through a requirement of at least a "B" average for 4 hours at each level of applied study in order to advance to the next level.

Was this assessment criterion implemented? Yes

Was this assessment criterion achieved? Yes

What were the results?

Out of the total number of music majors registered for applied instruction during the 2003-04 academic year, approximately 78% maintained at least a "B" average for four credit hours of study.

How will the results be used to improve the curriculum and/or pedagogy of the program?

Obviously, 78% is a high success rate. Since applied music study is one on one instruction, there is normally a high rate of success. It is however lower than the 85% of students who maintained this requirement in the previous academic year. The students who do not maintain the expected level of performance generally do not continue as music majors. The only way the results of this assessment are used to improve pedagogy are in situations in which a large number of students in a particular studio do not maintain the expected level of performance. The results can not affect curriculum because the existing curriculum is in keeping with that offered by our peer institutions, national standards for our discipline, and is required for our national accreditation.

3. Students are required to perform and pass a juried examination each semester they are enrolled in their area of applied study.

Was this assessment criterion implemented? Yes

Was this assessment criterion achieved? Yes

What were the results?

All music majors studying applied music performed a juried examination each semester. Whether or not those students passed the jury is reflected in semester grades so the success rate for this area is the same as above, i.e., 78%.

How will the results be used to improve the curriculum and/or pedagogy of the program?

The answer to this question is essentially the same as number two above.

4. Students are required to research, perform, and pass a recital jury before the public performance of a junior or senior recital.

Was this assessment criterion implemented? Yes

Was this assessment criterion achieved? Yes

What were the results?

Ninety-four percent of the students who initially attempted a senior recital jury passed. The other 6% were required to do additional work and came back at a later time and were able to pass the recital jury and give their public recital. Eight out of the nine students who attempted a junior recital jury passed. The student who failed was encouraged to change from the B.A. in Music Performance to the B.S. degree in music which has a less demanding degree recital requirement.

How will the results be used to improve the curriculum and/or pedagogy of the program?

Generally, by the time of the junior and senior years, music majors who can not perform at a level which reflects national standards, or who will not put in the time and effort necessary to perform at an acceptable level, have been weeded out of the program. Again, the only way in which the results of this assessment are used to improve pedagogy are in situations in which a large number of students in a particular studio do not maintain the expected level of performance. Most music faculty will not allow their students to schedule a recital jury until the faculty member feels the student can successfully pass the jury.

5. Dependent on degree requirements, all students must perform a junior or senior recital or both as a capstone experience.

Was this assessment criterion implemented? Yes

Was this assessment criterion achieved? Yes

What were the results?

All students who graduated met the degree requirements in this area.

How will the results be used to improve the curriculum and/or pedagogy of the program?

Students cannot graduate until these requirements are met. As was mentioned above, the curricular requirements of our degree programs are set by our national accrediting organization and are followed by all of our peer institutions in the state and surrounding area.

6. Students must receive a grade of “C” or higher each semester of Music Theory and Aural Skills in order to advance to the next level.

Was this assessment criterion implemented? Yes

Was this assessment criterion achieved? Yes

What were the results?

In the fall semester of first-year Music Theory (Music 1510) and Sight-Singing and Aural Skills (Music 1540), 86% of the total number of music majors registered for these classes received a grade of “C” or higher. In the Spring Semester of first-year Music Theory (Music 1520), 93% of the total number of music majors registered for this class received a grade of “C” or higher. In the Spring Semester of first-year Aural Skills (Music 1550), 83% of the music majors received a grade of “C” or higher.

In the fall and spring semesters of second-year Music Theory (Music 2510 & Music 2520), 100% of the music majors received a grade of “C” or higher. In the

fall and spring semesters of second-year Aural Skills (Music 2540 & Music 2550), 100% of the music majors received a grade of “C” or higher.

How will the results be used to improve the curriculum and/or pedagogy of the program?

Due to faculty efforts at improving instruction, departmental efforts at providing computer programs which allow students to improve their skills, and the provision of a music theory tutor, the success rate in this area is very high. The music faculty will continue to work to improve its pedagogy in these classes. The curriculum we currently offer is required by our national accrediting agency.

7. Students must pass a keyboard proficiency examination.

Was this assessment criterion implemented? Yes

Was this assessment criterion achieved? Yes

What were the results?

Of the total number of students who took the proficiency exam, 97% passed.

How will the results be used to improve the curriculum and/or pedagogy of the program?

Improvements have been made in the past two years based on analysis of the exam results from previous examinations. The percentage who passed the exam in two years ago was 79%. Obviously, this year's results and last year's at 100% shows major improvement.