

APC 70 (MUSC)

Music Department Petition for Exemption to Credit Caps Outlined in SD 1814F
UNC Asheville, Feb 19, 2016

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT ASHEVILLE
FACULTY SENATE

Senate Document Number 8216S
Date of Senate Approval 04/14/16

Statement of Faculty Senate Action:

Submitted on behalf of the Music Department by Dr. Melodie Galloway, Chair
Compiled by Dr. William Bares and Dr. Brian Felix

Rationale

This petition for exemption concerns one of the three concentrations in Music: the Bachelor of Fine Arts degree (BFA).

We are petitioning to for exemption to credit caps outlined in SD1814F for reasons outlined in APC documents MUSC 3-5. Central to the present exemption petition is a strategic vision for the degree that leverages an emphasis on jazz and contemporary music performance to allow UNC Asheville to assume a leadership role in growing Asheville's reputation as a center for music performance.

A few points should be noted by way of supplement to the rationales already provided:

- 1) The BFA is one of three music degrees. The other two are Music Technology (BS) and the newly reinstated BA in Music.
- 2) As with the BS and BA degrees, students who pursue the BFA degree do so by choice. The students seeking the rigor of the BFA do so fully aware that alternative music degrees with fewer requirements are also available to them at UNC Asheville. As with the BFA in Art, our BFA Music program is largely self-selecting. Among our degree recipients are some of the most ambitious and talented students at UNCA (honors program, valedictorian, etc.).
- 3) As with the BS Music degree, admittance to our BFA degree is competitive. It is by design a rigorous degree that prepares students for the demanding world of music professionalism.
- 4) Despite its merits as a pre-professional degree, our BFA is also a shining example of what a liberal arts degree program can and should be. As we know, music is one of the four liberal arts comprising the original Quadrivium. Jazz and contemporary music performance take the liberal

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arts idea even further in attuning students to the power of rhetoric (itself a part of the Trivium). As they learn to construct compositions, solos and musical styles that appeal to the hearts, bodies, and minds of a diverse range of listeners, our students engage with a truly interdisciplinary mix of subjects: history, politics, mathematics, physics of sound, anthropology, art, dance, drama, new media, business, complex issues of race and ownership, gendered interpretations and so on. As players who have learned to negotiate with others on the bandstand, students emerge from the degree as concerned and enlightened world citizens who have cultivated an enviable range of critical thinking and listening skills, and a refined ability to “say something,” musically and otherwise.

- 5) One issue that we hope will be addressed in any future incarnation of SD 1814F is the emphasis on justification by way of comparison. What is left out of the document is room for justification by way of uniqueness or strategic vision. While we believe holding departments to standards can be productive, an overemphasis on standardization can drown out those elements that make our university truly unique. This would include not only UNC Asheville’s leadership in what is rapidly becoming a nationally renowned city for music, tourism, craft and creative entrepreneurship, it would also include existing degree programs like Mechatronics, Art, Management, Environmental Studies, and Music Technology that are unique in leveraging distinctive connections to local/state industries and concerns. Our BFA degree is one such degree.

On to our justification by way of comparison:

The attached data table entitled “Degree Analogs” takes complete inventory of all schools listed as either BOG or APC peers in Appendix A. Analysis of the table yields some arresting details.

Several details testify to our uniqueness as a degree program.

- None of the 23 comparable schools have a BFA in jazz or contemporary music (only 2 have music tech programs).
- A majority of the 23 comparable schools have a performing arts center (15 total)—signifying, perhaps, a stronger commitment to performance among our peer institutions than has existed in the past at UNC Asheville.
- A majority of the comparable schools do not reside in cities. There are few, if any equivalent sized cities and none with music profiles like Asheville’s.

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Other details of note:

- Our requirements for the music BA degree (36 required department credits) is lower than all comparable music degrees elsewhere. Of the 10 schools with no performance program, the University of Minnesota at Morris is next lowest for a BA in music (42, hours, adjusted to our 120 credit hour model).
- Of the remaining 13 schools with either a BA with performance emphasis or a BM, the **average** equivalent credit hours in the major (adjusted to our 120 credit hour model) for the degree is 77 hours—9 credit hours higher than the credit hour adjustment we are requesting.
- If we filter for jazz performance specifically, three comparable institutions emerge (in bold below). The average equivalent credit hours (adjusted to our 120 credit hour model) for the degree is 90 hours—a full 22 credit hours higher than the adjusted credit hour degree program we are requesting.

- 1) **Christopher Newport (BM jazz 75)**
- 2) For Lewis (BA, perf 62+recital)
- 3) Furman (BM 80-92)
- 4) Keene State (BM 82)
- 5) Ramapo (BA, perf. 60)
- 6) SUNY Genesco (BM 51)
- 7) **SUNY Purchase (BM jazz 100)**
- 8) Truman State (BM 80-86)
- 9) Univ. of Montevallo (BM 81)
- 10) Bucknell (BM 72)
- 11) **Oberlin (BM jazz 96)**
- 12) Gettysburg (BM 80)
- 13) Elon (BA perf 68)

90 credit hours in the music major at a liberal arts institution may seem shocking to those from other disciplines who are not familiar with the demands of music performance. A fine illustration of the difference between the requirements for those seeking BA versus performance degrees is given on the [SUNY Purchase website](#) (SUNY Purchase is one of the listed BOG comparative institutions). We believe that Purchase is on-point in acknowledging the differences between BA, BS and BFA/BM degrees. Note that 90 liberal arts credits are required of BA students, 60 of BS Students, and only 30 for BFA/BM students:

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Academic Credit and Student Workload

The academic year at Purchase College comprises two 15-week semesters. The unit of credit is the semester hour, which normally represents one 50-minute class hour per week in lecture/discussion courses and two 50-minute class hours per week in studio/lab courses. In credit-bearing courses that meet fewer than 15 weeks (e.g., three-week summer session courses), the class hours per week are proportionately increased.

For each credit, students are expected to complete a minimum of two hours of academic work (study, preparation, etc.) outside of class each week. Some courses require three or more hours of outside work for every credit. In particular, the BFA and MusB programs are intensive professional training programs and require students' full-time commitment. Students in all majors are advised to limit their job and social commitments in order to give their coursework adequate attention.

Bachelor of Arts (BA) and Bachelor of Science (BS) Degrees

Updated Nov. 5, 2015

1. Earn a minimum of 120 credits. Of the 120 credits, a minimum number of credits in the liberal arts are required: 90 for the BA, 60 for the BS. A total of 45 credits must be earned in upper-level (3000- or 4000-level) courses. A maximum of 4 physical education credits may be applied toward the degree.
2. Complete a minimum of 60 credits outside the student's board of study (major).
3. Complete the core curriculum requirements.*
4. Complete all requirements for the major.
5. Earn a minimum 2.0 (C) cumulative GPA at Purchase College.

*All matriculated students admitted in fall 2011 or after should use the [new core curriculum](#), which became effective fall 2011. Liberal studies matriculated students admitted before fall 2011 should use the former [core curriculum](#) for the BA completion program.

Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) and Bachelor of Music (MusB) Degrees

1. Earn a minimum of 120 credits, at least 30 of which must be liberal arts credits.
2. Complete all requirements for the major.
3. Complete the core curriculum requirements.*
4. Earn a minimum 2.0 (C) cumulative GPA at Purchase College.

Listing of Degree Requirements at Two of the three Comparable Institutions offering Jazz Performance Degrees: SUNY Purchase and Christopher Newport University (Oberlin info not readily available)

1) SUNY PURCHASE

Bachelor of Music in Performance: Jazz Studies

In addition to meeting [general degree requirements](#), undergraduate jazz studies majors must complete the following conservatory requirements (100 credits), as outlined below by semester and year. Of the 100 credits, up to 8 credits of music history may be counted toward the liberal arts requirement (30 credits minimum) for the degree.

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Freshman Year: 28 credits

<i>Fall:</i>	<i>14 credits</i>
MPE 4 —/Private Study: Instrument or MPE 4880/Private Study: Jazz Voice	3 credits
MCO 1015/Jazz Theory I	3 credits
MPE 1010/Keyboard Studies I	1 credit
MPE 1700/Jazz Combos	2 credits
MTH 1430/Jazz Ear Training I	1.5 credits
MUS 1070/Jazz Repertoire I	2 credits
MUS 2050/Jazz Improvisation I	1.5 credits

<i>Spring:</i>	<i>14 credits</i>
MPE 4 —/Private Study: Instrument or MPE 4880/Private Study: Jazz Voice	3 credits
MCO 1025/Jazz Theory II	3 credits
MPE 1020/Keyboard Studies II	1 credit
MPE 1700/Jazz Combos	2 credits
MTH 1440/Jazz Ear Training II	1.5 credits
MUS 2060/Jazz Improvisation II	1.5 credits
MUS 2080/Jazz Repertoire II	2 credits
MPE 0201/Freshman Jazz Jury	0 credit

Sophomore Year: 29 credits

<i>Fall:</i>	<i>14.5 credits</i>
MPE 4 —/Private Study: Instrument or MPE 4880/Private Study: Jazz Voice	3 credits
MCO 2015/Jazz Harmony I	2 credits
MPE 1700/Jazz Combos	2 credits
MPE 2010/Keyboard Studies III	1 credit
MTH 2430/Jazz Ear Training III	1.5 credits
MTH 2510/Survey of Music History I	3 credits
MUS 3070/Jazz Repertoire III	2 credits

<i>Spring:</i>	<i>14.5 credits</i>
MPE 4 —/Private Study: Instrument or MPE 4880/Private Study: Jazz Voice	3 credits
MCO 2025/Jazz Harmony II	2 credits
MPE 1700/Jazz Combos	2 credits
MPE 2020/Keyboard Studies IV	1 credit
MTH 2440/Jazz Ear Training IV	1.5 credits
MTH 2520/Survey of Music History II	3 credits
MUS 3080/Jazz Repertoire IV	2 credits
MPE 0301/Sophomore Jazz Jury	0 credit

Junior Year: 26 credits

<i>Fall:</i>	<i>13.5 credits</i>
MPE 4 —/Private Study: Instrument or MPE 4880/Private Study: Jazz Voice	3 credits
MPE 1700/Jazz Combos	2 credits
MTH 3400/Jazz History I	3 credits
MUS 3090/Jazz Repertoire V	2 credits
MUS 4410/Jazz Arranging I	2.5 credits
MPE 3992/Junior Recital: Jazz	1 credit

<i>Spring:</i>	<i>12.5 credits</i>
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MPE 4 —/Private Study: Instrument or MPE 4880/Private Study: Jazz Voice	3 credits
MPE 1700/Jazz Combos	2 credits
MTH 3450/Jazz History II	3 credits
MUS 3100/Jazz Repertoire VI	2 credits
MUS 4420/Jazz Arranging II	2.5 credits

Senior Year: 17 credits

<i>Fall:</i>	9 credits
MPE 4 —/Private Study: Instrument or MPE 4880/Private Study: Jazz Voice	3 credits
MPE 1700/Jazz Combos	2 credits
MUS 4070/Jazz Repertoire VII	2 credits
Music elective	2 credits
<i>Spring:</i>	8 credits
MPE 4 —/Private Study: Instrument or MPE 4880/Private Study: Jazz Voice	3 credits
MPE 1700/Jazz Combos	2 credits
MUS 4080/Jazz Repertoire VIII	2 credits
MPE 4992/Senior Recital: Jazz	1 credit

2) CHRISTOPHER NEWPORT UNIVERSITY

Bachelor of Music

Jazz Studies Concentration. Individual courses can be viewed [here](#)

1. MUSC 200(1), 209(1) -210(1), 211(3)-212(3), 303(3)-304(3)-305(3), 306(3), 309(1)-310(1), 311(3)-312(3), 316(3); (Total: 32)
2. Jazz specific courses: MUSC 125(1)-126(1), 214(3), 225(1)-226(1), 315(3), 416(3), 491(1) (Total: 14)
3. APP MUSC 133(1)-134(1), 233-234(1) (total: 4)
4. APP IMPR 333(1)-334(1), 433(1)-434(1) (senior recital); (total: 4)
5. Eight credits of MUSC 103 (Jazz Ensemble); (8 total)
6. Eight credits of MUSC 108 (Jazz Combo) and/or 09 (Jazz Combo Advanced); (8 total)
7. One credit of electives;
8. Four semesters of piano, including MUSC 217 (Jazz Keyboard Skills); (4 total)
9. Eight semesters in MUSC 012 (Performance Attendance);
10. Completion of the exit examinations in music theory and music history with a minimum score of 70 percent or higher.
11. Passing of the scales (instrumentalists only) and piano proficiency examination.