

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT ASHEVILLE
FACULTY SENATE

Senate Document Number 8616S
Date of Senate Approval 04/14/16

Statement of Faculty Senate Action:

APC Document 74 (MUSC):

**Change Major Requirements for BFA in
Jazz and Contemporary Music**

Effective Date: Fall 2016

1. Delete: On page 229:

Bachelor of Fine Arts in Jazz and Contemporary Music

The Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Jazz and Contemporary Music is intended for students wishing to pursue careers as singers, instrumentalists, composers and arrangers.

- I. Required courses in the major—62 hours, including: MUSC 201, 202, 231, 232, 235, 293, 294, 301, 331, 348, 349, 357, 382, 393, 394; 12 hours of applied music (MUSC 291, 292, 391, 392, 491, 492); 8 hours of ensemble chosen from MUSC 113, 114, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 128, 129; 6 hours of music electives at the 300-400 level. Students who do not take and pass the placement exam for MUSC 101, 130 and 131 will be required to take these courses prior to enrolling in MUSC 201 and 231.

Add: On page 229, in place of deleted entry:

Bachelor of Fine Arts in Jazz and Contemporary Music

The Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Jazz and Contemporary Music is designed for exceptional students who plan to pursue professional careers immediately after graduation. The B.F.A. program differs from the B.A. program in its expanded curriculum requirements and higher standards regarding the development of professional skills and theoretical knowledge.

- I. Required courses in the major— 68-78 hours, including: MUSC 150, 201, 202, 231, 232, 293, 294, 295, 296, 301, 331, 348, 349, 357, 382, 393, 394; 12 hours of applied music (MUSC 291, 292, 391, 392, 491, 492); 8 hours of ensemble chosen from MUSC 113, 114, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 128, 129; 6 hours of music electives at the 300-400 level. Students whose level of proficiency does not allow them to start with MUSC 201, 231 and 291 will be required to complete MUSC 101, 130, 131, 191 and/or 192 prior to taking the higher level courses. These demonstrated proficiencies are determined by the music theory placement exam and the audition for the major.

Impact Statement:

The Music Department offers three degree options: a Bachelor of Arts in Music; a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Jazz and Contemporary Music, and a Bachelor of Science in Music Technology. This document, along with other documents previously approved by APC, presents revisions to the Bachelor of Fine Arts degree.

The Bachelor of Fine Arts in Jazz and Contemporary Music is a rigorous degree that prepares students for careers in vocal and instrumental performance. This program provides strong foundations in Jazz, popular and other contemporary music styles. The educational objectives of the Bachelor of Fine Arts in Jazz and Contemporary Music are as follows:

1. Promote music as an integral component of UNC Asheville's liberal arts curriculum.
2. Provide high quality preparation for students seeking careers in the music profession.
3. Provide opportunities for self-expression and personal growth through participation in music.
4. Enrich the cultural life of the University and the community.

Since its inception in the Fall of 2013, the BFA in Jazz and Contemporary Music has attracted top-quality musicians who desire the rigors inherent in a liberal arts education. Our BFA students are our most accomplished performers, often serving as musical ambassadors for the university. In recent years, these students have performed at high-profile community events, including lectures by Dr. Cornell West (November 2013), Dr. Henry Louis Gates (November 2015), Salman Rushdie (February 2016) and the annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Prayer Breakfast (January 2015), among many others.

The changes put forth in this document represent a long-deliberated revision to this curriculum that will positively impact our students by providing the course hours necessary to deliver much needed training in the areas of theory, performance practice and aural skills. Furthermore, as detailed in <exemption document>, our BFA degree contains fewer credits hours than comparable degrees at peer institutions. This proposed adjustment to the curriculum will make our degree more competitive with these peer institutions and will positively impact recruiting efforts into our BFA program.

As detailed in < other documents previously approved by APC >, the required hours for the BFA in Jazz and Contemporary Music will be increased by 6 to account for the addition of MUSC 295 and 296 and 2 additional hours for changing MUSC 393 and 394 from 3-credit hours to 4-credit hours each. There will be little impact on the resources and staffing of the Music department due to this change. As detailed in the appendices, MUSC 295/296 will be accommodated into the faculty rotation through a slight change in the jazz ensemble offerings, which already vary by semester. Because staffing of ensembles and applied music varies from semester to semester, the instructor for MUSC 393/394 will teach fewer ensembles and/or applied music students to accommodate the additional hour in the courses. The department can manage these changes given our current faculty resources.

Rationale: The major requirements for the BFA in Jazz and Contemporary Music will include the courses, Jazz and Contemporary Theory and Practice I and II (MUSC 295, 296). As stated in the <course-specific APC document>, the addition of Jazz and Contemporary Theory and Practice I, II is essential in order to provide our BFA students with the training they need to be successful in Harmony and Improvisation III, IV. At this point, our BFA students are missing out on crucial introductory material in jazz and contemporary theory, performance and ear-training, the contents of which simply cannot be covered in the 2 credit Harmony and Improvisation I, II classes. These courses would fill in gaps that will help students succeed in the BFA and the world of music performance beyond graduation.

The credit hours for MUSC 393 and 394 are being increased by 1 hour each. This change is being made for two reasons: first and foremost, the existing three-hour course – which delivers essential but challenging theoretical material primarily to BFA students – restricts the amount of class time devoted to refining the practical craft of improvisation and does not always allow time for students to pay forward the piano skills they acquire in Harmony Improvisation I and II (the extra hour would address this); second, the new 4-hour courses will be more in line with the direction the university is moving and will facilitate easier scheduling for our students and for our department as a whole.

Please note that incoming BFA students typically enter UNCA with substantive experience in performance and music theory. Since the inception of the degree, a rate of 50% of entering students demonstrate proficiencies that place them in the required course levels for starting the BFA (201, 231, 291).