

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT ASHEVILLE  
FACULTY SENATE

Senate Document Number 6019S  
Date of Senate Approval 05/02/19

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Statement of Faculty Senate Action:

**APC Document 49 (MUSC): Delete MUSC 293 and MUSC 294, replacing them with MUSC 263 and 264; Change the titles and descriptions of MUSC 295 and 296, increasing the credit hours**

**Effective Date: Fall 2019**

**1. Delete:** On page 243, the entry for **MUSC 293, 294 Harmony and Improvisation I, II (2)**

**293, 294 Harmony and Improvisation I, II (2, 2)**

Common keyboard voicings and improvisation techniques in various musical styles, with an emphasis on harmonic theory and contemporary chord symbol nomenclature. Prerequisites for MUSC 293: MUSC 201, 231. Prerequisite for MUSC 294: MUSC 293. MUSC 293: Fall. MUSC 294: Spring.

**Add:** On page 243, new courses, **MUSC 263 and 264, Studio Musicianship I, II**

**263, 264 Studio Musicianship I, II (2, 2)**

Practical keyboard and general musicianship skills as relevant to the contemporary recording studio, with an emphasis on harmonic theory and contemporary chord symbol nomenclature. Includes training in basic improvisational techniques, keyboard voicings, chord/scale relationships, and chart reading. Limited to declared Music Technology majors. Students with credit for MUSC 293 and/or 294 cannot receive credit for these courses. Prerequisites for MUSC 263: MUSC 201, 231. Prerequisite for MUSC 264: MUSC 263. MUSC 263: Fall. MUSC 264: Spring.

**2. Delete:** On page 243, the entry for **MUSC 295, 296, Jazz and Contemporary Theory and Practice I, II**

**295, 296 Jazz and Contemporary Theory and Practice I, II (2, 2)**

Theory, performance practice and ear training in a variety of jazz and improvisational styles beginning with the blues and moving through more complicated popular song forms. MUSC 295 prerequisites: MUSC 201, 231. MUSC 296 prerequisite: MUSC 295. MUSC 295: Fall. MUSC 296: Spring.

**Add:** On page 243, in place of deleted entry:

**295 Harmony and Improvisation I (4)**

The first class in the Harmony and Improvisation sequence. Theory, performance practice, ear training, composition, piano skills, and rhythm skills in a variety of jazz and improvisational styles, beginning with the blues and 32-bar song forms. Topics include 7th and 9th chords, modes of the major scale, diminished scales, and the ii-V-I progression. Prerequisites: MUSC 201, 231. Fall.

**296 Harmony and Improvisation II (4)**

Building on Harmony and Improvisation II, this class includes theory, performance practice, ear training, composition, piano skills, and rhythm skills in a variety of jazz and improvisational styles, exploring more complicated blues and popular song forms. Topics include 9th, 11th, and 13th chords, modes of the major and melodic minor scale, and common jazz and contemporary chord progressions. Prerequisite: MUSC 295. Spring.

**Impact Statement:** We are restructuring the Harmony and Improvisation I, II courses so they will better serve our students. MUSC 263 and 264, Studio Musicianship I and II, will now provide training that is specific to music technology majors. The content from MUSC 293/294 that is relevant to B.F.A. students will be added to MUSC 295 and 296. For B.F.A. students who have credit for MUSC 293 and/or 294, but not MUSC 295 or 296, the piano component of the new versions of 295 and 296 are sufficiently different from what was presented in MUSC 293/294, that there will be no issue with repeated/redundant content.

Over the past eight years, two sections of Harmony and Improvisation have been required every semester to satisfy student demand. This change will effectively split the population, thus requiring one section of Studio Musicianship each semester and one section of Jazz Harmony and Improvisation each semester. This will not affect overall faculty workload or staffing needs, as these changes will require the same amount of hours (six) to be taught per semester, although the teaching load will be redistributed. This is a restructuring of this portion of the curriculum and the credit hour totals within the majors remain the same.

**Rationale:** This new division/combining of courses creates more efficient and appropriate curricula for our students while not adding credit hours to the degree programs.

MUSC 293 and 294 were previously required in both the B.F.A. in Jazz and Contemporary Music degree and the B.S. in Music Technology degree. Restructuring the courses will improve our degree programs by directly addressing student needs and pedagogical preferences within the different degree programs. Like the old MUSC 293 and 294, MUSC 263 and 264 will provide crucial keyboard and musicianship training, but the new classes will provide training that is specific to B.S. music technology majors, rather than the catch-all Harmony and Improvisation I, II, which served multiple populations.

The new four-credit versions of MUSC 295 and 296, Harmony and Improvisation I and II, will combine jazz-specific content from the deleted MUSC 293 and 294 (2 credits each) with the content of the current MUSC 295 and 296 (2 credits each). Although the credit hours are equal, the split nature of the current courses has made for unnecessary problems in curriculum delivery. This change will better serve the B.F.A. majors by combining all of the skills taught in these two classes into a single, efficient, four-credit class. This will be consistent with MUSC 393 and 394, Harmony and Improvisation III and IV, which are already four credit hours per semester. This will allow us to create a more consistent curriculum across the four semesters of the Harmony and Improvisation sequence, which is the heart of our B.F.A. program, resulting in a better learning experience for our students. This change will not affect the Music Department's ability to deliver its existing curriculum and meet its commitments to the LAC.