

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT ASHEVILLE
FACULTY SENATE

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Statement of Faculty Senate Action:

APC 54 (MUSC):

**UNCA Music Department – Petition for
Credit Cap Exemption – 2018-2019**

These documents are submitted on behalf of the Music Department by Dr. Brian Felix, Chair and Associate Professor, in accordance with APC 15 section ii, 1-3.

Compiled by Dr. Brian Felix, Dr. William Bares, Dr. Jonathan T. King

Rationale

This petition for exemption concerns the Music BFA degree only (not the BA or BS). We are petitioning to retain our credit cap exemption as we *lower* our BFA credit requirement from 68 credits to 65. Practical considerations of moving to the four-hour credit model have allowed us to modify our degree requirements, reducing the required load while maintaining our specific pedagogical agenda high and evaluative standards.

As a partial reminder of the justification for our previous exemption (accepted by APC in 2016), it should be noted that the BFA is one of three music degrees at UNC Asheville. (The other two are Music Technology (BS) and the Music BA.) Music students at UNCA are not limited to degrees with high-credit requirements: the Music BA degree (36 credits) requirements are lower than all comparable music degrees elsewhere. Additionally, among our degree recipients are some of the most ambitious and talented students at UNCA. Admittance to our BFA degree—a rigorous degree that prepares students for the demanding world of music professionalism—is competitive, and the students seeking the rigor of the BFA do so by choice. It should be noted that the LAC Diversity Intensive and ARTS requirements can be satisfied by several courses within our curriculum, and that we are currently seeking approval for some of our Music History classes (particularly those in the area of Ethnomusicology) to satisfy the LAC Social Science requirement.

By way of comparison, the attached table “Degree Analogs” lists comparable peer institutions. Details that justify this cap exemption for the BFA:

- Our Music Department offers a relatively low credit requirement degree (the BA), with broad opportunities for pedagogical breadth. 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).

- None of the 22 comparable schools have a BFA in jazz or contemporary music (only 2 have music tech programs).
- Of the 13 schools with either a BA with performance emphasis or a BM, the average equivalent credit hours in the major is over 70 hours (some adjusted to our 120 credit hour model).
- Filtering for jazz performance specifically, two comparable institutions emerge (in bold below). The average equivalent credit hours (adjusted to our 120 credit hour model) for the degree is 98 hours—a full 33 credit hours higher than the adjusted credit hour degree program we are requesting.

1. Christopher Newport (BM 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)