

UNIVERSITY of HOUSTON

MOORES SCHOOL of MUSIC

STRING AREA HANDBOOK 2014-2015

CONTENTS

- I. Expectations for Lessons
- II. Studio Class
- III. Jury Requirements
- IV. Sophomore Barrier Requirements (Undergraduate Performance Majors)
- V. Recital Requirements
 - a. Non-Degree
 - b. Junior
 - c. Senior
 - d. Master's
 - e. DMA
 - i. Solo
 - ii. Chamber Music
 - iii. Lecture
 - iv. Concerto
- VI. Changing or Adding Majors
- VII. Scholarship Increase or Scholarship Consideration Requests
- VIII. Online Forms

I. EXPECTATIONS FOR LESSONS

- A. Lessons are held once per week — students arrange lesson times in consultation with their individual teachers at the beginning of each new semester.
- B. In addition to lessons, students are required to attend the following:
 - i. weekly studio class
 - ii. their individual teacher's recitals
 - iii. any recital presented by a member of the string area faculty
 - iv. string master classes by visiting artists
 - v. recitals given by anyone in their individual teacher's studio
- C. In compliance with Moores School of Music regulations, Undergraduate students are required to attend a certain number of recitals in order to graduate. Students **must** be current with their recital attendance before they will be allowed to schedule degree or non-degree recitals (<http://www.uh.edu/class/music/degrees-academics/undergraduate/bachelor-of-music/index.php>; see Requirements). Failure to remain current could delay degree completion.
- D. Grades for lessons are generally based on the following system:

A = 95-100	B- = 80-82
A- = 90-94	C+ = 76-79
B+ = 86-89	C = 73-75
B = 83-85	C- = 70-72

 - i. Compiled Jury grades constitute 20% of final grade for applied lessons.
 - ii. In performance, the following elements will be graded: tone, tuning, rhythm, musicality, recovery from errors, style, form, technique, bow form and usage. At the discretion of the teacher, other elements may be added as needed.
 - iii. Teachers may modify the grading system, so students should consult with their instructors to determine specific grading expectations.

- iv. Pianists are assigned to accompany lessons. It is the student's responsibility to communicate with the pianist and arrange for a weekly 30-minute rehearsal within the first week of classes. Pianists are required to be available during lesson times, unless special arrangements are made.

II. STUDIO CLASS

- A. Studio classes are scheduled weekly. Check with your individual teacher for studio class times.
- B. Teachers set specific guidelines for their individual studio classes.

III. JURY REQUIREMENTS

- A. Every student (except as listed below) is required to play a jury at the end of the semester. Jury grades constitute 20% of final lesson grades.
- B. The following students are exempt from playing a jury (however, they may still choose to do so if they wish to get more experience):
 - i. Students in the first semester of their undergraduate degrees
 - ii. Students who performed a recital that semester (the recital must have been graded by three faculty members)
 - iii. Students who participated in the MSM Concerto Competition
 - iv. DMA candidates
- C. Each student will sign up for a 15-minute time slot and will have 12 minutes to perform.
- D. Evidence of Memory is required at every jury – at least one work must be performed by memory.
- E. Repertoire will be decided by either the Teacher, or by the student with the teacher's approval.
- F. Students must bring 7 completed Jury Forms to their juries for teachers to record comments. The forms are available online.

IV. SOPHOMORE BARRIER REQUIREMENTS

- A. Performance majors must pass a performance barrier at the end of their sophomore year in order to advance to junior level lesson status.
- B. Barrier expectations include demonstration of a high level of playing, appropriate repertoire, and evidence of memorization.
- C. Repertoire will be decided by either the Teacher, or by the student with the teacher's approval.
- D. Students may have two (2) attempts to pass the barrier. If the second attempt is unsuccessful, students will be dropped from the performance major. Alternative degree options should then be discussed with the undergraduate advisor.

V. RECITAL REQUIREMENTS

**In all instances, consult the online "Student Recital Guide" listed in Section VIII*

- A. Non-Degree
 - i. Students may request to present non-degree recitals at any time. Instructors must approve non-degree recitals, and students must be current on recital attendance. Non-Degree recitals will be between 25-65 minutes of music.
 - ii. The student must select a Recital panel of at least three instructors who will evaluate both the pre-recital jury and recital. Two instructors must be from the string area, and the third member may be from any area.
 - iii. Repertoire will be decided by the teacher, or by the student with the teacher's approval.
 - iv. A pre-recital jury MUST be successfully completed no fewer than two weeks before the recital date.

B. Junior (Performance Major)

- i. The junior recital will consist of 25-35 minutes of music.
- ii. The student must select a Recital panel of three instructors who will evaluate both the pre-recital jury and recital. Two instructors must be from the string area, and the third member may be from any area.
- iii. At least one work must be memorized.
- iv. Repertoire will be decided by the teacher, or by the student with the teacher's approval.
- v. A pre-recital jury MUST be completed and approved no fewer than two weeks before the recital date.
- vi. Students in music education or other elective studies concentrations are not required to play junior recitals.

C. Senior

- i. The senior recital of performance majors will consist of 55-65 minutes of music.
- ii. Requirements for students in music education or other elective studies concentrations are the same as performance majors' junior recitals.
- iii. The student must select a Recital panel of three instructors who will evaluate both the pre-recital jury and recital. Two instructors must be from the string area, and the third member may be from any area.
- iv. At least one work must be memorized.
- v. Repertoire will be decided by the teacher, or by the student with the teacher's approval.
- vi. The pre-recital jury MUST be completed and approved no fewer than two weeks before the recital date.

D. Master's

- i. Requirements for the master's recital are the same as performance majors' senior recitals.

E. Doctoral

i. Solo Recital

- a. The solo recital will be between 55-65 minutes of music.
- b. At least one work must be memorized
- c. The student's DMA committee must approve the repertoire at least two months before the scheduled recital date.
- d. The pre-recital jury MUST be completed and approved no fewer than two weeks before the recital date.

ii. Chamber Music Recital

- a. Chamber music recitals will be between 55-65 minutes of music.
- b. Memory requirements for chamber music recitals are waived.
- c. The student's DMA committee must approve chosen repertoire at least two months before the scheduled recital date.
- d. The pre-recital jury MUST be completed and approved no fewer than two weeks before the recital date.

iii. Lecture Recital

- a. The sixty-minute lecture recital will consist of two parts, performance and lecture, roughly equal in length.
- b. The student's DMA committee must approve the chosen topic at least two months before the recital.
- c. The pre-recital jury (performance segment) MUST be completed and approved no fewer than two weeks before the recital date.
- d. The text of the lecture segment must be made available to the DMA committee to read for approval no later than the pre-recital jury.

iv. Concerto Recital

- a. The DMA concerto recital will consist of a concerto performed with an orchestra.
- b. The student's DMA committee will approve the chosen concerto at least two months before the scheduled recital date.
- c. The pre-recital jury MUST be completed and approved no fewer than two weeks before the recital date. The orchestra need not be present for the pre-recital jury.
- d. The DMA committee will evaluate the performance. In case the performance is away from Houston, the candidate will provide the DMA committee with an unedited high-quality video of the performance.

VI. CHANGING or ADDING MAJORS

- A. Students at the sophomore level or below who wish to become performance majors should begin the process by speaking first to their individual teacher and then to the undergraduate advisor.
- B. Students at the junior level or above who wish to become performance majors must first successfully complete a sophomore barrier jury in front of members of the string faculty (with the advanced approval of their individual teacher).
- C. It is possible for students to double major in performance and another area such as music education or composition. Interested students should first meet with their individual teachers and then with the undergraduate advisor.

VII. SCHOLARSHIP INCREASE/CONSIDERATION REQUESTS

- A. At the end of each semester, students on scholarship may apply for increases and those without scholarships may apply for scholarship consideration. Students must complete the required application in order to be considered.
- B. Consideration for scholarship increases or scholarship awards requires a live jury at the end of the semester. No exceptions will be considered.
- C. The student must meet the required musical and academic performance criteria as outlined in the scholarship handbook in order to be considered for scholarship increases or awards.
- D. Forms for Scholarship Increases and Scholarship Consideration are available from the scholarship coordinator, and are posted on the scholarship bulletin board outside of room 118 each semester.
- E. Scholarship awards or increases are contingent upon available funds.

VIII. ONLINE FORMS

- A. The following forms are available at:
<http://www.uh.edu/class/music/forms/>
 - i. Student Recital Guide
 - ii. Student Recital Application
 - iii. Undergraduate Pre-Recital and Recital approval forms
 - iv. Graduate Pre-Recital and Recital approval forms
 - v. Jury forms
 - vi. Other forms may be added throughout the year. Students should check in occasionally to stay current.