

Jazz Area Handbook

(created Fall 2021)

Private Lesson Requirements

1000-Level

- Requirements will be determined by the applied instructor. 1000-level students are encouraged to take a jazz jury for the appropriate semester.

2000-Level

- All students are required to complete a jury each semester to remain in good standing in the department. In their fourth semester, students must complete a sophomore hearing.

Sophomore Hearing

- The sophomore hearing will be an *individual* jury. The student will be held responsible for all material up to that point.
- Following the sophomore hearing, the student will speak with the entire jazz faculty regarding their progress.
- If the student does not pass their sophomore hearing, they will have the opportunity to retake the hearing during the first Area Recital of the next semester. If the student fails the sophomore hearing again, they must retake 2000-level lessons. After a third failure, it will be recommended that they not continue in the program.

3000-Level

- All junior *performance majors* taking 3000-level lessons must complete a 45-minute-long junior recital (see “Recitals” for more information)
- All seniors taking 3000-level lessons must complete an hour-long senior recital (see “Recitals” for more information)
- Even when performing a recital, 3000-level students are required to complete a jury each semester.

6000-Level

- Requirements will be determined by the applied instructor. They will include playing a 10-minute jury each semester they are enrolled in private lessons.
- All graduate students must enroll in MUS 6900 and perform an hour-long recital in the second year of their studies.

Jury Requirements

- Instrumentalists are responsible for learning tunes assigned for a given semester at each of their juries. Every student should be able to play the melody and improvise on the chord changes; drummers should be able to sing the melody to each tune.
- Vocalists should see “Jazz Voice Handbook” for jury requirements.
- Students are responsible for forming their own groups for juries and should rehearse prior to performing.
- Students are responsible for bringing two copies of Applied Reports to juries.
- Students will receive e-mail comments from each professor following their juries.

- See "Sophomore Hearing," above, for information about the sophomore hearing requirements.

1. Required repertoire for each semester of study for jazz majors follows below
2. Memorize the original melody and chord changes and be prepared to improvise on the form. Be able to improvise a chorus of "a cappella" improv, i.e. without rhythm section, but in tempo.
3. Learn each tune in the standard key.
4. This is a self-directed study and should be done in addition to your applied lesson assignments.
5. This is a cumulative requirement. At a future jury, you may be asked to play any of the tunes from previous semesters.
6. Vocalists consult the Vocal Jazz Handbook for repertoire and requirements.
7. Drummers must to be able to sing melodies (while keeping time) and play them around the set.

Freshman	
Billie's Bounce Now's the Time Take the A Train Satin Doll So What Samba de Orpheu	Autumn Leaves Bye Bye Blackbird Summertime Laura Girl from Ipanema Cantaloupe Island
Sophomore	
Oleo It Could Happen to You If I Should Lose You Tenderly How Insensitive Maiden Voyage	All the Things You Are How Deep is the Ocean Four Dindi Blues for Alice Prelude to a Kiss
Junior	
Confirmation Body and Soul Evidence Eternal Triangle Desafinado Yes or No Alone Together	Stella by Starlight Skylark The Way You Look Tonight Love for Sale Seven Steps to Heaven Up Jumped Spring Ornithology
Senior	
Countdown Cherokee Monk's Dream Firm Roots Milestones (Old) Estate	Giant Steps Donna Lee Very Early Sophisticated Lady Along Came Betty Inner Urge

Recitals

- Recital requirements will be set by the applied instructor.
- All senior and graduate recitals must be at least one hour long.
- Students must pass a recital hearing in order to perform their recital. The hearing should be performed *no less than two weeks* prior to the recital date. Hearings should be attended by a recital “committee,” the applied instructor and one other faculty member who can attend both the hearing and the recital.
- The Concerts Office employs an online form to schedule your recital: <https://sites.google.com/a/wmich.edu/music/recitals>
- Expect a \$50 fee for each recital. This fee applies whether you schedule the event on or off campus.
- There is a fee for using Western Sound Studios to record your recital and a separate fee if you want your recital livestreamed.
- Students are encouraged to perform recitals above and beyond their requirements. Recitals are a great way to assure that students have processed material fully and can execute it with confidence.
- Students are responsible for performing juries even in semesters where they give recitals.
- *JUNIOR RECITALS*: should be scheduled in the Fall Semester, *SENIOR RECITALS*: should be scheduled in the Spring Semester. This scheduling will avoid a backlog of recitals in the Spring, and also alleviate pressure on rhythm section players. PLAN AHEAD!

Ensemble Requirements and Auditions

- All members of the Jazz Area will audition with their respective applied instructors for placement in ensembles. Rhythm Section players will take part in an audition process on the first day of classes at 2pm. Students will be required to sight read, improvise, and demonstrate doubles. Students should be prepared to perform a jazz standard or composition on their major instrument and demonstrate their ability to improvise on the title
- Underclassmen (freshmen and sophomores) taking applied jazz lessons should expect to be placed in a small ensemble for each semester of their freshmen and sophomore years. This requirement is part of the new degree.
- Upperclassmen (juniors and seniors) must form an official school group for at least one semester.
- Groups made up of undergraduates are coded MUS 2180; groups mixing undergraduates and graduates are coded MUS 5140; groups of graduate students only are coded MUS 6140
- To register for a small ensemble, students should email keith.hall@wmich.edu stating interest as an individual or include the entire group. Students are strongly encouraged to form their own groups if possible— otherwise, students will be placed in groups by Prof. Hall.

- Friday from 11-12 will be “combo recording hour.” Although each group won’t be needed each week, students should plan to have flexibility with this hour so that their combo can record in Western Sound Studios. This is a great opportunity to get recording experience and document your work with your group.
- The total ensemble requirement (performance elective or jazz ensemble) for Jazz Studies majors is a minimum of 14 enrollments, to include:
 - o 4 enrollments minimum in a jazz combo (chamber ensemble = MUS 2180 or 5140, and/or MUS 5150)
 - o 2 enrollments minimum in MUS 1190 (Gold Company), 2120 (Jazz Orchestra), 5150 (Advanced Jazz Combo) or MUS 2100 (Jazz Lab Band)
 - o 4 enrollments in a major ensemble (same list as above)
 - o 4 enrollments in performance electives (classical or jazz)

Service Requirements

- Students must be prepared to take on a service role for the full day at the Western International Jazz Festival. Vocal students should be prepared to take on a service role for the full day at the Gold Company Invitational.
- Students may be called on for other service roles, such as driving guest artists, helping with set-up and tear-down of recitals, and assisting with student recruiting.

Area Recitals

- Attendance at Area Recitals is required and failure to attend will be reflected in students’ Applied Lesson grade.
- If a student is unable to attend or has other commitments (if a student must attend a classical area recital or accompany a collaborative partner, for example), they should notify their applied teacher 24 hours in advance.
- Students are encouraged to perform at Area Recitals. Interested students should contact their applied teacher or combo coach two weeks in advance.
- Each applied teacher will nominate one individual or group for each area recital and notify that student no less than one week in advance. That student is then expected to perform. Failure to do so without a convincing reason will be reflected negatively in a student’s Applied Lesson grade.

Equipment

- The jazz vocal PA (mic, cable, amp and Mackie mixer, if needed) is available for improv class, or any rehearsals directly related to your applied curricular studies. It is NEVER to be taken off campus. It must be reserved in order to be used. The PA is in the locker room closest to Rehearsal C.
- Students are responsible for bringing all needed equipment to all rehearsals. For events in rehearsal C, students can find useful equipment in the backroom.
- Students are asked to treat all equipment – whether amplifiers, drum sets, pianos, music stands, or microphones – with the utmost respect. We value our equipment and having to replace it means diverting valuable resources from other items such as projects and guest artists!

Communication

- All students are invited to join the jazz department's text-message group in order to receive important announcements and reminders. Info on how to do so will be shared at the first Area meeting.
- Other announcements and jury sign-ups will be posted on the "Jazz Board," across the hall from the Lecture Hall. Keep an eye out!
- Check your WMU email frequently!

Additional Thoughts:

You are an individual. Tailor your education to get what you need out of your degree. What are your strengths and weaknesses?

- Set a new standard for yourself. Work harder, pay attention to detail, and try to set both short- and long-term goals. What is your plan for the semester, for the year, for next year, for 5 years down the line? Who do you want to play with? Where do you want to live? Where is "your scene?"
- Learn from your peers. You will make connections here that will last for decades.
- Develop a positive attitude. Turn all negative situations into positive ones. Be focused. Have respect for others, including their feelings, thoughts, ideas. There is not just "one" way. Different doesn't mean wrong.
- Support each other in concerts; take advantage of classical recitals, concerts, and curriculum (Counterpoint, Orchestration)
- The faculty is world-class and has so much to offer. Seek each one out and glean what you can from them.
- Rhythm is KING: Everyone is a drummer.
- Listen every day. Make lists of important recordings to check out. Create a personal record collection (this is different from streaming!) Transcribe.
- Twelve MUST KNOW tunes: "Blues," "I've Got Rhythm," "Cherokee," "Sweet Georgia Brown," "Indiana," "How High the Moon," "Out of Nowhere," "Perdido," "Honeysuckle Rose," "All the Things You Are," "Night and Day," "Lover"
- Be organized. Have a plan. Keep a consistent schedule. Keep track of due dates. Learn to work on deadline (critical in the professional world). Pay attention to detail.
- You are expected to be at all rehearsals: prepared and with parts, tunes, and chord changes—practiced, learned, memorized, and internalized.
- PLAY as much as possible. The success of jazz depends on your ability to interact with other people in real time. Learning to listen while you play can only happen when you play with others. Take advantage of every playing/performing opportunity.
- Take advantage of the new MAT courses in the revised degree. Prowess with technology is critical to have a successful career.
- Learn "how to learn." Mastering the art of learning is by no means an easy accomplishment. The task demands an eagerness—better yet, a passion—for learning itself; a mind open to complexity, ambiguity, and opposing points of view; the insight to formulate the right questions; the thirst for answers; and the independence, once all this is done, to arrive at one's own conclusions. Most importantly, you need to figure out for yourself the best way to assimilate and internalize material.