

This document contains specific Jazz Studies curriculum and jury policies for Jazz Studies Majors entering before Fall 2005. For all other applicable policies, you must consult the current Jazz Studies Handbook, downloadable at www.vcu jazz.org/programs/handbooks.htm.

NOTE:

- As of Spring 2007, the Large Ensemble requirement has been replaced by four credits of Approved Ensembles (APPM 370/390). While in the past students could apply credit from only one Large Ensemble per semester towards their Jazz degree, no such restriction applies towards Jazz students seeking Approved Ensembles: they may register for multiple ensembles within an appropriate course load. Advisors are allowed great initial latitude in accommodating the varying interests of their Jazz students and need not consult with the Jazz Studies Director regarding appropriate Approved Ensembles unless specific questions arise. However, if one or more Large Ensembles proves to be in considerable need of specific instrumentation, efforts will be made to determine which Jazz students would best benefit from fulfilling one or more Approved Ensemble credits within a particular Large Ensemble for that semester.
- As of Fall 2007, ENGL 101 has been replaced by UNIV 111-112 (Focused Inquiry). Consult the Jazz Studies Handbook and your faculty advisor for further information.

Jazz Studies Curriculum 2001-2005

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**Virginia Commonwealth University
Department of Music**

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Jazz^{VCU}

CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS

BACHELOR OF MUSIC IN JAZZ STUDIES (entering before Fall 2005)

The bachelor of music degree is the initial professional degree in music. Its primary emphasis is on development of the skills, concepts, and sensitivities essential to the professional life of the musician. At the center of the instructional program for the bachelor of music degree is the “core curriculum,” comprising 32-34 credits of instruction in aspects of musicianship fundamental to all music degree programs. Included are courses in basic music theory, aural skills, music history, conducting, and advanced theoretical skills.

Music core curriculum	credits
Integrated Theory I-IV	12
Aural Skills I-V	5
Keyboard Skills (APPM 173-174, 273)	3
Introduction to Musical Styles	2
Introduction to World Music (WI)	2
Recital/convocation attendance (four semesters)	0
Music History (MHIS 321, 322, 323)	6
Conducting	2
Form and Analysis I	2
 Supportive courses	 credits
Large Ensembles*	4
Jazz Ensembles	9
Performing Medium (eight credits classical, 16 credits jazz)**	24
Jazz Improvisation	6
Jazz Arranging	12
Master Class (four semesters classical, four jazz)	0
Junior Recital	0
Senior Recital	0
Music History IV (MHIS 324) (WI)	2
 General studies	 credits
ENGL 101 The Craft of Writing	3
ENGL 200 The Craft of Writing with Research	3
Survey of European History 101 or 102	3
Social science elective	3
Ethics	3
Mathematics/statistics	3
Laboratory science elective	4
Open electives	11

WI = fulfills Writing Intensive requirement

The following course is strongly encouraged as an elective for all students:

MHIS 380 Survey of the Music Industry

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. (WI)

The business aspects of a music career, including such topics as copyright, business organization, music production, management, recording, freelancing, grants, taxation, and careers allied with music other than music performance.

Applied Music Achievement Levels

Eight achievement levels have been established for applied instrumental and vocal study. These levels are explicit in terms of expected repertoire, musicianship/style, technique and sightreading. The achievement levels required for graduation with a B.M. in Jazz Studies are IV in classical studies and VI in jazz.

* Only one large ensemble each semester may be used to fulfill large ensemble requirements.

**Note that in each semester for the third and fourth years, drummers should register for two credits of Drum Set and one credit of either Jazz Piano or Jazz Percussion (Vibes).

BACHELOR OF ARTS

The Bachelor of Arts in Music Program is designed for students who desire a program with a strong emphasis in music, combined with a strong liberal arts component, and a minor in an area other than music. Included are courses in basic theory, aural skills, music history, applied music as well as restricted and free music electives. This degree program is appropriate for many jazz-interested students for whom the B.M. in Jazz Studies may not be appropriate.

Core curriculum	credits
Integrated Theory I-IV	12
Aural Skills (APPM 165-166, 265-266)	4
Introduction to Musical Styles	2
Introduction to World Music (WI)	2
Music History (MHIS 321, 322, 323)	6
Principal Performing Medium*	12
Ensembles	6
Recital/convocation (four semesters)	0
Master Class (four semesters)	0
Keyboard Skills	2
Music electives# (selected from MHIS and MUSC 300-400; APPM 381)	6
General studies	credits
ENGL 101 The Craft of Writing	3
ENGL 200 The Craft of Writing with Research	3
Literature courses	6
Foreign language†	14
Laboratory science/natural science	7
Ethics (PHIL 211 or 212)	3
Mathematical and computer scienceΔ (at least one course in each area)	6
American History 103 or 104 or European History 101 or 102	3
Social science elective	3
Minor or secondary concentration‡	18
Open electives	6

WI = fulfills Writing Intensive requirement

The following course is strongly encouraged as an elective for all students:

MHIS 380 Survey of the Music Industry
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. (WI)

The business aspects of a music career, including such topics as copyright, business organization, music production, management, recording, freelancing, grants, taxation, and careers allied with music other than music performance.

Applied Achievement Levels

Eight achievement levels have been established for applied instrumental and vocal study. These levels are explicit in terms of expected repertoire, musicianship/style, technique and sightreading. The achievement levels required for graduation with a B.A. in Music are IV in all areas.

* Achievement level IV required. (Note that this could be Jazz or otherwise. Some students move into the B.A. track after having started a B.M. track and thus may have completed credits in a Performing Medium that is no longer their intended focus. So long as the student can pass a Level IV in *one* Performing Medium of his or her choice and amass 12 credits *from one or more* of the various Performing Media, that aspect of the degree track is successfully fulfilled.)

† Four semesters of one language or two semesters and Lyric Diction APPM 161-162 Lyric Diction.

Δ Includes computer related courses listed under business (BUS 160-161, 162-163, 164-165, 166-167, 168).

‡ Selected from one of the established minor programs in the university or planned as a coherent series of studies. An advisory committee for each B.A. student will approve the secondary concentration course sequence.

Writing intensive course must be selected from a restricted music elective or an elective from outside the music major.

B.M. JAZZ SUGGESTED COURSE SEQUENCE (entering before Fall 2005)

This is a suggested, not required, sequence. Your actual sequence of courses may vary from semester to semester. Be sure to see your advisor each semester to ensure that you are making the appropriate choices.

		Credits		Credits	
		1st Sem.	2nd Sem.	Fall	Spring
FIRST YEAR					
MHIS 145/146	Theory I & II	3	3	___	___
APPM 165/166	Aural Skills I & II	1	1	___	___
MHIS 120	Intro. to Musical Styles	-	2	___	___
ENGL 101	Composition and Rhetoric	3	-	___	___
MATH ___	Math/STA Elective*	3	-	___	___
___	Lab Science Elective**	-	4	___	___
APPM 173/174	Keyboard Skills	1	1	___	___
APPM 199	Recital/Convocation	0	0	___	___
APPM 299	Master Class (Classical)	0	0	___	___
APPM 3--	Performing Medium (Classical)	2	2	___	___
APPM 3--	Performing Medium (Jazz)	1	1	___	___
APPM 390	Jazz Ensemble	1	1	___	___
APPM 370	Large Ensemble***	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	___	___
		16	16		
SECOND YEAR					
MHIS 245/246	Theory III & IV	3	3	___	___
APPM 265/266	Aural Skills III & IV	1	1	___	___
MHIS 220	Intro to World Music (WI)	2	-	___	___
ENGL 200	Composition and Rhetoric II	-	3	___	___
APPM 273	Keyboard Skills	1	-	___	___
APPM 199	Recital/Convocation	0	0	___	___
APPM 299	Master Class (Classical)	0	0	___	___
APPM 3--	Performing Medium (Classical)	2	2	___	___
APPM 3--	Performing Medium (Jazz)	1	1	___	___
APPM 370	Large Ensemble ***	1	1	___	___
APPM 390	Jazz Ensemble	1	1	___	___
APPM 251/252	Jazz Improvisation	3	3	___	___
--- ---	Open Electives	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	___	___
		16	16		
THIRD YEAR					
MHIS 305	Form and Analysis I	2	-	___	___
APPM 365	Aural Skills V	1	-	___	___
MHIS 3__	Music History	-	2	___	___
MHIS 324	Jazz History (WI)	-	2	___	___
APPM 381	Conducting	-	2	___	___
APPM 299	Master Class (Jazz)	0	0	___	___
APPM 3--	Performing Medium (Jazz)****	3	3	___	___
PHIL 211 or 212	Ethics	3	-	___	___
APPM 390	Jazz Ensemble	1	1	___	___
APPM 394	Junior Recital	-	0	___	___
MHIS 311/312	Jazz Arranging	3	3	___	___
___	Open Electives	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	___	___
		14	15		

FOURTH YEAR

APPM 299	Master Class (Jazz)	0	0	___	___
APPM 3--	Performing Medium (Jazz)****	3	3	___	___
MHIS 3--	Music History	2	2	___	___
APPM 390	Jazz Ensemble	2	1	___	___
MHIS 411/412	Jazz Arranging III & IV	3	3	___	___
APPM 494	Senior Recital	-	0	___	___
HIST 103 or 104	Introduction to American History				
OR 101 or 102	Introduction to European History	3	--	___	___
___	Social Science Elective**	-	3	___	___
___	Open Electives	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	___	___
		16	15		

* Math elective-**Suggested course:** MATH 131

** Lab Science course must include a lab. **Suggested courses:** BIOL 101, 102, 103; CHEM 110; ENVS 103; GEOG 203, 204; PHYS 101, 107. Social Science electives include, but are not limited to the following: Psychology, History (selected courses), Anthropology, Sociology, Economics, Political Science, Geography. For questions, please see your advisor.

*** Only one large ensemble each semester will fulfill large ensemble requirements.

**** Drummers should register for two credits of Drum Set and one credit of either Jazz Piano or Jazz Percussion (Vibes) each semester for the third and fourth years.

JAZZ JURIES/ACHIEVEMENT LEVELS/CORE COURSES

All Jazz Majors (and Music Foundations Majors anticipating being Jazz Majors) should confirm with their applied jazz instructor as to whether they perform Jazz juries in a given semester.

Typically continuing sophomores have two semesters to complete a Level; juniors and seniors typically have one semester per Level (including recitals). Juries will usually be in AX 105 and 110A. Slots are determined by the availability of your applied instructor; be sure to sign up in the applicable slot. Sufficient slots will be posted for each studio. If your ideal time is not available, contact the student in your studio who already has the time slot that works for you; and attempt to trade times. If you have an exam conflict, contact your applied instructor, as it is impossible for the faculty to predict your exam schedules. Do not expect easy solutions at the last minute!

The most common reason for delays on jury day is the lack of a prepared and legible jury form. Please ensure that when you enter your jury, you have completed three copies of the form. The form is downloadable from the VCU Music web site at www.pubinfo.vcu.edu/artweb/music/current/jury_sheet.pdf. You must type in the jury data provided you by your studio teacher and then print several copies for the jurors' use.

The following policy was adopted by the Music Department effective Fall 2003. Though not entirely new material, it clarifies when juries are and are not required, mandates their effect on the final course grade of private lessons, and dictates limits as to how much time a student has to pass various Core Courses and Achievement Levels. Please read it *very* carefully:

* * * *

- A student taking a required 2- or 3-credit lesson is required to take a jury. In all cases, the jury will be considered an examination.

- The university grading system of “A-F” applies with regard to jury examination grades each semester.
- The jury examination grade will be counted as 25% of the student’s semester grade in the respective applied lesson.
- The jury examination may be for Achievement Level or for “Examination Only.”
- A student must achieve a grade of “C” or better in the jury examination (including required recitals) to complete any Achievement Level. (A student must declare an intention to take a jury examination for a Level for the grade to earn that level. A “C” in an “examination only” jury will not result in an Achievement Level.) Only recitals of “C” or higher count towards passing an Achievement Level.
- Students must pass at least one Applied Achievement Level within any two-semester time period (not including summers). Continuing Jazz majors must also earn at least one Jazz level within the first 2 semesters and thereafter, one Jazz level within any 2-semester time period.
- Freshmen and transfer students who have not completed the music foundation curriculum are admitted to the Music Department as Music Foundation majors. All music majors, including Music Foundation majors, are required to maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.0 and pass at least one applied Achievement Level within any two-semester period. Music Foundation majors must also pass Theory I & II and Aural Skills I & II by the end of the fourth semester and must complete specific performance Achievement Levels established by the various degree tracks to qualify for admission into one of those Bachelor of Music tracks (performance, jazz studies, music education) or the Bachelor of Arts in Music program. Any student who fails to meet or maintain these standards will not be allowed to continue as a music major. Students may audition for re-admission into the music major only with the permission of the Department of Music.

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Given the above, a student who is in required lessons who doesn’t do a required jury would receive an incomplete for the semester’s lesson grade. Though that could then be erased in the following semester, it will have for a while affected the student’s GPA and added considerable paperwork. Instead, any students not ready to pass a required level at a jury will be instructed to perform the jury for “Examination Only,” thus receiving a grade that is factored that into the lesson grade. Such students can then pursue completion of the level requirements early the following semester. This scenario is itself a rare exception to the timely completion of required juries.

Students who successfully perform a required recital do not have to play a jury. Note that though a grade of D can still pass a recital, it will not count towards passing an Achievement Level. Only recitals of C or higher count towards passing an Achievement Level.

The following examples will provide you multiple (but not all) hypothetical scenarios that further illustrate the above policies. Note that Department-wide, whether for Levels or Examination, *all juries are graded; and all jury grades are factored in as 25% of the final lesson grade:*

Student A is a continuing sophomore pursuing a Jazz Studies major and taking the required 1-credit jazz lesson. **Student B** is a continuing sophomore pursuing a Jazz Studies major and electively taking additional study within a 2-credit jazz lesson. A first-semester Jazz jury is not required for these students, though the instructor has the latitude to require one for “examination only” with reasonable notice to the student. The quality of that jury performance—not the potential achievement

of Level requirements—prompts the jury grade (which in turn is factored as 25% of the student’s final lesson grade). Unless these students are extraordinarily prepared to test out of a Jazz Achievement Level at the end of a single semester of study, they will take their required Jazz jury for a grade at the end of their second semester of study, at which time that jury is factored as 25% of these students’ final lesson grade.

Student C is a junior or senior pursuing a Jazz Studies major and taking the required 3-credit jazz lesson. The Jazz Studies area requires that s/he perform a Jazz jury towards an Achievement Level and for a grade each semester of study (unless waived via the successful completion of an official recital).

If **Student A** or **B**, or **C** is approaching a *required* jury but seems not to have made adequate progress towards a Level (thus performing limited or less-demanding repertoire and skill-studies), s/he must still perform the required jury; however, it can be “examination only.” The quality of the jury performance (i.e., successful renditions at the adjusted tempos, ranges, or durations expected by the instructor)—not the potential achievement of the Level requirements—prompts the jury grade (which in turn is factored as 25% of the student’s final lesson grade). Thus a student might receive an A on a “examination only” jury that does not fulfill the demands of a Level. However, s/he will not advance a Level that semester no matter how high the jury grade.

Student D is a junior or senior Jazz Studies major who by the beginning of the semester had failed to enroll for the recital s/he typically would have anticipated playing in place of his or her jury that semester. S/he nonetheless wishes to continue studying a 2- or 3-credit jazz lesson; however, it may no longer be a required lesson, as it can lead neither to a recital nor to the Level past it. A Jazz jury that semester is not required for this student, though the instructor has the latitude to require one for “examination only” with reasonable notice to the student. The quality of that jury performance—not the potential achievement of Level requirements—prompts the jury grade (which in turn is factored as 25% of the student’s final lesson grade).

Student E is an elective student (not pursuing a Jazz Studies major) taking a 1-credit jazz lesson. This student is not required to pursue the same Levels as a Jazz major or to take a Jazz jury, though the instructor has the latitude to require one for “examination only” with reasonable notice to the student. The quality of that jury performance—not the potential achievement of Level requirements—prompts the jury grade (which in turn is factored as 25% of the student’s final lesson grade).

Note that in all juries it is *extremely* important for the student to have correctly indicated on the jury form whether the jury is for a Level or for “examination only.” The instructor should convey to the other jurors whether the upcoming jury content is intended towards a Level or if it instead consists of renditions at adjusted tempos, ranges, or durations that are expected by the instructor and that should be evaluated for quality unrelated to Level achievement.

Student F is a student pursuing a Jazz Studies major but has not maintained a cumulative GPA of at least 2.0. **Student G** is a continuing sophomore pursuing a Jazz Studies major but has not earned at least one Jazz Achievement Level within the first three semesters. **Student H** is a continuing sophomore pursuing a Jazz Studies major who has earned at least one Jazz Achievement Level within the first three semesters but has not earned at least one Applied (classical) Achievement Level within any two-semester time period. **Student I** is a sophomore (or beyond) pursuing a Jazz Studies major and has successfully achieved the required Levels but has not passed the freshman-year

coursework of Theory I & II and Aural Skills I & II by the end of the fourth semester. **Student J** is a junior or senior pursuing a Jazz Studies major but has not earned at least one new Jazz Achievement Level within the past two semesters. These students will not be allowed to continue as music majors. They may audition for re-admission into the music major only with the permission of the Department of Music.

Student K performed a required recital for which s/he received a grade of D. Though a grade of D means s/he passed the recital course for which s/he had enrolled, this recital will not count towards passing an Achievement Level. Only recitals of C or higher count towards passing an Achievement Level.

If you have questions about the above policies, you may clarify them with Prof. García or with the Music Office.

For all other applicable policies, you must consult the current Jazz Studies Handbook, downloadable at www.vcu jazz.org/programs/handbooks.htm.