

# University of Oregon Graduate School

## Proposal for a New Graduate Specialization

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**Proposed name of specialization: Jazz Pedagogy**

**Proposed name of specialization as it will be reported on the transcript: Jazz Pedagogy  
(Thirty character limit)**

**Sponsoring Department(s)/Program(s): School of Music & Dance, Jazz Studies**

1. Provide a brief overview of the proposed specialization, including its disciplinary foundations and connections, program goals and objectives, and anticipated start date. Indicate whether the specialization is open only to students in specific graduate degree programs, or if it is open to students from any graduate program. Also indicate the type of degree that the specialization may accompany (Ph.D., MA, D.Ed., etc.)

This specialization prepares students in graduate music programs to teach jazz ensembles, jazz improvisation, jazz composition, and jazz theory. With virtually all university music departments offering ensembles and courses in this field, job applicants who can demonstrate competency and are comfortable teaching in the jazz idiom may hold a competitive advantage over other applicants. This is especially true with regard to the job searches conducted by smaller institutions (including private schools, liberal arts schools, and community colleges) which commonly ask their faculty to teach in multiple areas depending on their expertise.

However, it is common that the only experience in the jazz idiom gained by students outside of the jazz studies degree is in ensembles. While valuable, ensembles provide only limited opportunities to study improvisation, composition, and theory in-depth, and in this case, pedagogy is only addressed through passive observation of the ensemble director.

The Jazz Pedagogy specialization will provide students a clear pathway to in-depth study of these other crucial topics, which cannot be addressed by ensemble participation alone. It will provide foundational knowledge of jazz theory, applied study of improvisation and, pedagogical training, and a transcriptable credential that will help students compete for faculty positions in secondary and higher education.

The specialization will accompany MM, MA, DMA, and PhD programs in any area of music except for jazz studies.

2. Describe the course of study – proposed curriculum, including course numbers, titles, and credit hours. *(At a minimum, students are required to complete a master's or doctoral degree and complete 16 credits of specialization related curriculum.)* If applicable, also include other requirements, such as research requirements or other non-classroom-based requirements.

MUE 639, Jazz Pedagogy & Practicum (3 cr)  
MUJ 661, Program Planning & Development (3 cr)  
MUE 609, Practicum (1 cr) (Fall)  
MUE 609, Practicum (1 cr) (Winter)  
MUE 609, Practicum (1 cr) (Spring)

MUP 635, Studio Instruction in Improvisation (2 cr/term, 6 credits total F/W/S)  
Ensemble requirements (choose from: MUJ 690, MUJ 691, MUJ 692, MUJ 695, MUS 694 Latin Jazz Ensemble, MUS 694 Jazz Guitar Ensemble) (1 cr/term, 3 total F/W/S)

In addition, students must pass a skills exam testing jazz/commercial music theory and keyboard skills.

Info about MUE 609: During Fall and Winter term, participating students will observe MUJ 180 Jazz Performance Lab I, and MUJ 181 Jazz Performance Lab II, applied lessons, and ensemble rehearsals for an average of three hours per week of engagement. During Spring term, students will observe ensemble rehearsals and will assist in teaching one large jazz ensemble and one small jazz ensemble.

3. Describe the admissions and advising procedures of students in the specialization.

There is no formal admissions procedure to this specialization; any student fulfilling the requirements listed above will be allowed to declare the specialization.

Advising will be done by the jazz studies faculty and the music graduate advisor. The jazz faculty and music graduate advisor will advise interested students take the skills exam as early as possible. Students who do not pass the exams on the first try will work independently with the jazz studies faculty to improve in areas as needed. Students enrolled in MUE 609: Practicum will be supervised by a jazz faculty member.

4. If there are guidelines or accreditations for such programs, include them and describe how the proposed Graduate Specialization will meet the established standards.

5. Describe the role of the faculty in the conduct of the specialization. What participation will be required in terms of faculty from other programs? (Provide letters documenting willingness to participate.)

No faculty involvement from outside jazz studies will be needed.

6. Describe the steps that have been taken to ensure that the proposed specialization does not overlap other existing specializations. (Provide documentation that relevant departments or areas have been informed of the proposal).

There are only two specializations in the School of Music and Dance (violin/viola pedagogy, and music theory pedagogy, both currently in the proposal stage). Neither of these programs have any overlap with this proposed jazz pedagogy specialization.

7. Describe the resources that will be necessary to make this program viable (e.g., library holdings, space requirements, special equipment or renovations, etc.). Are these resources now available and, if not, how can they be obtained?

All resources required to make this specialization viable are already available. No additional resources are required.



