

January 25, 2021

The SOMD Undergraduate Committee herewith notifies the faculty of the motion to consider the following courses program changes for approval:

Proposed B.M. in Jazz Studies Program Changes

Proposal:

The Jazz Area proposes a significant number of changes to the B.M. in Jazz Studies. (There are numerous details to this proposal, which are all contained in the attached document dated January 4th, 2021, from Steve Owen and Paul Krueger.)

Rationale:

This proposal would help us to achieve the following goals:

1. Alleviate student overload, which is severe in the sophomore year (see our current sample schedule for details)
2. Reduce the number of required credits and create space for electives outside of the jazz area.
3. Address skill set deficiencies in composition that we are seeing with students entering the Jazz Arranging sequence
4. Address “hidden” degree requirements (large jazz ensembles are not currently required by our degree, and jazz performance studies are only required for two years. These are not in line with student and faculty expectations).
5. Better prepare our students to be educators.



Date: January 4th, 2021

To: SOMD Undergraduate Committee

From: Steve Owen | Director of Jazz Studies | sowen@uoregon.edu
 Paul Krueger | Instructor of Jazz Studies | kruegerp@uoregon.edu

Re: Degree Requirement Changes for the Bachelor of Music in Jazz Studies

The Jazz Studies area proposes the following changes to the Bachelor of Music in Jazz Studies degree.

Programs affected: Bachelor of Music in Jazz Studies

Proposed changes:

1. Reorganize jazz arranging/composition curriculum
 - Remove MUJ 482/582 Jazz Arranging III (3 credits)
 - Remove MUJ 485/585 Advanced Jazz Arranging III (3 credits)
 - Add MUJ 275 Jazz Composition I (2 credits)
 - Add MUJ 276 Jazz Composition II (2 credits)

2. Adjust the number of total credits required in music history & culture studies from 16 to 12.
 - Based on the recommendation of the musicology area, we are proposing a menu of courses for students to choose from in order to fulfill this requirement.

8 credits from the following courses. <i>At least 4 credits must be from MUS 267-269</i>		4 credits from the following	
MUS 267 Survey of Music History	4	MUS 358 Music in World Cultures	4
MUS 268 Survey of Music History	4	MUS 359 Music of the Americas	4
MUS 269 Survey of Music History	4	MUS 365 Regional Ethnomusicology	4
MUS 263 US Pop Music	4	MUS 367 Survey of African Music	4
MUS 264 US Pop Music	4	MUS 451 Introduction to Ethnomusicology	4
MUS 265 US Pop Music	4	MUS 452 Musical Instruments of the World	4
		MUS 462 Popular Musics of the African Diaspora	4



3. Reduce our Music Theory requirement to alleviate student overload and allow students more time for elective offerings.
 - Remove MUS 232/233 Music Theory V and VI

4. Adjust improvisation curriculum and performance studies requirements to reflect current practices, address foundational skills, utilize the number of capable performance faculty now on staff, and reduce student overload
 - Remove MUJ 474-476 Jazz Repertoire I-III (3 credits each)
 - Add three additional terms of required Jazz Performance studies (MUP 165 or MUP 365) (2 credits each)
 - Reduce the number of required terms of classical performance studies from six to five.

5. Adjust upper division jazz coursework to better prepare students for their senior projects and for their professional careers where both performing and composition/arranging skills are necessary
 - Remove MUJ 479 Advanced Jazz Repertoire III (3 credits)
 - Require all jazz majors to take MUJ 477-478 Advanced Jazz Repertoire I-II (3 credits each), and MUJ 483-484 Advanced Jazz Arranging I-II (3 credits each)
 - (Previously, students could choose to take just one of these three term sequences during their senior year).

6. Adjust ensemble requirements for large and small jazz ensembles
 - Add requirement for six terms of MUJ 390/391/392 (large jazz ensemble) (1-2 credits each)
 - Change small jazz ensemble requirement to twelve terms required (1-2 credits each)

7. Adjust pedagogy curriculum to provide needed professional training
 - Add MUJ 440 Jazz Pedagogy & Practicum (3 credits)
 - Remove MUS 384 Intro to Conducting (2 credits)

Summary of aforementioned changes:

<u>Courses Added</u>	<u>Credits Added</u>	<u>Courses Dropped</u>	<u>Credits Dropped</u>
Jazz Composition I	2	Jazz Arranging III	3
Jazz Composition II	2	Advanced Jazz Arr III	3
Jazz Performance Studies	6	Jazz Repertoire I-III	9
Large Jazz Ensembles	6	Advanced Jazz Rep III	3
Small Jazz Ensembles	-3*	Classical Perf. Studies	2
Jazz Pedagogy	3	Mus Hist./Culture class	4
		Intro to Conducting	2
		Music Theory V-VI	4

*Our proposed degree change would require an additional three terms for small jazz ensemble, but at one credit each, it is a net reduction in credits required.

**Due to our changes in required advanced coursework, an additional 3 credits of coursework will be added to students' senior years.

<u>Total Credits Added</u>	19	<u>Total Credits Dropped</u>	30
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Rationale:

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2. Reduce the number of required credits and create space for electives outside of the jazz area.
3. Address skill set deficiencies in composition that we are seeing with students entering the Jazz Arranging sequence
4. Address “hidden” degree requirements (large jazz ensembles are not currently required by our degree, and jazz performance studies are only required for two years. These are not in line with student and faculty expectations).
5. Better prepare our students to be educators.

Specific background for each change:

1. Composition & Arranging curriculum

- The reorganization of these courses will help our students to develop fundamental jazz composition skills at an appropriate time in our curriculum.
- In our current model, our courses address composition at the end of their freshman year, and then do not address it again until their senior year (and then, only if they choose to take Advanced Jazz Arranging I-III). Our proposed revision would fix this shortcoming, supply a creative outlet for students during their sophomore year, and better prepare them for the professional world and for graduate school.
- Here is the course description for MUJ 275 Jazz Composition I:
 - Students are expected to develop fluency and agility in composing music in contemporary jazz and commercial music styles utilizing common practice writing techniques as applied to small song forms. Through in-class exercises and writing assignments, students are expected to independently analyze and model compositions by known artists. In realizing their music, students are expected to become familiar with basics of orchestration - how to write idiomatically for various instruments and to the skill level of the performer. They will also be expected to notate music using common platforms (Finale, Sibelius, etc.) using rhythmic and stylistic (genre specific) notation as would be appropriate in a studio setting.
- Our proposed revision would make our curriculum more accessible to the SOMD student body at large. These composition courses would be available to any student who has completed MUJ 182 or MUJ 271 or with instructor’s consent.

2. Music History

- In order to reduce credit overload, we have proposed reducing the number of required credits in music history/culture studies. Upon recommendation from our musicology area we have constructed a menu system from which students will choose twelve credits.



3. Music Theory

- Removing Music Theory V-VI will reduce credit overload, especially in the Winter and Spring terms of the sophomore year. This makes student schedules more feasible, and increases the space allotted for electives.
- In addition to Music Theory I-IV, jazz majors will continue extensive study and application of music theory in the following courses:
 - Jazz Performance Lab I-III
 - Jazz Improvisation I-II
 - Jazz Composition I-II
 - Functional Jazz Piano I-II
 - Jazz Arranging I-II
 - Advanced Jazz Arranging I-II
 - Advanced Jazz Repertoire I-II
 - Small Jazz Ensembles
 - Jazz Performance Studies

4. Performance Studies & Jazz Repertoire

- When the jazz studies degree was created, there were few faculty on staff with experience teaching improvisation, so courses like Jazz Repertoire I-III were created to address improvisation in a “group-lesson” setting. With more qualified faculty on staff teaching improvisation, we propose dropping Jazz Repertoire I-III in favor of requiring a third year of private study. This helps us address “hidden requirements” and reduces redundancy in our curriculum.
- In order to reduce credit overload and allow more space for electives, we are also proposing changing the requirement for classical performance studies from six terms down to five terms.

5. Advanced Coursework

- In our current degree requirements, fourth-year students may choose *either* Advanced Jazz Repertoire I-III, or Advanced Jazz Arranging I-III. However, we believe that both course sequences target skills that our students are still developing in their senior year which are critical to their musical foundation and their future career success. Therefore, we are proposing that students be required to take the first two terms of each sequence.

6a. Large Jazz Ensemble Requirements

- Our current degree plan requires a small number of music electives - students usually complete these in their entirety by taking additional jazz performance studies and large jazz ensembles (MUJ 390/391/392). This is a “hidden requirement,” where participation in large jazz ensembles is not truly elective - it is widely expected by students and faculty alike. The skills developed in the large jazz ensembles are also essential. We are proposing that students be required to take six terms of MUJ 390/391/392 as part of their ensemble requirements.
 - In individual cases where participation in a large jazz ensemble is not possible (e.g. if we have more jazz majors than the ensembles can accommodate, or if in a given term the ensemble is unable to accommodate a “non-traditional” jazz major, such as a vocalist, violinist, flautist, etc.), then appropriate arrangements will be made by the affected student and the jazz studies faculty.



6b. Small Jazz Ensemble Requirements

- Our current degree plan requires 15 credits and 9 terms of small jazz ensemble. This is confusing, as students are required to register for only one credit in three terms, but for two credits in six terms. Additionally, both students and faculty expect jazz majors to participate in small jazz ensemble every term. Our new proposal simplifies this issue by requiring 12 terms of small jazz ensemble.

7. Pedagogy

- We are proposing requiring Jazz Pedagogy & Practicum for the BM in jazz studies degree.
 - This course already exists as a graduate level seminar and addresses important topics for future educators who expect to be teaching jazz/popular/commercial music ensembles and/or students. Requiring this for the BM in jazz studies degree will help prepare our undergraduates for future work as educators.
 - Many of our graduates go on to become educators of one type or another. Some teach lessons in performance and improvisation, but many also work with small and large jazz ensembles. This course is needed in order to fulfill an important part of their professional training.
- We are proposing removing the requirement for MUS 384 Intro to Conducting from the BM Jazz Studies degree for various reasons:
 - Numerous skills needed by a conductor are addressed in our curriculum. Score study and analysis, which are essential to the work that any great conductor does, are covered thoroughly in the Jazz Arranging sequence. Rehearsal methodology will be addressed in Jazz Pedagogy & Practicum. Basic conducting patterns are used in other places in our curriculum to address rhythmic coordination and transcription studies.
 - Furthermore, traditional conducting is generally not common in our field, and one course has generally not been sufficient to make our students more employable or competitive for positions where traditional conducting is required. Jazz Studies majors who are interested in pursuing career paths that do require more traditional conducting should be advised to take traditional conducting courses as electives.

Impact on other programs

None

Impact on student enrollment and retention

We anticipate that with fewer credits required and more space for electives, retention and enrollment will increase. These changes will also allow us to reduce the number of underpopulated courses in our program.

Expected impact on faculty positions and workloads

While there will be changes in teaching assignments, there will not be any increase from current FTE. Please contact Steve Owen for more information on potential faculty workload assignments.



Budgetary and resource implications (including faculty, staff, and facilities)

We could start by offering these new courses in the time slots and rooms originally used for Jazz Repertoire I-III, but will be consulting with the Scheduling Committee in an effort to avoid conflicts with elective course offerings our students may be interested in.

NASM Compliance

We have consulted with Brad Foley on these revisions and he has assured us that these changes are compliant with NASM Guidelines.

Proposed starting date: Fall 2021

List of supporting documents:

1. Proposed Degree Checklist
2. Current Degree Checklist