

Student Learning Outcomes Assessment Summary

Bachelor of Arts in Music, BA

Department of Music/College of Liberal Arts

AY2016-2018

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1. Assessment information collected

Background information

All students seeking a music degree complete an entrance audition adjudicated by Department of Music faculty in February of each year. Students may audition for entrance into the Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree program or one of two Bachelor of Music (BM) degree programs in Music Performance and Music Education K - 12. If they do not pass the entrance audition, they may enroll in music classes and try again the following year. This could delay graduation by one year.

The Music Theory, Aural Skills and Music History sequences are key components to the core curriculum for all music degrees: BA, BM Music Education K-12 and BM Music Performance. For completion of a four or five-year degree (BM Music Education), these sequences should be completed in the first two years of study. Music History is taken Sophomore year.

A written and aural theory diagnostic exam is given to all incoming freshman. If they do not pass the exam and need remedial work (MUS 103), their degree will be lengthened by one year.

Conducting and the 400W history classes can be taken in the third or fourth years of study.

The current BA Program was revised in AY2015-2016. However, it was given Category 1 status, suspending further enrollment of students. After a vigorous campaign, the suspension was lifted in Spring of 2016. In Fall 2016, the department enrolled its first class of BA students under the new concentrations program (General, Theory, History and Composition). The program also has a capstone course (Senior Project MUS 476) and a minor field of study, encouraging interdisciplinary research and activity.

Assessment Information AY 2016-2017

***14 students** – 10 returning, 4 new (8 old BA degree, 6 current BA degree)

*Not including 3 students listed as BA students: One not enrolled, one an Interdisciplinary Studies major, one a non-degree seeking student.

14/48 total music students – 29% BA students

1a. Music Theory – 8/14 on track, 57%

Freshman: 1/3 on track, 33%, **Sophomore:** 1/1 on track, 100%, **Junior:** 1/3 on track, 33%, **Senior:** 1/1 on track, 100%, **Fifth Year:** 0/1 on track, 0%, ***Sixth Year:** 2/2 on track, 100%, ***10+ Years:** 2/3 on track, 67%

*Sixth Year: One student changed from MUED to BA and is behind on X requirements. One student completed a 5-year MUED degree, returning for a BA in composition while working full-time as a public music teacher.

*10+ Years: One student was a transfer student in 2005, no classes since 2015, behind in piano proficiency. One student part-time since 2008, a double major in Electrical Engineering, behind in piano proficiency. One student of 10 years behind in theory, history and piano proficiency. (All three students were in the old piano proficiency program which has since been revised.)

1b. Aural Skills – 7/14 on track, 50%

Freshman: 1/3 on track, 33%, **Sophomore:** 1/1 on track, 100%, **Junior:** 1/3 on track, 33%, **Senior:** 1/1 on track, 100%, **Fifth Year:** 0/1 on track, 0%, **Sixth Year:** 2/2 on track, 100%, **10+ Years:** 1/3 on track, 33%

2a. Music History – 7/11 on track, 64%

Sophomore: 1/1 on track, 100%, **Junior:** 1/3 on track, 33%, **Senior:** 1/1 on track, 100%, **Fifth Year:** 0/1 on track, 0%, **Sixth Year:** 2/2 on track, 100%, **10+ Years:** 2/3 on track, 67%

2b. History 400W Level Classes – 88%, B+ average (2016-2018)

10/11 students above Junior level finished the prerequisites.

3a. Applied Lessons – 12/14 on track, 86%

Freshman: 2/3 on track, 67%, **Sophomore:** 1/1 on track, 100%, **Junior:** 2/3 on track, 67%, **Senior:** 1/1 on track, 100%, **Fifth Year:** 1/1 on track, **Sixth Year:** 2/2 on track, 100%, **10+ Years:** 3/3 on track, 100%

3b. Conducting 351 0 – 97%, A average (2016-2018)

5/11 took Conducting. While encouraged, it is not a BA degree requirement.

Two students are currently enrolled in Fall 2018.

4. Major Focus, Senior Project – 94%, A (One student eligible)

Graduates: 2, 2/6 total graduating music students, 33% (old BA)

Assessment Information AY 2017-2018

***13 students** – 10 returning, 3 new (6 old BA degree, 7 new BA)

*Not including 2 students listed as BA students: one an Interdisciplinary Studies major, one a non-degree seeking student.

13/38 total music students – 34% BA students

1a. Music Theory –

Freshman: 0/3 on track, 0%, **Sophomore:** 1/1 on track, 100%

1b. Aural Skills –

Freshman: 0/3 on track, 0%, **Sophomore:** 0/1 on track, 0%

2a. Music History –

Sophomore: 0/1 on track, 0%

3a. Applied Lessons –

Freshman: 0/3 on track, 0%, **Sophomore:** 0/1 on track, 0%

4. Major Focus, Senior Project – A, 97% (One student eligible)

***Graduates: 0, 0/3 total graduating music students, 0%**

*2 Graduates Aug. 2018, 3 Graduates Dec. 2018 (4 old BA/1 current BA), one Graduate May 2019 (current BA)

ASSESSMENT AY 2016-2018 - 17 BA Students – 4/17 on track

2. Conclusions drawn from the information summarized above

- By May 2019, there will only be one student left in the old BA degree program. Six students in the old program will have received their degrees. One transferred out of

the program. Three years after the implementation of the current BA program, two BA students with focuses in composition and a minor in film will have graduated.

- Many of the students in the old BA program who have taken over six years to graduate are a very special type of student, reflective of the Alaska environment. Most all of them struggled to finish their degrees while working full-time in their musical field of expertise, one while pursuing a double degree and one with a family.
- There is an issue with Freshman retention. In 2016-2017, 2/3 Freshman left the UAF program after one year: one dropped out having taken remedial lessons (151) and remedial theory (103), and one transferred to UAA for one semester. In 2017-2018, 3/3 Freshman left after one semester: one dropped out, one transferred to UAF-CTC, and one transferred to UAA for one semester. The students who transferred to UAA did not have better success.
- The curriculum committee believes Freshman retention is not a reflection of the theory curriculum or BA program, but a reflection of the cuts in public education, especially in music education, that have been occurring over the past 10 years in Alaska. Fewer and fewer entering Freshman have the skills necessary for the rigorous study that music demands.
- Five-year degrees might be more realistic, with one year of remedial study before entering the Theory sequence. The music department will discuss a more rigorous theory diagnostic for entering Freshman, insuring a better success rate for the Theory sequence.
- UAF Music Department continues to offer generous office hours with instructors and student tutors for all theory and history students in our department.
- Once students are behind in the Theory sequences, they are also behind in History. Applied lessons and the writing and oral writing classes are very good, as are the Senior Projects.

3. Curricular changes resulting from conclusions drawn above

The current BA Degree Program was implemented in Fall 2016. No curriculum changes are being suggested at this time. However, based on the low percentages of freshman completing the theory sequences, the music department will review its diagnostic process for entering Freshman.

4. Identify the faculty members involved in reaching the conclusions drawn above and agreeing upon the curricular changes resulting

Dr. Lorna Eder, Ryan Fitzpatrick and Dr. Paul Krejci, Under-graduate Committee.
Dr. William Post, advisor

5. Has your SLOA plan been updated to include assessment of the program's Communication Plan, as required by Faculty Senate motion? (required for baccalaureate programs only)

Two new categories for evaluation have been added, Conducting MUS 351 O and Music History 400W level. Both of these fulfill the writing and oral components of the Communication Plan. BA students, while encouraged, are not required to take Conducting MUS 351. However, Applied Lessons is another category in the SLOA Plan. The student is required to critically analyze and communicate orally on a weekly basis while in lessons and masterclasses.