

Learning goals for both majors and minors:

1. An understanding of and experience with music as a performing art, an academic discipline, a cultural expression, and a creative medium.
2. A capacity to understand the theoretical basis for music as practiced in our culture and the development of skills (sight singing, aural skills, and keyboard harmony) to demonstrate understanding and practical competency.
3. An acquaintance with the Western musical tradition as it has developed over time and how that tradition relates to music as practiced in other cultures.
4. The ability to conduct basic research in music and to communicate ideas and information coherently in both written and oral formats.

Learning goals for non-majors:

An understanding of and experience with music as either a performing art, an academic discipline, a cultural expression, or a creative medium.

### **Strategies for Assessing Student Academic Achievement**

The methods used by the Department to assess student academic achievement and to evaluate its success in achieving the goals outlined include the following:

**Graded course examinations:** Required in all classroom courses taught by the music faculty. Samples are kept on file by the Department Chair.

**Papers and research projects:** Required particularly in Introduction to Opera and Music History, which are Writing Intensive Courses, but also to a certain extent in Survey of Western Classical Music, History of Jazz, and other courses for the general student. Samples are kept on file by the Department Chair.

**Musical compositions:** Required in Music Theory and Composition courses. Samples are kept on file by the theory faculty.

**Recitals and performances:** All of the ensembles present regular concerts. In addition, students in the studio lesson program have various opportunities throughout the year to perform as soloists on student recitals and other concerts. While these performances are not graded, they do represent culminating activities which demonstrate the students' level of achievement in each activity. All Departmental performances are recorded, and the Department maintains an archive of recordings. In addition, music majors are graded on their performance skills at three specific points in the curriculum. At the end of each year they present "juries" for the full-time members of the faculty. These juries are evaluated by each member of the faculty, whose comments are recorded and kept on file by the Chair. Each major must, in addition, pass exams in piano proficiency, aural skills and solfège before completing the theory sequence. Finally, majors have the option to present a partial recital in the senior year which is graded, with the grade recorded on the student's permanent record.

**Senior project (capstone experience):** Senior projects may take the form of either a partial recital, a research project, or a composition portfolio. In all cases, a writing component intended to demonstrate proficiency in writing about music is required for the senior project. Senior projects are graded by the full-time faculty, and the result is recorded on the student's permanent record.

**Comprehensive examination:** As part of the capstone experience, music majors take a comprehensive examination which consists of a standardized test (the Major Field Test) in music history and theory. Scores on the standardized text are kept on file by the Department Chair.

**Fall meeting of all majors:** While it is not exactly a focus group, this meeting gives the faculty an opportunity to interact with all majors and potential majors as a group. It is a time to impart information and also to hear feedback from the students.

**Course evaluations:** Administered periodically by all members of the faculty, including adjuncts, these evaluations are kept on file by the individual professors (and supervisors in the case of adjunct instructors).