

Voice Area Guidelines

Admissions: Admission to the BA or BM degree and placement in applied lessons for the BME degree require an audition for the voice area faculty. Recordings may be submitted at the discretion of the faculty. Admission to the minor is by audition with the studio teacher.

Suggested audition repertoire or level of difficulty: Repertoire recommendations are supplied by the studio teacher and are available on the Department of Music website.

Suggested repertoire or level of difficulty by degree and level: Repertoire level for BA, BM, and BME degrees will be determined by the applied instructor and will typically cover standard literature. Repertoire criteria are found in applied lesson syllabi.

Private lessons: Students receive one fifty-minute lesson per week for four (BA), six (BME), or eight (BM) semesters depending on the degree in which they are enrolled. Applied lessons for BA and BM degrees receive two credits per semester and one credit per semester for the BME degree. All of these lessons must be in the same applied area. Additionally students may participate in a weekly studio class as scheduled by the applied teacher. Students are required to attend all voice recitals during each semester of enrollment in applied voice (MUAP) unless excused by your applied teacher.

Convocation and other performances: Bachelor of Music degree students will perform on his or her major instrument no less than twice per year on Departmental Convocation. Performances in other curricula may also be required. Unless otherwise informed by the studio teacher, students in all curricula are expected to perform on convocation a minimum of once per semester. These performances may be as a soloist or in a chamber ensemble, as determined by the applied teacher. An ensemble performance may count for one of the yearly convocation appearances provided it is not a required performance for a separate ensemble class. All students in applied voice are encouraged to audition for and participate in Opera Workshop in addition to the choral ensembles required in the curricula. Bachelor of Music students are required to audition for Opera Workshop in each semester of applied study beyond the freshman year.

Juries: All students enrolled in applied lessons must perform a jury for their respective Performance Area professors at the end of every semester. Repertoire requirements for juries are determined by the specific Performance Area faculty with adherence to the general departmental guidelines. The student will receive written comments about his or her jury performance. Each faculty member in attendance assigns a grade for the jury performance. Jury grades are based on the student's ability to demonstrate a mastery of the semester's sight singing, repertoire, and vocal development. The jury grade is an average of the grades given by the performance area faculty at the jury and counts one-third of the applied (MUAP) grade for the semester. The student must pass the jury to go on to the next level of applied lessons. During semesters where a degree recital is given, a successful recital jury and recital may replace the jury for that semester. Juries will include sight singing and prepared solos to be determined by the applied teacher. Students will prepare the indicated number of selections for their level and choose one selection to be performed for the jury. Adjudicating faculty will select one or more of the other prepared selections for performance at the jury.

Specific Level Requirements: Note that repertoire memorized for juries may not be repeated at subsequent juries with the exception of the recital juries which may include some prior materials as determined by the applied teacher.

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First Year (1000-level MUAP courses)

All students must learn and memorize a minimum of three songs for each MUAP course, i.e. each semester. At least one song must be in English and one must be in Italian or another foreign language. At least three songs must be prepared for the jury. Freshman Juries should be 10 minutes.

Second Year (2000-level MUAP courses)

All students must learn and memorize a minimum of four songs for each MUAP course, i.e. each semester. A minimum of two songs must be sung in a foreign language, including German. Students are required to perform in studio and /or departmental convocation at the discretion of the instructor. Sophomore Juries should be 10 minutes.

Third Year (3000-level MUAP courses)

All students must learn and memorize a minimum of five songs for each MUAP course, i.e. each semester. A minimum of three songs must be sung in a foreign language, including French. Students are required to perform in studio and /or departmental convocation at the discretion of the instructor. BM students will perform the Junior Recital (MUSI 3800) during the sixth semester of applied lessons. BME students will perform the Senior Music Education Project Recital (MUSI 4000) during the sixth semester of applied lessons. See Recital Requirements. Junior Juries should be 12 minutes.

Fourth Year (4000-level MUAP courses-BM students only)

All students must learn and memorize a minimum of six songs for each MUAP course, i.e. each semester. A minimum of four songs must be sung in a foreign language, including French. Students are required to perform in studio and /or departmental convocation at the discretion of the instructor. BM students will perform the Senior Recital (MUSI 4800) during the eighth semester of applied lessons. Senior Juries should be 12 minutes.

For all juries, students will list their prepared pieces on the Jury Registration Form including jury selections and other repertoire studied.

Sophomore Comprehensive Exam:

All students enrolled in MUAP 2620 or MUAP 2210 must complete a Sophomore Comprehensive jury examination. These exams will be approximately 30 minutes in length and will consist of two main components: interview and performance jury.

The performance jury must meet the sophomore requirements listed above.

The interview will be a brief oral examination covering two main areas: music theory and instrument specific information. Students will be responsible for performing and explaining the following:

- Major and minor scales, chords, intervals, key signatures
- Names and history/impact of three-four classical vocal significant artists
- Specific knowledge of pieces performed on the jury (may include historical and theoretical context, stylistic and pedagogical issues, etc.)
- Vocal techniques

The performance jury will consist of two pieces of contrasting styles approaching or at the level of a junior recital program. Music should not exceed a total of 15 minutes. Other specific requirements by area may be imposed and will be stated in course syllabi. In addition, sight-reading will also be a component of the Sophomore Comprehensive performance jury.

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This jury must be taken at the end of the semester of MUAP 2620 or MUAP 2210. Students must receive 70% (C) or higher in both the jury and lesson grade to pass MUAP 2620 or 60% (D) to pass MUAP 2210. The committee will consist of a minimum of three faculty members of the specified area or, in the case of an area with fewer than three faculty members, another designated faculty representative. Students transferring to Auburn and having completed the equivalent of MUAP 2620 or MUAP 2210 must also meet the minimal requirements of the Sophomore Comprehensive Performance Jury to be placed into MUAP 3520 or MUAP 3120. Students may be prohibited from taking upper division classes until this jury has been passed.

Final results of this jury can impact the MUAP course grade in these ways:

1. Passing grade for the course and approval to continue in applied study
2. Passing grade for the course and conditional approval to continue in applied study with the student retaking and passing a required portion of the jury before a date determined by the committee. **Students must pass the performance portion of the sophomore comprehensive to move into 3000-level applied study. Only one semester of applied study at the 3000-level is allowed until all portions of the sophomore comprehensive are completed successfully.**
3. Failing grade and disapproval for the student to continue in applied study.
4. Per university policy, students who fail a course may retake that course.

Recital requirements:

Students may not repeat repertoire from one recital to another.

- A. Recital requirements exist in the BM and BME curricula. Typically, MUSI 3800 Junior Performance Recital (BM) and MUSI 4000: Music Education Senior Recital Project (BME) are half-length performances and MUSI 4800: Senior Performance Recital (BM) is a full-length performance.
- B. The student must be enrolled in applied lessons the semester of the recital. MUSI 3800 and MUSI 4000 are typically completed during the semester a student is enrolled in Performance VI. MUSI 4800 is typically completed during the semester a student is enrolled in Performance VIII.
- C. The repertoire for these recitals is approved by the student's applied teacher, but should reflect consideration of effective programming practices including grouping of pieces by style, language, technique, or some other commonality. MUSI 3800 and MUSI 4000 require performance of a minimum of three different languages. MUSI 4800 requires performance of a minimum of four different languages. These languages may be fulfilled by an aria or by a set of songs.
- D. In preparation for the recital, each student must pass a Recital Jury, taken a minimum of two weeks before the actual recital (as determined by the applied instructor).
- E. All recitals are graded by the faculty in the student's Performance Area. The average of these grades counts for one-third of the student's applied grade for the semester in which the recital occurs.
- F. In the semester of a student's recital, the recital jury and the recital must be passed in order to pass the MUAP and recital courses. The recital grade is one-third of the total applied grade. Should the student be granted a justified incomplete grade, that incomplete grade is applied to the MUAP and recital courses until the recital is completed. Note that the university imposes a deadline of six months from the end of the semester in which the course was taken for the incomplete to be satisfied.

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G. For all voice recitals, students must prepare appropriate program notes to be submitted to their applied teacher prior to the Recital Jury. The Voice Area faculty must deem these program notes to be satisfactory before the Recital Jury can be passed successfully.

Grading Criteria: Grades for applied music will be based on a final lesson grade (as determined by the applied teacher) with criteria for each component of the grade outlined in the syllabus and the jury grade (as determined by the area faculty). Suggested components may be participation in lessons, convocation performance, and studio class. Note provision under Juries above. Grades are awarded based on these criteria:

- A Exceptional performance and preparation
- B Above average performance and preparation
- C Average performance and preparation
- D Below average performance and preparation
- F Unacceptable performance and preparation

Appropriate attire:

Appropriate professional attire is required to sing a semester jury, recital jury, convocation, or recital. Students dressed inappropriately may not be allowed to perform. Students should consult their applied teacher for attire guidelines.

Collaborative Pianist Guidelines:

Students are required to rehearse with an accompanist to prepare for lessons, performances in convocation, juries and recitals. Students will be expected to personally pay for his or her accompanist each semester (with the exception of a semester in which a required recital is to be performed). Fees are determined by the pianists. Appropriate rates may be suggested by the department. Please refer to the **Collaborative Piano Guidelines** on the departmental website.

Request for change of applied instructor:

Occasionally a student will request a change of the applied music instructor. The department recognizes and respects the rights of students to act independently in the pursuit of knowledge and to seek varying points of view. As such, the following procedure should be followed:

1. The present instructor should be notified in a timely fashion, no later than the final day of the semester before the change is to occur. (The student may notify the instructor solely in writing, if desired.)
2. Faculty are requested to wait until this notification has taken place before promising acceptance into their studio.
3. It is understood that the student shall suffer no negative repercussions as a result of changing instructors.
4. The relationship between instructor and student should be established, maintained, and terminated in a professional manner. Faculty members should respect the personal integrity and privacy of students at all times, while recognizing their responsibility to promote principles of ethical and professional conduct within the department.
5. Faculty members are expected to respect student-instructor relationships and thus are not permitted to solicit a student directly or through any other person for the purpose of influencing a change of instructor.