

# Woodwind Area Handbook

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# Curricular Requirements: Degrees, Lessons, Ensembles, Recitals and Grades

NOTE 1: A 1-hour lesson is actually 50 minutes; a ½-hour lesson is 25 minutes.

NOTE 2: While enrolled in studio lessons, student must participate in a major ensemble on the major instrument.

## Sound Recording Technology (Bachelor of Science)

**Lessons:** one year of ½-hour lessons (MUS 105 and 106), plus Recital Seminar and Concert Attendance. **Ensembles:** one per semester (on major instrument) while enrolled in studio lessons. **Recital:** not required.

## Music Therapy (Bachelor of Science)

**Lessons:** two years of ½-hour lessons (MUS 105/106, 205/206), plus Recital Seminar and Concert Attendance. **Ensembles:** total of 4 required (on major instrument) before graduation. **Recital:** not required.

## Music Composition (Bachelor of Music)

**Lessons:** three years of ½-hour lessons (MUS 105/106, 205/206), plus Recital Seminar and Concert Attendance. **Ensembles:** one per semester until graduation. **Recital:** not required (Composition recital is required, however).

## Music (Bachelor of Arts)

**Lessons:** four years of ½-hour lessons (MUS 105/106, 205/206, 305/306, 405/406), plus Recital Seminar and Concert Attendance. **Ensembles:** one per semester (on major instrument) until graduation. **Recital:** Graduation Recital required for completion of MU 406.

## Music Education (Bachelor of Music)

**Lessons:** minimum of three years of 1-hour lessons (MUS 125/126, 225/226, 325/326), plus Recital Seminar and Concert Attendance. Students who wish to enroll in a 7th semester of lessons (MUS 425) should discuss the possibility with the teacher early in the junior year. An 8th semester of lessons (MUS 426) may, in rare instances, be available or necessary to complete curricular requirements. **Ensembles:** total of 11 required before graduation - 9 on major instrument, 2 choral ensembles. **Recital:** Graduation Recital required for completion of MUS 326, 425, or 426.

## Music Performance (Bachelor of Music)

**Lessons:** four years of 1-hour lessons (MUS 125/126, 245/246, 345/346, 445/446), plus Recital Seminar (4 years) and Concert Attendance (3 years). Lessons after freshman year are 4 credit hours per semester. **Ensembles:** total of 14 required (on major instrument) before graduation, including 4 chamber ensemble participations. **Recital:** Junior and Senior Performance Recitals required.

**Applied Music Recitation:** juniors and seniors must enroll in this 1-credit course (MUS 347 and 348, MUS 447 and 448) while preparing and playing Junior and Senior Performance recitals.

**Pedagogy Practicum:** two required, non-credit courses, usually taken in the junior and senior years (MUS 355 and 356). As teaching is something that you will almost certainly do as a professional performer, you take an active teaching role in this class. Your studio teacher will set up the parameters of what you must do, which might include such activities as assisting in a Music Education instrumental techniques class (or serving as a tutor for one), teaching lessons to non-music majors who have enrolled in MUS 104, teaching music majors who have enrolled in MUS 315 Secondary Applied, etc.

## **Other Requirements of Studio Instruction**

### **Statement on Applied Study Grades**

A grade of "F" in any semester of private applied study or a grade of "D" in two consecutive semesters of private applied study will result in the removal of the student from the School of Music curriculum.

### **Ensemble Participation**

Woodwind students that are pursuing a BA or BMus degree are expected to be in a band or orchestra every semester that the student is in residency. This expectation is made regardless of enrollment in lessons. Woodwind students in the BSci degree program are required to register for an ensemble for every semester that the student is enrolled in private lessons.

Auditions for ensemble placement and seating take place at the beginning of each semester and are required for all woodwind majors who are enrolled in studio lessons. Ensemble seating will be determined at the ensemble audition held at the beginning of each semester. Final decisions will be made collaboratively by the studio teacher and the ensemble directors. Final decisions should be agreeable to both parties. If any difficulties arise in ensembles due to seating, the ensemble director should consult the applied faculty member involved before any discussion with the students.

A student may or may not be in more than one large ensemble in one semester, at the discretion of the studio teacher. The decision is influenced by the size of the studio, student load and the assurance of high quality performances in showcase ensembles.

### **MUS 120 Concert Attendance Requirement**

Listening to music is vital to the development of young musicians, so the School of Music requires students to enroll in MUS 120 Concert Attendance during each semester of studio instruction, for a minimum of six (6) semesters. A semester grade of Satisfactory is earned by attending eight (8) approved concerts. If course requirement is not met, a grade of Unsatisfactory is assigned, and the course will have to be repeated. The student must complete the prescribed number of semesters of MUS 120 before the degree is awarded.

A list of approved concerts (MUS 120 List) is available at the beginning of each semester in the Music Office. Concerts approved for the list are, for the most part, faculty or guest-artist recitals, major ensembles, and other concerts that have significant faculty involvement. Credit for attending other concerts on- or off-campus may be given credit at the discretion of the studio teacher, who may ask for proof of attendance. In general, those concerts should be the same type as those on the MUS 120 list.

## **Recital Seminar**

Recital Seminar is an important performance opportunity, required for all students enrolled in studio instruction (freshmen enroll in MUS 100, sophomores in MUS 200, etc.). The course meets for one hour per week (4:00 pm on Mondays for woodwind majors) and is in two formats:

**Studio Recital**, a gathering of students who play a given instrument. The format is usually that of an informal master class, where a performance is followed by constructive comments by the teacher and by other students.

**Woodwind Area Recital** is a somewhat more formal concert, with printed programs, appropriate performance attire, and concert etiquette observed by the students who perform.

Procedure for performing on a Woodwind Area Recital:

- Get approval from your applied instructor to perform on an Area Recital.
- Obtain (from the Music Office) an Area Recital performance form, and complete it legibly (print) with all necessary information - title of work to be performed, composer (first and last names), numbers and titles of movements (if any), length in minutes (accurate), and the full names and instruments of all performers.
- Obtain the signature of your studio teacher or a chamber music coach who has heard you play the piece to be performed. If the faculty member has heard the piece but believes it is not ready for performance, he/she will not sign the form. If no member of the Woodwind Faculty has heard you play the piece, you will not be allowed to perform.
- Consult with your instructor about who to turn the Area Recital performance form in to. (Each recital is managed by a different faculty member.) Submit the form to the faculty member that is coordinating the recital by 3 p.m. on Friday before the Monday recital. (Later submissions may or may not be accepted, depending on the length of the program and the readiness of the proposed addition. Late submissions may not be included on the printed program.)
- Dress appropriately for the performance. While formal concert attire is not required, sloppy appearance makes a bad impression and is strongly discouraged by the Woodwind Faculty.

Attendance is taken at all meetings of Recital Seminar, and any unexcused absences will result in a semester grade of Unsatisfactory. Requirements for performing in Studio and Woodwind Area Recital may be set by the studio teacher.

# Woodwind Jury Examinations

## Basic Facts

Graded performance evaluations (“juries”) are held at the end of each semester and are required for all woodwind majors enrolled in studio lessons (except those who perform a recital during that semester). In these “juries,” each Woodwind Faculty member writes comments, considers the student’s curriculum and level of study (MUS 126, MUS 345, etc.), then recommends a grade. As in any adjudicated performance situation, the hope is that the student will grow from the experience and learn from the comments.

Your jury grade is only a portion of your final grade. A good jury grade will not counter or substitute for a semester of below average work. Consistent progress in your lessons throughout the semester is the best indicator for your success.

A sign-up sheet is posted on the Woodwind Area Coordinator’s door two weeks before first day of finals. If a student does not play a required jury, the semester grade will be Incomplete or Failure. Juries are 10 minutes in length unless the jury is for one of the following: Performance major, Honors audition and Concerto audition (20 min); Performance Certificate audition (30 min).

In the woodwind jury, the student will perform

- a selection (or selections) from the solo literature of the instrument, chosen during the semester in consultation with the student’s teacher. Except in certain rare situations, the performance must include piano accompaniment.
- An independently prepared piece, distributed two weeks before the first day of finals by your studio teacher. In some cases, the studio teacher **may** require that the independently prepared piece require piano accompaniment. **Freshmen in their first semester of study do not perform an independently prepared piece at their jury.**
- An etude, orchestral excerpts, or unaccompanied repertoire.
- Additional selections (may vary from the above, at the discretion of the studio teacher)

## Evaluation Criteria

- Quality of preparation, including accuracy of pitches and rhythms, well-prepared accompaniment, and ensemble coordination. In other words, the student is responsible for playing well and for rehearsing thoroughly with the piano accompanist.
- Tone production: steadiness of pitch, fullness and beauty of tone in all registers and dynamic levels, the presence and quality of vibrato (when appropriate), dynamic range, pitch range, strength and endurance, and flexibility.
- Style and Expression: dynamic shapes and contrasts, appropriate use of rubato, appropriate note-lengths for the type of music, emotional involvement and communication of meaning, sense of enjoyment and commitment, etc.
- Technical Skill: general facility throughout the range of the instrument, quality of articulation, intonation, etc.
- Relative difficulty of the music, as compared to student’s applied level.
- Ability to accurately and musically prepare a work without assistance from an applied instructor.

## Other Purposes of the Jury

Students who wish to be approved for any of the following must discuss their hopes with the studio teacher well in advance of the jury performance. This will avoid embarrassing situations and ensure that both student and teacher are fully aware of the jury’s goals.

- To pursue the BM-Performance degree: in the Spring semester of the freshman year, students who were admitted to the School of Music as Performance majors **must** earn Woodwind Faculty approval to continue in the major. Others who wish to become Performance majors (or to pursue Performance as a second major) may earn Woodwind Faculty approval at any

jury, but are encouraged to do so at the end of their Freshman year. Regardless, the faculty must be made aware of the student's goal before the jury is performed.

- To pursue the BA-Music degree: this may be of interest to Sound Recording Technology majors and Music Therapy majors whose studio instruction ends after their freshman or sophomore years. If approved, the student will receive four (4) years of instruction (1/2-hour lessons). See remarks about double majors on p. 9.
- Seek approval to skip an applied level: in certain circumstances (transfer students, especially), the student's applied level may not seem appropriate. Approval to enroll at a more advanced level will be granted if the jury performance warrants it.
- Seek approval to play a recital hearing in the following semester. If the Woodwind Faculty hears fundamental problems or a poorly prepared performance, approval will be withheld until those concerns are met. The student may also, if recommended by the studio teacher, seek approval to play an Honors Recital hearing in the following semester (requires minimum cumulative G.P.A. of 2.0).
- Seek approval to participate in the Performer's Certificate program or the Concerto Competition. Students auditioning for these honors must sign up for a 20-minute jury (requires minimum cumulative G.P.A. of 2.0).

### **Exemption from Jury**

While the studio teacher may decide that a jury examination is required in any or all circumstances, students who perform a required recital are not ordinarily required to do so at the end of that semester, unless they are seeking approval for one of the honors listed above.

### **Consequences of Poor Jury Performances**

A student who earns a failing jury grade (F) will not be permitted to continue as a music major. A jury grade of D results in studio probation, and a second consecutive D grade results in the removal of the student from the music curriculum.

### **Recording of Juries**

School of Music policy forbids the recording of jury examinations.

## Recitals

The solo recital is a focal point of studio instruction for those majoring in Performance, Music Education, and Applied Music. In these curricula, the recital must be approved and performed before the degree can be awarded (see Recital Hearing, below). Furthermore, completion of the recital is a requirement for a passing grade in the applied course (see Curricular Requirements, above).

The following types of recitals are performed by students at Fredonia:

- Graduation (Music Education and BA-Music majors): 25-35 minutes of music. The Woodwind Area Faculty must approve the recital during the preceding semester's jury performance. A hearing is required 4-6 weeks prior to the recital date.
- Honors (Music Education and BA-Music majors): 35-45 minutes of music. The "Honors" designation is given by the Woodwind Faculty at a previous (twenty minute) jury and at the recital hearing. A hearing is required 4-6 weeks prior to the recital date. Performance majors are not eligible for Honors Recitals.
- Junior Performance (BM-Performance majors only): 35-45 minutes of music. A hearing is required 4-6 weeks prior to the recital date.
- Senior Performance (BM-Performance majors only): 45-55 minutes of music. A hearing is required 4-6 weeks prior to the recital date.
- Performer's Certificate: 45-60 minutes of music by students who demonstrate the highest levels of musical performance and preparation. Those wishing to be approved to pursue the PC start by performing a significant portion of a proposed recital at a (thirty minute) jury. Approval is granted only to students who show an unusual level of care, musicianship, and skill – including thorough preparation with accompanists and assisting musicians. Once approved, the PC candidate must perform two recitals, each of which is adjudicated by a faculty committee (an adjudicated Concerto performance may count as one PC recital). Each recital must include a memorized performance (though there is no set requirement for the length/duration of the memorized material). If the faculty committee does not approve the first performance, the student is no longer a candidate for the PC (the faculty committee can decide that such a recital may count toward curricular recital requirements, however). Performer's Certificates are presented at the annual Music Awards Convocation.

### Non-curricular recitals

Due to limited recital times in performance facilities and an increasing number of music students, non-curricular recitals are not to be encouraged. Students are to be advised to perform in Area and School Recitals instead. However, if the student is particularly outstanding, a studio teacher may approve a non-curricular recital. The recital must be scheduled in an afternoon time slot, after all graduation recitals have been scheduled. Performers are encouraged to share the recital with other non-curricular recitalists. Students must have performed in at least one Area Recital prior to the recital. Length of the recital should be 15 - 20 minutes in length.

### Recital Hearing

Before the recital may be performed, it must earn the approval of the Woodwind Faculty at a Recital Hearing. Students MUST turn in a hearing request form to the area coordinator within the first two weeks of the semester. Hearings will be performed 4-6 weeks before the scheduled recital date. A Performer's Certificate recital needs no hearing (see description above). All accompanying and assisting musicians must be present. The student must provide programs that list pieces, movements, personnel, etc. for each member of the hearing jury.

Representative portions of each selection will be heard, as determined by the studio teacher. Approximate length of hearing is 15 minutes for graduation recitals, 20 minutes for honors recitals,

and 30 minutes for PC recitals. Approval is granted if all selections sound adequately rehearsed and the performance is commensurate with the student's applied level.

### **Recital Repertoire**

When selecting recital literature, the student and teacher must consider 1) required recital length (see above), 2) standards implied by the student's applied level, and 3) the student's performing ability and endurance. The recital should consist of high-quality works that challenge the student's expressive and technical abilities. At least one complete multi-movement sonata or concerto from the standard repertoire is strongly recommended for Graduation Recitals and required for Honors, Junior Performance, Senior Performance, and Performer's Certificate recitals. The Woodwind Faculty may withhold approval from a recital if its literature is deemed substandard in quality or appropriateness.

IMPORTANT NOTE: all works to be performed on the recital must be approved by the Woodwind Faculty at the Recital Hearing. Once the Hearing has taken place, the program may be changed only if the Woodwind Faculty approves the change. If a student fails to comply with this rule, the Woodwind Faculty may withdraw its approval of the recital, possibly resulting in a failing grade for studio instruction.

### **Recital Programs**

Once the Recital Hearing is passed, the student must then prepare a recital program and have it duplicated. Obtain "Student Guidelines for Recital Programs" from the Music Office, and follow them to the letter. Before the recital program is duplicated, the student must present it to the studio teacher for approval. Program notes may be required for the program, at the discretion of the instructor.

# Other Performance Opportunities

## Concerto Competition

Winners of the Concerto Competition perform their concerto with the College Symphony, Chamber Orchestra, or Wind Ensemble. Those interested in pursuing this challenge should first discuss the idea with their studio instructor (during the fall semester). The student must be an outstanding performer who is capable of playing first-rate literature at a high level. If the studio instructor approves of the idea, then a suitable piece (approved by the appropriate ensemble director) is selected, and the student goes about learning and perfecting it for performance at the a Woodwind Area Concerto Competition Hearing, which is held early in the spring semester. Music need not be memorized for this hearing, but it is recommended that it be memorized for the subsequent audition and performance, at the discretion of the studio teacher. At this time, the woodwind faculty approves only those they deem worthy of continuing on to the competition.

If the preliminary audition for concerto is won, and the performer does not win the final competition, the subsequent recital is automatically deemed an Honors Recital (except for Performance majors). The concerto competition takes place at the end of the spring semester. Participants must also perform their piece (in its entirety and with piano accompaniment) at an Area Recital prior to the actual competition. The student must have a minimum GPA of 2.0 throughout the process.

## Woodwind Chamber Ensembles

Woodwind ensembles exist in both heterogeneous (woodwind choirs, quintets, quartets, and trios) and homogeneous formats (clarinet trios, saxophone quartets, etc.). Such ensembles tend to arise when students decide to form one. Larger studio ensembles (flute ensemble, clarinet choir, etc.) are offered when faculty teaching loads and studio enrollments permit.

In chamber music, each participant is a vital component of the ensemble and is completely responsible for his or her part. True chamber ensembles do not work with a conductor, so a performance reflects group decisions about musical elements (tempo, style, etc.). Those decisions are made in rehearsals, where problems must be addressed, and where each member must feel free to make comments and suggestions. Because chamber music demands such skill and interaction between musicians, the Woodwind Faculty strongly urges its students to enroll and participate in Woodwind Chamber Ensembles as often as possible.

## School of Music Recital

Held several times each semester, School of Music Recital is a formal concert by students from any studio in the School. The procedure for performing on the SOM Recital is the same as for Area Recital, but the form must be submitted well in advance of the program, and attire must be appropriate for an evening concert.

## Off-Campus Performance Opportunities

From time to time, members of the Woodwind Faculty are contacted by individuals who represent schools, churches, etc., and who are looking for good students to perform as soloists or with chamber ensembles, sometimes to play in their own ensembles. At such times, the Woodwind Faculty asks 1) who are the best players available? and 2) who are the most professional? Because professionalism is absolutely essential in such circumstances, the best available player might well be passed over if he/she has proven to be undependable.

# Miscellaneous Items

## **Fredonia Woodwind Association**

All students are encouraged to participate in the Fredonia Woodwind Association, which exists to further educate Fredonia students, faculty, and staff in the area of woodwind expertise. The Fredonia Woodwind Association sponsors and supports many events and activities, such as master classes, concerts, lectures, and other such opportunities.

## **Teaching Lessons to Non-Music Majors (MUS 104)**

For many years, non-music majors who enrolled in MUS 104 were given lessons (group lessons if more than one enrolled) by School of Music faculty. When the number of music majors grew rapidly in the mid-1990s, faculty teaching assignments had to change. Now, when non-music majors enroll in MU 104, the School tries to find qualified music majors to do the teaching. They might include Performance majors who have a curricular requirement to fulfill (Pedagogy Practicum), or Music Education majors who need teaching experience.

Guidelines are provided by the Woodwind Area Coordinator to students who teach MUS 104. Students who teach these lessons will either be enrolled in Pedagogy Practicum courses (MUS 355 or 356) or must enroll for Independent Study credit. The student must complete an application form in consultation with the Woodwind Area Coordinator and studio instructor.

## **Double Majors**

Pursuing two degrees is a time-consuming venture, and students considering a double major should not expect special consideration for satisfying the requirements of the two degrees. They must be ready to deal with heavy daily demands, such as those facing Sound Recording Technology majors double majoring in BA-Music, who must spend time in both practice room and recording studio, and who must do academic work, too.

## **Double major in performance and music education**

A student with a double major in performance and music education must complete eight (8) semesters of lessons on their major instrument while in residence at the School of Music. The merits of having more time to hone one's skills, studying additional repertoire and performing in the ensembles are considered invaluable for a student to be competitive in the difficult field of performance. While it is stressed that the woodwind faculty do not encourage students to try to finish the degree in less time, there is a procedure to petition to do so. Either of the options listed below can be pursued ONLY with the approval and support of the student's studio teacher.

A student may petition the woodwind area for approval to equate private lessons taken over the summer to a semester of study. The instructor for these lessons must be a SUNY Fredonia faculty member or a prominent performer approved by the student's studio teacher. This request, accompanied by a complete repertoire list, must be made in writing (an email is acceptable), and directed to the woodwind area coordinator. If the summer study is approved, the student must play a jury at the beginning of the subsequent semester to demonstrate an appropriate level of competence for the equated semester. If the instructor was not a SUNY Fredonia faculty member, the instructor must submit a letter to the SUNY Fredonia studio teacher, indicating the number of lessons taught, the repertoire studied and the student's level of achievement for the summer. The decision to equate the summer lessons to a semester of study will be made by the woodwind faculty at the early fall jury.

If a student wishes to petition to have a semester of study fully waived, this request, accompanied by a complete repertoire list, must be made in writing (an email is acceptable), and directed to the woodwind area coordinator. At the student's subsequent jury, the student will perform his/her 20

minute jury, with the intent to demonstrate an appropriate level of competence for the waived semester. The decision to waive the semester of study will be made of the woodwind faculty at this jury.

Either request, to equate study or waive study, must be made prior to the MUS445 semester of study, at the latest by the second semester of study of the junior year. Again, these options should be pursued ONLY by exceptional students who have the full support of their studio teacher.

## Graduate Woodwind Studies

All students who wish to commence study for a Master of Music degree in Performance or a Master of Music degree in Music Education (recital track) must audition for the woodwind faculty.

Auditions should ideally take place during one of the School of Music's Audition Days (see <http://www.fredonia.edu/music/auditions.asp>), however they can be scheduled at the mutual convenience of the applicant and the woodwind area faculty. An accompanist is not required for graduate woodwind area auditions.

Audition repertoire should include a minimum of three contrasting works that demonstrate a variety of styles. Questions specific to the appropriateness of selected works should be directed towards the specific applied teacher. Those auditioning for a Master of Music in Performance should have at least 30 minutes of music prepared. Those auditioning for a Master of Music in Music Education should have at least 20 minutes of music prepared.

Master of Music in Performance candidates will receive 2 – 4 semesters (or the equivalent) of major instrument study with SUNY Fredonia faculty, under advisement of the studio teacher. **It is understood that one summer session of study equates to 1/2 semester of study.**

Master of Music in Performance candidates must be in residence at SUNY Fredonia for two semesters, and **during that time, the candidate must perform in at least one major ensemble each semester.** Studio recital attendance is recommended, but not required.

Master of Music in Music Education – recital track candidates must take the equivalent of 3 summer sessions, with the recital scheduled during their final summer. The candidate may participate in ensembles under the advisement of the studio teacher. They have no residency requirement.

Each candidate in residence who is taking studio lessons must play a jury at the end of the semester; a 20 minute jury for MM - Performance, a 10 minute jury for MM – Music Education (recital track).

At least 4-6 weeks prior to the candidate's recital, he/she may be required (upon advisement) to perform a recital hearing for the woodwind faculty. The hearing is to be 30 minutes in length for a MM-Performance candidate and 20 minutes in length for MM-Music Ed. candidate. The length of the recital for a MM-Performance candidate is 50 – 60 minutes of music. The length of the recital for a MM-Music Education candidate is 45 – 55 minutes of music.

Each candidate must have an oral exam as well, in accordance with the MM requirements.