

***Online Assessment Tracking Database***

Sam Houston State University (SHSU)  
2014 - 2015

**Music MM**

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**Goal****Music Performance** 🔑

To train students to perform at a professional level.

**Objective (L)****High Quality Performance Of Standard Literature** 🔑

Students will perform standard literature for their instrument/voice. The music selections will be appropriate to the masters degree level and performance practices at the professional level.

**Indicator****Pre-Recital Hearing & Recital Review** 🔑

Graduate students must pass a pre-recital hearing indicating the music required for their recital has been prepared to a professional performance-ready level. Students will present at least one graduate recital which indicates they have attained the appropriate level of mastery of their instrument/voice at a level which must be consistent with the national standards of the National Association of Schools of Music (NASM). Subsequently, the "recital-ready" student performs his Recital and is reviewed by at least three faculty members.

Masters of Music Recital Review and Pre-Recital Hearing Performance Standards:

The application of performance standards used for each instrument or voice will vary widely based upon composers, periods and styles; nevertheless, the following standard performance qualities are checked by all faculty and assessed in the specific context of the particular performance piece :

Intonation,  
rhythmic accuracy and  
tone quality

Students must sing/play in turn, with the proper/appropriate intonation and tone quality and within the prescribed rhythmic patterns for the periods and composers and styles of their performance pieces.

For the Recital Review, at least three faculty members evaluate the student performance as passing or failing and provide detailed feedback.

**Criterion****All Students Recital-Ready In 3 Or Less Pre-Recital Attempts & All Pass Recital** 🔑

The ideal is for each student to pass the pre-recital hearing at the first attempt; however, due to the rigorous application of indicator standards that are common to the SHSU Masters Music Program faculty, a high, yet realistically attainable criterion is that Students should pass the pre-recital hearing with no more than three (3) attempts. 100% of students will pass the pre-recital hearing within three attempts and be judged "recital ready." The School of Music considers 95% of the students passing the recital jury on the first attempt to be a success.

ALL students will pass their subsequent Recital Performance.

**Finding****Performance Results** 🔑

The master's students performed well according to the criteria. Again, all master's students passed their hearing on the first attempt. All students passed the recital without issue.

**Action****Performance Actions** 🔑

The School of Music Faculty have found that increased recruiting efforts have improved the performance quality of our graduate students over the past several years and has definitely attributed to the students' success in the performance of the hearing and the recital.

**Goal****Comprehensive Music Knowledge Base** 🔑

MM students should obtain a comprehensive knowledge of music beyond their own expertise.

**Objective (L)****Breadth Of Knowledge** 🔑

MM students need to obtain an appropriate level of musical knowledge beyond their area of expertise. This should include but is not limited to music performance/ pedagogy, conducting, music theory, music history.

**Indicator****Comprehensive Exam** 🔑 🔑

Students will take an oral comprehensive exam in their final semester of study. This test will be relevant to all aspects of study that the student has experienced in the program including, performance/pedagogy, music theory and music history. The test will be administered by a minimum of three school of music faculty from the designated fields of study.

**Criterion****Exam Standards** 🔑

Students are scored in three different categories; their applied area; music history; and music theory. They are scored as "High Pass"; "Pass"; and "Fail." The School of Music expects 90% of the students to score at the "pass" level or higher on the first attempt.

**Finding****Results** 🔑

85% MM students successfully passed the comprehensive exam with a "pass" or higher. The remaining 15% were required to do additional assignments in order to satisfy the expectation of the faculty committee. Master's students continue to struggle with meeting the expectations of the academic components of the degree outside their major area of expertise.

**Action****Holistic Approach** 🔑

The School of Music Faculty realize that the Master's candidates perform well in their applied areas of expertise, however, yet still lack in the other academic disciplines. Using a holistic approach to teaching in the applied areas and including instruction of a theoretical and historical nature needs to be increased in order for the candidates to

gain success in obtaining a broad knowledge base. In addition, the academic areas need to assess their methodology in order for the students to gain greater retention of the material.

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### **Previous Cycle's "Plan for Continuous Improvement"**

In an effort to strengthen the School of Music's graduate offerings a Master of Art in Band Conducting has been created and will go into effect in Summer 2015. In addition, efforts have been made to align the School of Music's curriculum with NASM (our accrediting agency) guidelines.

**Please detail the elements of your previous "Plan for Continuous Improvement" that were implemented. If elements were not implemented please explain why, along with any contextual challenges you may have faced that prevented their implementation.**

All previous plans were implemented. The MA is currently active and has launched relatively smoothly. This degree has been submitted to NASM for plan approval and waiting for response from them. Also, further requests/actions from NASM regarding Health and Safety and Credit/Time issues have been addressed and are also waiting on response.

**Plan for Continuous Improvement - Please detail your plan for improvement that you have developed based on what you learned from your 2014 - 2015 Cycle Findings.**

The School of Music has made a concerted effort to increase graduate enrollments. A couple new TA lines have been granted to the School of Music and have been filled with outstanding candidates. We continue to evaluate our curriculum and methodologies in an effort to provide the best environment and opportunities for our graduate population.

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