

Music BA
Assessment Plan Summary

Music BA

Music History

Goal Description:

BA students will be knowledgeable regarding the general history of music and proficient in identifying composers, genres, and styles of compositions from the representative periods of Music History they have studied.

RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS -----

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

Music History Written and Aural Evaluations

Learning Objective Description:

Given listening evaluations within each music history course, students will identify the relevant composers, genres, and styles of compositions from the respective periods of music history. They will demonstrate, in writing, knowledge regarding the history of music and its cultural contexts for the time periods studied.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

Demonstrating Knowledge of Historical Facts and Concepts Regarding Music, and Identifying Music from Major Historical Periods
Indicator Description:

Each student will be required to take both written exams and comprehensive listening exams covering the respective composers, genres and styles of composition for the period of music history they are studying, as well as related historical context. During listening exams, examples will be played and the students are expected to identify the appropriate information for each recording excerpt, demonstrating their knowledge of musical styles and time periods.

Criterion Description:

Scores resulting from written and listening exams are categorized as 90-100=Excellent; 80-89=Above Average; 70-79=Average; Below 70= Below Average. As a unit, the department considers above average proficiency by 50% of students to be a success.

Findings Description:

Scores were compiled from four music history courses offered during the 2015-2016 academic year. Students were music majors completing one of several degree programs within the School of Music. Twenty-one percent of students scored in the excellent range, 34% in the above average range, 28% in the average range, and 16% in the below average range. Therefore, 55% scored above average, exceeding the School of Music's goal of 50%.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

Music History Assessment

Action Description:

Increased communication with musicology and music history faculty regarding the assessment process, procedures, and details will improve our data gathering and reporting in the coming year. An assessment committee has been formed for this purpose. The committee will be re-evaluating what specific criteria will be assessed, how often assessments are made, and what changes, if any, are necessary.

Music Theory

Goal Description:

BA music students will become proficient with the necessary fundamental skills associated with Music Theory.

RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS -----

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

BA Music Students Will Demonstrate Proficiency In Music Theory

Learning Objective Description:

Each student will demonstrate proficiency in music fundamentals, part writing, and analysis through a skills based assessment exam administered at the end of four semesters of study.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

Music Theory End Of Sequence Assessment

Indicator Description:

At the end of the fourth semester of music theory, each student will be assessed in music fundamentals, 4-voice part writing composition that uses both diatonic and chromatic chords, and score study that focuses on the following parameters: phrase and periodic structures, sentential design, diatonic and chromatic chords, key relationships, formal design, and general stylistic issues. A final score representing the evaluation of all music theory areas of proficiency is determined.

Criterion Description:

After the fourth semester of music theory, grades resulting from the final exam are categorized as 90-100= Excellent; 80-89= Above Average; 70-79= Average; below 69 = Below Average. As a unit, the department will consider 90% of the students scoring 70% or higher to be a success.

Findings Description:

The finds are as follows: 20% were at or above 90 (Excellent); 50% were at or above 80 (Above Average); 25% were at or above 70 (Average); and 5% were below 69 (Below Average). This exceeds the School of Music's goal of 90% in the average range or better. The unit was pleased with these results and will continue current practices.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

Music Theory Assessment

Action Description:

In order to increase the level of knowledge and skills in the music theory and musicianship area, the faculty re-evaluated the textbooks used in the entire sequence of courses, and determined that a change needed to be made. The new texts were placed in use beginning in the Fall 2015 semester, and the efficacy of this adjustment will be more closely examined concluding the 2016-2017 academic year.

Performance Application

Goal Description:

Students in the BA must perform appropriate undergraduate repertoire, demonstrating musicianship, technical proficiency, and interpretive understanding on a principal instrument/voice.

RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS -----

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

Instrumental/Vocal Performance Proficiency

Learning Objective Description:

Each student will demonstrate, through a juried performance, proficiency in instrumental/vocal performance relative to technical command, rhythmic accuracy, intonation, tonal control and musicianship.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

Performance Jury

Indicator Description:

Each BA Music student is required to complete a juried instrumental/vocal performance each semester. The juries consist of School of Music faculty from the designated area (i.e woodwind, brass, string, guitar, percussion, and vocal). The performance is evaluated using a departmental jury form. Students should demonstrate a well prepared performance exhibiting technical command, rhythmic accuracy, intonation, tonal control and overall musicianship appropriate to their academic level.

Criterion Description:

Scores from the end of semester juries are categorized as "A"= Excellent; "B"= Average; "C" Below Average. The School of Music considers 80% of the students scoring in the excellent range to be a success.

Findings Description:

With three of seven School of Music areas reporting, data indicates that 60% of music students performed final performance juries with scores in the "excellent" range. This does not meet the School of Music's goal of 80%. In order to accrue data that is more representative of the School of Music as a whole, we will work to improve response rates in the coming year.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

Performance Area Assessment

Action Description:

Increased communication with faculty regarding the assessment process, procedures, and details will improve our data gathering and reporting in the coming year. An assessment committee has been formed for this purpose.

In the area of performance juries specifically, we will work to improve response rates in the coming year, thus accruing data that is more representative of the School of Music as a whole.

Update to Previous Cycle's Plan for Continuous Improvement

Previous Cycle's Plan For Continuous Improvement (Do Not Modify):

The School of Music continues to evaluate its curriculum and methodologies in an effort to provide the greatest music education to our students. For curricular growth we have proposed two Performance Certificate programs, one post-bachelors and one post-masters. This will address some of the performance needs as well as begin the process of growing towards a Doctor of Music degree. This summer the Master of Art in Band Conducting went active. We continue to assess and evaluate the effects of this degree.

Update of Progress to the Previous Cycle's PCI:

The SHSU curriculum committee has approved the School of Music's two performance certificate programs, and they are now ready for implementation. Additionally, the School of Music will undergo its 10-year review by our accrediting body, the National Association for Schools of Music (NASM), during the 2016-2017 academic year. NASM will provide recommendations that, when followed, should serve to strengthen degree programs within the School of Music.

Action Summary

Closing Summary:

Music History: Increased communication with musicology and music history faculty regarding the assessment process, procedures, and details will improve our data gathering and reporting in the coming year. An assessment committee has been formed for this purpose. The committee will be re-evaluating what specific criteria will be assessed, how often assessments are made, and what changes, if any, are necessary.

Music Theory: In order to increase the level of knowledge and skills in the music theory and musicianship area, the faculty re-evaluated the textbooks used in the entire sequence of courses, and determined that a change needed to be made. The new texts were placed in use beginning in the Fall 2015 semester, and the efficacy of this adjustment will be more closely examined concluding the 2016-2017 academic year.

Music Performance: Increased communication with faculty regarding the assessment process, procedures, and details will improve our data gathering and reporting in the coming year. An assessment committee has been formed for this purpose.

In the area of performance juries specifically, we will work to improve response rates in the coming year, thus accruing data that is more representative of the School of Music as a whole.