

**Band Conducting MA**  
**Assessment Plan Summary**

# Band Conducting MA

## Advanced Skills in Band Conducting

**Goal Description:**

MA in Band Conducting students should gain advanced skills in the areas of band rehearsing, conducting, and teaching.

RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS-----

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

**Comprehensive Knowledge and Skills in Band Conducting and Pedagogy**

**Learning Objective Description:**

MA in Band Conducting students should obtain a comprehensive knowledge of band literature, a basic knowledge of pedagogical practices for all major band instruments, and advanced skills in rehearsal conducting.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

**Comprehensive Exam**

**Indicator Description:**

Students will take a comprehensive exam in their final semester of study. The exam will be evaluated as Pass/Fail and will consist of the following:

1. A 14- to 25-minute preparation rehearsal with one of the ABC Directors’ Bands. Composition selected by the ABC faculty. These rehearsals will be video-recorded and the candidate will meet with ABC faculty immediately after the session to review the video.
2. A start-up lesson with a beginner on CLARINET. (10 min.)
3. A start-up lesson with a beginner on HORN. (10 minutes)
4. A start-up lesson with a beginner on SNARE. (10 minutes)
5. A diagnostics rehearsal with an ABC master's candidate exit exam band in which players have been instructed to play specific, typical errors. (12 minutes)

**Criterion Description:**

Comprehensive exams are evaluated as Pass/Fail, based on the students' ability to successfully complete each element. Exams may be repeated if necessary. The School of Music considers a pass rate of 80% for first-time examinees to be successful.

**Findings Description:**

Of the 44 students attempting the final examinations, 33 (75%) passed and graduated in July 2016. One month later, 8 additional students passed the examinations and graduated in August 2016, bringing the pass rate to 93%. The remaining three students are enrolled for the 2017 session and will retake the examinations in July 2017.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

**Action for Advanced Skills in Band Conducting and Pedagogy**

**Action Description:**

Two preliminary diagnostic and placement examinations will be administered prior to admission:

1. Exam #1 will cover all facets of embouchure, tone production, fingerings of woodwind and brass, percussion rudiments and techniques, as well as literature, rehearsal techniques, conducting and jazz.

2. Exam #2 will cover music theory

Results of this diagnostic placement examination will

- identify any needs for remedial work with individual students, and
- serve as the basis for specific Practical Applications projects as well as end-of-session examinations
- provide data to compare to results on the end-of-course written and aural exams.

## **Update to Previous Cycle's Plan for Continuous Improvement**

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

We will monitor the comprehensive final exam pass rates, recognizing that each of the five parts of the exam are related to one or more of the three target areas for skill development, including comprehensive knowledge of band literature, knowledge of pedagogical practices for all major band instruments, and advanced skills in rehearsal conducting. In addition, we will gather feedback from students to determine if more attention should be focused on specific components within the three skill development areas.

### **Update of Progress to the Previous Cycle's PCI:**

We monitored the comprehensive final exam pass rates, recognizing that each of the five parts of the exam were related to one or more of the three target areas for skill development, including comprehensive knowledge of band literature, knowledge of pedagogical practices for all major band instruments, and advanced skills in rehearsal conducting. We continued to gather feedback from students to determine if more attention should be focused on specific components within the three skill development areas. We concluded that attention should be focused on embouchure, tone production, and fingerings.

## **2017-2018 PCI for Advanced Skills in Band Conducting and Pedagogy**

### **Closing Summary:**

Two preliminary diagnostic and placement examinations will be administered prior to admission:

1. Exam #1 will cover all facets of embouchure, tone production, fingerings of woodwind and brass, percussion rudiments and techniques, as well as literature, rehearsal techniques, conducting and jazz.
2. Exam #2 will cover music theory

Results of this diagnostic placement examination will

- identify any needs for remedial work with individual students, and
- serve as the basis for specific Practical Applications projects as well as end-of-session examinations
- provide data to compare to results on the end-of-course written and aural exams.

We will continue to monitor the comprehensive final exam pass rates, recognizing that each of the five parts of the exam are related to one or more of the three target areas for skill development, including comprehensive knowledge of band literature, knowledge of pedagogical practices for all major band instruments, and advanced skills in rehearsal conducting. In addition, we will gather feedback from students to determine if more attention should be focused on specific components within the three skill development areas.