

# Music MM

## Comprehensive Music Knowledge Base

**Goal Description:**

MM students should obtain a comprehensive knowledge of music beyond their primary area of focus/concentration, building on undergraduate foundations and increasing the *breadth* of their knowledge and abilities. This should include but is not limited to music performance, pedagogy, or therapy; music theory; and music history.

RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS-----

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

**Breadth Of Knowledge**

**Learning Objective Description:**

MM students need to obtain an appropriate level of musical knowledge beyond their primary area of focus/concentration. This should include but is not limited to music performance, pedagogy, or therapy; music theory; and music history.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

**Comprehensive Exam**

**Indicator Description:**

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, or therapy; 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.

**Assessment Method**

**Assessment Description:**

**Criterion Description:**

Students are scored in three different categories: their applied area, music history, and music theory. A “Pass” on the exam indicates that all three categories were completed successfully. *Students will be allowed to retake a portion or all of their oral exam one time.* The School of Music considers a first-time pass rate of 75% of students to be successful.

**Findings Description:**

The findings for the comprehensive exams are:

Passed on first try: 50%
Passed with conditions: 45% (all students ultimately met conditions and passed)
Failed on first attempt: 5% (one student will retake the comprehensive exams Fall 2017)

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

**Comprehensive Exam Action**

**Action Description:**

The School of Music has implemented new guidelines to better help students prepare for their comprehensive exams (e.g., music history comprehensive study guide sheet, remedial coursework). The School of Music will reassess the first-time pass rate of the comprehensive exam during the next academic cycle.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

**Comprehensive Knowledge Action**

**Action Description:**

This year, based on the graduate entrance exams for both music history and music theory, students that do not meet the benchmark of 70% must take remedial courses (as appropriate): MUSI 3376, MUSI 3377, MUSI 2222. A student must make a "B" in the remedial class to satisfy the entrance benchmark. The rationale behind this is for students to build the skills needed to be successful in the MM curriculum for both music history and music theory, which will ultimately assist the student to perform successfully on the final comprehensive exam during their last semester of study. We do not have data yet to determine if this is an adequate step to build student success, but are confident that this is a step in the right direction to successfully deal with student deficiencies.

## Music Performance

**Goal Description:**

Students studying music performance will perform at a level considered professionally competitive in all types of music literature, including solo works, chamber music, and those pieces written for large ensembles. Through their performance, students will be able to demonstrate a fundamental understanding of all musical stylistic periods by making historically-informed choices regarding specific musical elements (i.e. phrasing, articulation, ornamentation, etc.). This degree plan culminates in a recital, which adheres to the guidelines in the School of Music Student Handbook and is tailored to the student’s principle vocal or instrumental concentration.

RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS -----

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

**High Quality Performance Of Standard Literature**

**Learning Objective Description:**

Master's students with a performance emphasis 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.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

**Pre-Recital Hearing**

**Indicator Description:**

Graduate students studying performance or pedagogy 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).

**Masters of Music 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
- Tone quality

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

**Criterion Description:**

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

**Findings Description:**

For the 2016-2017 academic year, there were 7 graduate students giving degree recitals as part of their regular plan of study. 7 out of 7 passed their pre-recital hearing on the first attempt for a passing rate of 100%. This is slightly above the expected passage rate of 95%.

All of these students subsequently passed their recital performances, for a pass rate of 100%.

As both the pre-recital hearing and recital performance are mandatory curricular elements of the Master of Music degree, these elements will continue to be monitored to ensure high-quality performance standards.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

**Pre-Recital Hearing Action**

**Action Description:**

As both the pre-recital hearing and recital performance are mandatory curricular elements of the Master of Music degree, these elements will continue to be monitored to ensure high-quality performance standards. The passage rate of 100% is a strong indicator of continued success in this area, and we will re-evaluate the necessity of monitoring this indicator at the end of the 2017-2018 academic year.

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

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

**Comprehensive Knowledge:**

The School of Music has recently made improvements in comprehensive exam preparation through a preparation document given to each graduate student. We anticipate an effect on first-time pass rates as students use this resource. We will disseminate the document to each student scheduling

comps in any given semester and will be available to answer further questions or otherwise assist with preparation.

Performance Action:

The performance goal related to pre-recital hearings was met with 100% passage. We will turn our attention to other goals within the performance area to be determined in consultation with the applied faculty.

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

Comprehensive Knowledge: We have disseminated the preparation document to each student scheduling comps in any given semester and have been available to answer further questions or otherwise assist with preparation for the comprehensive exams. While this has improved comprehensive exam preparation to some extent, we have found that students continue to have difficulty, particularly with the music theory and music history portions.

Performance Action: For the 2016-2017 academic year, we continued to monitor recital hearing pass rates to ensure a consistently positive result. All students passed recital hearings on the first trial and subsequently passed their recital performances, for a pass rate of 100%.

## **PCI 2017-2018**

**Closing Summary:**

Performance:

As both the pre-recital hearing and recital performance are mandatory curricular elements of the Master of Music degree, we have determined to continue monitoring to ensure high-quality performance standards while also focusing on success with comprehensive exams.

Comprehensive Exams:

This year, based on the graduate entrance exams for both music history and music theory, students that do not meet the benchmark of 70% must take remedial courses (as appropriate): MUSI 3376, MUSI 3377, MUSI 2222. A student must make a "B" in the remedial class to satisfy the entrance benchmark. The rationale behind this is for students to build the skills needed to be successful in the MM curriculum for both music history and music theory, which will ultimately assist the student to perform successfully on the final comprehensive exam during their last semester of study. We do not have data yet to determine if this is an adequate step to build student success, but are confident that this is a step in the right direction to successfully deal with student deficiencies.