

Department of Music Performance
JAZZ STUDIES AREA
Guidelines and Requirements
Fall 2015

Listed below are the guidelines and requirements for the Jazz Studies Area in the Department of Music Performance. Some requirements may have changed. Please read them carefully, as they will be strictly enforced. Questions are welcome, and may be addressed to the Director of Jazz Studies or the Chair of Music Performance.

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Ensemble Auditions

The School of Music jazz ensembles consist of Jazz Ensemble, Jazz Orchestra, Jazz Workshop and combos. Jazz Ensemble, Jazz Orchestra and Jazz Workshop are considered the large jazz ensembles at DePaul, and the combos are officially small ensembles, or jazz chamber music. Entrance and assignment into these ensembles is by audition. *Rules of the performance award apply to the Jazz Ensemble, Jazz Orchestra and Jazz Workshop.*

Auditions take place at the beginning of the academic year, normally before school begins, and will be heard by a panel of jazz studies faculty members. Requirements and auditions sign-up will be posted on the music.depaul.edu website during the summer.

All jazz studies students and intended jazz studies majors are required to

audition for large jazz ensembles, and all other students are welcome to audition.

Student must register for one credit for each large jazz ensemble. Very rarely, exceptions may be made for 0 credit and must be applied for and approved by the ensemble director and the Associate Dean's office. Request forms for 0 credit are available on Campus Connect.

Combos

Combos are small jazz ensembles, (jazz chamber music) coached by members of the jazz faculty. Combos are coordinated by Professor Dana Hall, who will assign and assemble ensembles, assign a coach, and submit grades.

Student must register for one credit for each combo. Very rarely, exceptions may be made for 0 credit, and must be applied for and approved by the combo coordinator and the Associate Dean's office. All jazz combos will be registered through the jazz combo registration form, available on Campus Connect.

Membership in the jazz combo program is open to all jazz studies majors and to School of Music students, subject to audition results and permission of the coordinator of jazz chamber music. Students assigned to jazz combos must read and abide by the rules in the combo syllabus.

Applied Lessons

Applied lessons are private lessons taken with a DePaul faculty member in your primary instrument. Applied lessons are considered graded courses. The grade that you receive in applied lessons will be factored into your grade point average.

Four credit hour lessons require ten hour-long lessons each quarter. Two credit hours require ten half-hour lessons. Two credit hour lessons may also be taught in 5 hour-long sessions, as decided by the applied instructor. Students may take a maximum of four credit hours of applied lessons per quarter.

Students registered for applied lessons should contact their instructor

immediately at the beginning of each quarter to schedule a lesson. It is up to the student to be sure that lessons are arranged as soon as the quarter begins.

Improv Lessons

Improv lessons are applied lessons, for two or four credits, specifically focused on improvisation, and may be taken with a faculty member who is not your primary applied instructor, by permission only.

Undergraduates may take improv lessons, for two or four credits, only in their junior and/or senior years, for a total maximum of two quarters. Improv lessons may not be taken during the quarter in which a degree recital is performed and may not be taken in two consecutive quarters.

Graduate students may take improv lessons, for two or four credits, for two of the six quarters of their degree. Improv lessons may not be taken during the quarter in which a degree recital is performed and may not be taken in two consecutive quarters.

For both undergrad and graduate students, permission to take improv lessons must be obtained in writing, by filling out the "Improv Permission Form," available on Campus Connect. This form will require a signature from the applied instructor in your primary studio, from the intended improv instructor, and from the Director of Jazz Studies.

Juries

Juries are considered an important examination for your applied/improv lessons, and will assess your improvement over the first two quarters of the academic year. *Juries will take place in finals week of winter quarter.*

The jury exam is a required component of all studios. Juries will be required of all students taking applied or improv lessons, with the exception of students who are doing a Petition-to-Major audition at the end of the year. Students who are petitioning will not be required to perform a jury in that year.

While specific jury requirements are determined in consultation with your

applied instructor and the jazz studies faculty, juries will be done in an ensemble setting, with jazz studies faculty members acting as both members of a grading panel and as participants in the ensemble. Written comments will be provided to all students, along with a jury grade.

Petition-to-Major

The Petition-to-Major process in the School of Music is for Undergraduate students only. Undergraduate students enter the SOM as music majors, but must “petition” to enter their chosen specialization.

The petition into the Jazz Studies program consists of:

1. Completion of Petition-to-Major forms, available on campus-connect.
2. A recommendation from the primary applied instructor and one ensemble director/coach.
3. An audition consisting of material chosen in consultation with the applied instructor, focusing on understanding of basic melodic vocabulary, common jazz harmonic progression, style and idiom, and a sufficient level of technical skill demonstrated through improvisation and performance.

Petition-to-Major auditions will be performed for the primary applied instructor and the full-time faculty.

Petition-to-Major auditions take place at the end of freshman year, and may occur during finals week only. Exceptions must be approved by the Director of Jazz Studies.

It is the responsibility of the student to be aware of all Petition-to-Major procedures, requirements and deadlines. Timely attention to the coordination of your petition audition is a part of the petition process.

Graduate Change of Major

Graduate students wishing to change major within jazz studies may do so by permission only, and after completing the following requirements.

Arranging/Composition *to* Performance:

1. Completion of “Change of Major” request form.
2. Approval of the primary applied instructor and the Director of Jazz Studies.
3. Recommendation from a jazz faculty member.
4. An audition consisting of required material consistent with the Jazz Studies entrance audition.

Performance to Composition/Arranging:

1. Completion of “Change of Major” request form.
2. Approval of Professor Tom Matta and the Director of Jazz Studies.
3. Recommendation from a jazz faculty member.
4. Completion of a portfolio consisting of three original compositions in varied idioms, as assigned by Professor Tom Matta.

Recitals

Recitals are required components of applied study, and must be performed by junior, senior and graduate students. Juniors will perform a 45-minute recital, seniors a 60-minute recital, and graduate students a 75-minute recital in their second year.

All students performing degree recitals will be registered at 0 credits through the performance office. The applied instructor will assign a letter grade, based on the overall presentation and performance of the recital.

Written program notes will not generally be required of jazz studies students, as the tradition of presenting information verbally from the stage is the priority learning experience. Therefore, students will be expected to present program information, introduce members of the groups, etc. verbally, as they would in professional jazz concerts and events. In addition, individual applied instructors may require written notes, and students may elect to write them if they so choose.

Recital procedures and deadlines are clearly described in recital procedures forms available in the performance office and on Campus Connect.

Graduate Composition Capstone Project

Graduate jazz composition majors will be required to complete a jazz composition "capstone" project as a final requirement for completion of the jazz composition master's degree. Professor Tom Matta will provide instructions and specific details.

Comprehensive exams

Comprehensive exams are required in the final quarter of a master's degree and are coordinated by the Chair of Music Performance. Details and requirements will be sent to all second year masters students at the beginning of spring quarter. Any student intending to graduate in a quarter other than spring quarter should contact the Chair of Performance at the beginning of their last quarter in school to arrange for their exams.

Comprehensive exams consist of three written papers, answering questions posed by three different jazz studies faculty members, in three different topic areas.

Advising

Students should meet with their staff or faculty advisor on a quarterly basis to plan course schedules, check their degree progress report, and ensure that their degree requirements are being met. All questions and concerns may be discussed with the advisor, the Director of Jazz Studies or the Performance Department Chair.

Electives

A comprehensive list of available School of Music elective classes is listed on the Campus Connect site, at [Campus Connect> Forms for Students> Course Offerings> Recommended Music electives \(UGrad\)](#) or [Recommended Music Electives \(Grad\)](#).