

UNC Academic Area Guide for Undergraduate Students

The purpose of this Guide is to explain the curricular and administrative functions of the Academic Studies in Music Area as they relate to undergraduate study, and to offer guidance on how best to succeed in academic coursework.

Academic Studies in Music—Music History and Music theory courses—are a required part of every undergraduate music degree offered at the University of Northern Colorado. The goal of the Academic Studies Area is for students to graduate with a mastery of music history and theory appropriate to the level of the Bachelor's degree, in order to have the tools to pursue a career and/or further study in teaching, performance, composition, conducting, and research. These tools include style awareness and knowledge of musical language, the ability to pursue the study of music on a deeper intellectual level and to write persuasively about it, and a general mastery of the discipline in all areas beyond execution. Regular attendance, participation, and curricular mastery are required in all classes.

The University of Northern Colorado School of Music does not encourage students to specialize in academic studies before the graduate level. There is no undergraduate Music History or Music Theory major; a few students are admitted to a Composition major after the sophomore barrier. Our general philosophy is that proper preparation for a life spent in music will involve striving to perfect one's performance skills at least through the Bachelor's level.

- I. **Entrance Examinations Music Theory.** Entering undergraduate-level music majors are required to take placement examinations in music theory and aural skills (that is, ear training). These examinations will determine whether the student has the preparation and basic theory skills to enter the Music Theory sequence of courses for music majors. Those not demonstrating sufficient command of the material will be required to pass MUS 104 (Foundations of Music Theory) with a grade of C or higher before they will be allowed to enroll in MUS 113 (Music Theory I) and MUS 114 (Aural Skills I).
- II. **Standards.** For undergraduate students to enroll in MUS 243–244, *History of Music*, they will have to earn a grade of “C” or better in MUS 143, *Music Styles and Contexts*. Likewise, a grade of “C” or higher is required for enrollment in the next higher level of music theory and aural skills. Music theory and aural skills classes should be taken at the same level concurrently. **The necessity for consistent, disciplined work in all academic courses must be understood from the outset, because such courses are degree requirements. Expectations are stated clearly in course syllabi, and requirements and standards are spelled out.**

III. Policy on Music Composition Junior, Senior, and Graduate Recitals

The student must be enrolled in composition lessons at the time of her/his junior, senior, or graduate recital. Additionally a student in composition must assemble a sponsoring committee consisting of the student's current composition instructor and 2 other faculty members, all of whom have consented to serve. Four weeks prior to the recital, the student will stage the recital for the committee and provide at least one copy of the scores to be presented (if appropriate to the media of presentation), along with a printed program including the names of all musicians performing and indications of titles and multiple movements. The committee will determine both the suitability of the material and of the performance. If the recital is not approved, the student will have two weeks to make changes necessary for a successful recital. If the committee still does not pass the performance, the student must reschedule the recital for a later date.

All composition majors, both undergraduate and graduate, are required to attend composition department events, including composition faculty recitals, student end-of-term recitals, department-sponsored festivals, guest lectures, etc.