

Academic Learning Compact

Bachelor of Arts in Jazz Studies

The Department of Jazz Studies at the University of XXX believes that students are served best when they and university faculty fully engage in a teaching-learning partnership together, and that this partnership is all the more meaningful if it is made as clear as possible to students what it is that they will learn and how the Department will assess that learning.

Your learning experience will be comprised of far more than the knowledge and skill sets defined below; indeed, a completely fulfilling baccalaureate experience is by definition impossible to delineate in its totality. However, if you are an active and successful participant in this joint process, we are fully prepared to certify that, as a graduate of this program, you will know and be able to do the following:

- Communicate effectively in oral and written media, including traditional writing and rhetorical skills as well as musical notation and through computerized presentation media;
- Critically analyze ideas and their consequences, and be able to articulate that analysis;
- Have a knowledge of and the ability to apply the theoretical and historical concepts of Western musical traditions, with an emphasis on jazz;
- Perform jazz, via voice, at least one musical instrument, or via both at a pre-professional level;
- Study and perform music from a diversity of styles and idioms; and
- Teach basic music skills to others.

Assessment in the fine and performing arts is necessarily an ongoing process. That is, in such teaching-learning venues as studio lessons and skills classes, assessment of student learning is constant and an integral part of the learning experience. Additionally, in order to be able to certify that you have acquired and demonstrated the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and behaviors listed above by the time you graduate, faculty will use the following assessments in required courses, as well as in other teaching-learning venues.

- Juried Performances at the end of the junior and senior year
- Public performances during and at the end of the senior year
- Senior recitals;
- Performance-Based Capstone Projects/Courses;
- Performance-Based Case Studies;
- Classroom assessment of embedded defined learning outcomes embedded within your coursework, demonstrated by acceptable scores on assignments and examinations;
- Senior Portfolio;
- Results of Internship Assessments; and

- Your score on the appropriate subtest of the Graduate Record Examination.

Other assessments will provide an even more comprehensive picture of the competencies you have acquired during your baccalaureate experience. In addition, extraordinarily committed students may be (and have been) able to do the following:

- Participate in ensemble performances at national conventions and nationally-recognized venues;
- Compete and be recognized at the highest levels in such competitions as the *Downbeat* Solo Jazz Instrumentalist Award or the *Downbeat* College Outstanding Performance or Composition Award;
- Perform in professional ensembles, such as the United States Army Jazz Ambassadors;
- Gain acceptance for advanced study in nationally recognized graduate schools.