

DEGREE PROGRAM GUIDELINES

Bachelor of Music—Performance, Strings

The following is an explanation of the expectations and procedures for students seeking the Bachelor of Music Degree in Performance whose area of concentration is bowed stringed instruments. The motivation behind the requirements set forth within these guidelines is the desire of the A-State Music Department to ensure that the graduates aspiring to be professional musicians are both qualified and prepared for the highest possible level. These criteria pertain to string students entering the BM String Performance program at A-State during the Fall of 2010 or thereafter.

LEVELS OF STUDY

Lower Level (MUSP 1112) is appropriate for the following:

- All beginning freshmen
- Transfer students who have completed less than 4 credit hours of applied instrument study
- Students who have changed their major and have not yet completed 4 credit hours of applied instrument study, including those changing applied majors within the area of performance (e.g. wind instrument to string, piano to string, etc.)
- Students who have not yet passed the **Proficiency Exam**

Upper Level (MUSP 3113) is appropriate for the following:

- Students who have passed the **Proficiency Exam** after at least 4 credit hours of applied instrument study

REPERTOIRE REQUIREMENTS

Lower Level (2 credit hours) at least 2 pieces per semester and 2 orchestral excerpts
Upper Level (3 credit hours) at least 3 pieces per semester and 3 orchestral excerpts

The above repertoire requirements are the minimum to be accomplished each semester from memory. A technical study (etude) may substitute one of the pieces. The student and teacher will select literature in various eras and styles. As each student advances to a higher level, the difficulty of the repertoire assigned will increase. Failure to learn and/or perform the selected repertoire at the appropriate level will affect the final lesson grade.

PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS

All students	at least 1 student recital per academic year
Upper Level students	Junior and Senior recitals

Student Recitals involve all applied areas and occur periodically in the Recital Hall on Tuesdays at 11:00. The format is a traditional recital for which the appropriate attire is required. String ensemble performances such as string trio, quartet, quintet, etc., may substitute individual performances. Students are encouraged to perform 2 pieces of contrasting styles on one recital. All performances require consent of the major applied teacher by filling out the *Tuesday Morning Recital Form* found on the A-State Music Department Website under *Important Links*.

Audition Practicum - All string performance major students are required to actively seek out off-campus performances opportunities, either by auditioning or entrepreneurial means, with local or regional orchestras or chamber music groups.

JURY

At the end of each semester of instrumental study, students will perform a **Jury** (final exam) before a **Jury Committee**, which consists of the entire string faculty and at least one outside applied faculty. Student shall consult with his or her teacher on the jury repertoire and notify the area coordinator (Coordinator of Strings) before the jury. For the typical Jury, a grade will be given by each faculty member, the average of which will be the Jury Grade. An Applied Lesson Record will be presented to the Jury Committee by each teacher. After a brief discussion, a final grade will be determined by the major applied teacher based on the jury grade, input from the Jury Committee and the student's progress throughout the semester. Attributes of a fine jury performance demonstrate mastery of technique, style, interpretation, stage presence, and emotional expression. Exceptions to the jury requirement include students giving a junior or senior recital that semester.

ADMITTANCE TO THE BM PROGRAM IN PERFORMANCE

Admittance to the BM Program in String Performance is not officially granted until the **Proficiency Exam** has been successfully completed. Minimum expectations include demonstration of certain technical skills and reasonable musical development while performing literature, which the string faculty deem appropriate. The Proficiency Exam is typically taken during finals week of the second semester of MUSP 1112, Performance Applied Music, but must be passed before the final registration day of the following semester for authorized approval as a string performance major.

The Proficiency Exam will consist of a 15-minute audition (given in place of the Jury) with the **Jury Committee**. A complete list of the student's repertoire from all semesters of undergraduate applied instrument study will be submitted along with the teacher's statement of recommendation. A majority vote of the Jury Committee present is required for granting or denying admission to the BM Program in String Performance. If granted

admission, the student will move to the Upper Level (MUSP 3113) of applied study and will proceed through the appropriate courses.

It is possible to receive a passing grade in Lower Level Applied Lessons (MUSP 1112) and still not pass the Proficiency Exam. All students will remain at the Lower Level until the exam is passed. The jury taking place in the subsequent semester must serve as the second and final Proficiency Exam. Two failed attempts will result in a discussion between string faculty members and if need be, a formal letter of recommendation will be written to the student advising a change for his or her major.

Who may attempt the Proficiency Exam?

- A-State students who are at the end of the second semester of applied instrument study (typically the end of the freshman year)
- Transfer students with 4 or more completed credit hours of applied instrument study (those with less than 4 credits may attempt the exam at the end of the second semester of applied instrument study)
- A-State students who change their major to string performance from other departments within the university who may have taken 4 or more credit hours of applied instrument study prior to becoming a music major
- A-State students seeking the string performance degree as a second degree and who may have already taken 4 or more credit hours of applied instrument study prior to beginning the degree program

Requirements for the Proficiency Exam:

Literature

- A **minimum of 2** representative selections from the standard repertoire must be presented.
- Repertoire must be from the current semester.
- Stylistic variation is required.

Presentation—Each student's performance of the applied instrument will be examined for the following qualities:

- **Technique**—The ability to play with good sound, intonation, and rhythm.
- **Musicality**—The ability to perform in an intellectual and expressive manner.
- **Stage Presence**—The ability to carry oneself in a confident and professional manner.

COLLABORATIVE PIANIST REQUIREMENTS

All students seeking the BM Degree in String Performance will need a pianist with whom to perform for lessons, juries, recitals and other performances. Inquire with your teacher regarding available pianists and please check the Music Student Handbook for guidelines.

RECITAL REQUIREMENTS

All students seeking the BM Degree in String Performance must enroll in the appropriate course and present a **Junior Recital** (MUSP 3130) and a **Senior Recital** (MUSP 4131). The length of the Junior Recital should be at least 25 minutes in length with no intermission; the Senior Recital must include at least 45 minutes of literature and may include a brief intermission. Repertoire for both recitals will be selected by the teacher and student. A typed program will be provided by the student.

Hearing—Four weeks prior to the Junior and Senior Recitals, the student must perform a pre-recital hearing for a majority of the string faculty to determine the readiness of the student to perform the recital repertoire. The student should be prepared to play any selections on the recital. The hearing **MUST** be passed by a majority of the string faculty in order to present the Junior or Senior Recital.

Evaluation—After the recital presentation, the string faculty in attendance will determine whether the student has met the requirements for the Junior or Senior Recital. A majority of the string faculty must be in agreement in order for the student to pass. If requirements are not met, an incomplete for the course (MUSP 3130 or MUSP 4131) will be given; the student will be notified of the procedure for deficiency removal.