

DEGREE PROGRAM GUIDELINES

Master of Music—Performance, Strings

The following is an explanation of the expectations and procedures for students seeking the Master 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 players 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.

ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

Admission—Students seeking admission into the Master of Music in Performance degree program must meet the admission requirements of the Graduate School and the specific program requirements. See the Graduate Bulletin:

<http://www2.astate.edu/dotAsset/254275.pdf>

Auditions—Students seeking admission to the Master of Music in Performance with an emphasis in String Performance must audition for the appropriate applied faculty member prior to initial enrollment. The applied faculty member (or committee) will evaluate the performance and report the results to the Graduate Program Supervisor.

Music Entrance Exams—All students seeking admission to the Arkansas State University Graduate Music Program must take the Department of Music entrance examinations in music history, music theory, music education (MME only) and ear training. This examination is generally administered during the week prior to the beginning of classes. The results of this examination assist in planning each student's exact course of study. Contact the Graduate Program Supervisor for details. A grade of "A" or "B" must be achieved in any remedial coursework. Remedial coursework may not be counted as credit toward the degree. Arkansas State University graduates who begin graduate studies within eighteen months of graduation will not be required to take the entrance examination providing they received an "A" or "B" on all undergraduate music theory and history coursework. Study guides are available:

<http://www2.astate.edu/a/finearts/dept/music/degrees/graduate/graduate-music-entrance-exam-study-guide-dot>

REPERTOIRE REQUIREMENTS

Graduate level (2 to 3 credits) 3 to 4 pieces along with various 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 graduate students at least **2 student recitals** per year and **Graduate Recital**

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, string quartet, string 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 the **Jury Committee**, which consists of the entire string faculty and at least one outside applied faculty. Students shall consult with the applied teacher regarding 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 degree recital that semester.

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.

GRADUATE RECITAL

Each candidate seeking the MM Degree in String Performance must enroll in the course, MUSP 6131 and present a **Graduate Recital**. The student is responsible for establishing the date and time of the degree recital in consultation with the major applied teacher and the Graduate Program Coordinator. Notification of the date and time of the recital must be given in writing to the Graduate Program Supervisor no later than four weeks prior to the performance. The reviewing committee will consist of the major applied teacher, one additional applied teacher from the student's performance area, and one member of the Graduate Curriculum Committee. The Graduate Program Coordinator is responsible for assigning the reviewing committee. The examining committee must be informed of the time and place of the recital at least two weeks prior to the event.

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 Graduate Recital.

Literature— The recital must include forty-five minutes of music. The recital repertoire will include literature from three or more stylistic periods with at least one solo work and one work written after 1945. Typed program notes shall be provided by the student, which will be turned in for grading at least two weeks prior to the recital hearing.

Presentation—Similar to performing a Jury, professional advancement in the areas of musicianship, expressive interpretation, stage presence and technique are expected.

Evaluation—Following the recital presentation, the Review Committee will convene. After discussion, each committee member will vote pass/fail and make comments. The majority of the committee must approve the recital. The major applied professor will give the final grade for the recital. A copy of the Master of Music Degree Recital Form will be placed in the student's file. If the result is "fail" the committee may ask the student to replay the recital during the next semester with possible changes in repertoire. In such a case, a grade of "I" ("incomplete") will be assigned. If the recital is not completed in due time, the grade will be recorded as "F."