

Assessment Cycle

Academic Year 2016 – 2017

Master of Music (MM)

College: Arts and Sciences

Prepared by: Greg Handel and Malena McLaren

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Approved by: Vickie Gentry

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Northwestern Mission. Northwestern State University is a responsive, Student-oriented institution that is committed to the creation, dissemination, and acquisition of knowledge through teaching, research, and service. The University maintains as its highest priority excellence in teaching in graduate and undergraduate programs. Northwestern State University prepares its Students to become productive members of society and promotes economic development and improvements in the quality of life of the citizens in its region.

College of Arts and Sciences' Mission. College of Arts and Sciences' Mission. The College of Arts & Sciences, the largest college at Northwestern State University, is a diverse community of scholars, teachers, and students, working collaboratively to acquire, create, and disseminate knowledge through transformational, high-impact experiential learning practices, research, and service. The College strives to produce graduates who are productive members of society equipped with the capability to promote economic and social development and improve the overall quality of life in the region. The College provides an unequalled undergraduate education in the social and behavioral sciences, English, communication, journalism, media arts, biological and physical sciences, and the creative and performing arts, and at the graduate level in the creative and performing arts, English, TESOL, and Homeland Security. Uniquely, the College houses the Louisiana Scholars' College (the State's designated Honors College), the Louisiana Folklife Center, and the Creole Center, demonstrating its commitment to community service, research, and preservation of Louisiana's precious resources.

Department of Music. The Music Department is part of the **Dear School of Creative and Performing Arts** at Northwestern State University, and is dedicated to the development of students for roles in academic, leadership, professional, performing, education and research careers in the challenging fields of music, music business, music performance, and music education. Utilizing transformational, high-impact experiential learning practices, courses in core musical fundamentals, performances, research and service, the department produces graduates equipped to be productive members of society and professionals in the Arts in which they will help develop and improve the overall quality of life locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally. The department delivers the Bachelor of Music degree with concentrations in Performance, Sacred Music, and Music Business, and works collaboratively with the Department of Teaching, Learning, and Counseling to offer the Bachelor of Music Education degree. The department also offers the Master of Music degree with concentrations in performance and music education.

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Purpose (optional): The Master's program will prepare students for lives as artistic professionals and educators who are responsive to the artistic demands of the profession.

Methodology: The assessment process for the MM program is as follows:

(1) Data from assessment tools (both direct – indirect, quantitative and qualitative) are collected and returned to the program coordinator;

(2) The program coordinator (Graduate Program Coord.) will analyze the data to determine whether students have met measurable outcomes; coordinator communicates with Graduate Faculty in the program on a regular basis to discuss findings;

(3) Results from the assessment will be discussed with the program faculty;

(4) Individual meetings will be held with faculty teaching core Music courses if required (show cause);

(5) The Program Coordinator, in consultation with the MM faculty and curriculum committee, will propose changes to measurable outcomes, assessment tools for the next assessment period and, where needed, curricula and program changes.

Student Learning Outcomes:

SLO 1. Students will be able to demonstrate the ability to conduct research, comprehend scholarly readings, and apply this knowledge in a scholarly document.

Measure 1.1. (Direct – knowledge): Research Paper (Student Artifact)

Details/Description: Assessed in: Research Methods in Music: MUS 5900 MUED 5900 Pedagogy:

Special Projects MUED 5400 MUS 5400 Performance Document MUS 5970

Completion of these courses demonstrates acquisition of these abilities. Completion of the scholarly document is the actual product resulting from this learning.

Acceptable Target: The final document must be approved by a committee of the Music Graduate Faculty of at least 3 members and then submitted to the Dean of the Graduate School. Acceptable Target is 93% of students receiving approval of their final document.

Ideal Target: Ideal target is 97% of students receiving approval of their final document.

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Implementation Plan (timeline): Every semester

Key/Responsible Personnel: Graduate Music Faculty/Major Professors for each student submitted a final document.

Finding: For the academic year 2016-17, 7 students were enrolled in performance document and 7 successfully completed their documents, and submitted (with approval) to the Dean of the Graduate School.

Analysis: 100% of both Acceptable and Ideal targets reached

Action - Decision or Recommendation: Recommendation is to continue advising and guiding the graduate students as we have been doing.

SLO 2: Demonstrate professional competency in such disciplines as performance or music education.

Measure 2.1. (Direct – Skill / Ability): Capstone Experience

Details/Description: Assessed in: Applied Study: MUS 5700, 5710

Advanced Conducting: MUS 5230

Seminar in Music Education: MUED 5000

Recital: MUS 5720

Students will be evaluated on one significant capstone experience as it pertains to their chosen concentration. Examples include solo recital, conducting recital, or significant written projects.

Acceptable Target: Because these are Capstone experiences, they are evaluated and approved under the supervision of the Major Professor with the approval of the student's graduate committee. Acceptable target is 93% of students passing the final recital, as this is the capstone event for the courses listed.

Ideal Target: Ideal target is 97% of students passing the final recital.

Implementation Plan (timeline): Each semester

Key/Responsible Personnel: Graduate Music Faculty and Major Professor for each student giving a final recital.

Supporting Documents: Recital Checklist and Guidelines; Recital Grade Sheet; Recital Preview Hearing Sheet; Vocal Recital Preview Hearing Form

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Finding: : For the academic year 2016-17, 7 students were enrolled in performance document and 7 successfully completed their final lecture recital/performance/conducting recital

Analysis: 100 % of both targets reached

Action - Decision or Recommendation: Recommendation is to continue advising and guiding the graduate students as we have been doing.

SLO 3: Demonstrate the potential to solve current problems in various aspects of music or music education. (Classroom Assessment)

Measure 3.1. (Direct – knowledge)

Details/Description: Assessed in: Foundations of Music Education: MUED 5010
Current Issues and Trends in Music Education: MUED 5020 Pedagogy: MUS 5150
Performance Literature: MUS 5390

Students make presentations in class, research, write papers, lead discussions, and facilitate dialogue on a variety of pertinent issues.

Acceptable Target: Students will be assigned culminating or final projects which ask them to research and offer solutions to a specific problem. Acceptable target is 90% of students receiving a passing grade of B or better of the final presentation and/or project for the above courses, as the presentation and/or project are culminating assignments that apply the knowledge gained throughout the above courses. The implementation of the knowledge gained is paramount, and the presentation and/or final project allows the student to showcase and implement this knowledge.

Ideal Target: Ideal target is 95% of students receiving a grade of B or better on the final presentation/project.

Implementation Plan (timeline): Each semester/ongoing

Key/Responsible Personnel: Graduate Music Faculty

Supporting Document: MUED 5010 Syllabus

Finding: Acceptable and Ideal targets reached of 100% of graduate students enrolled in classes with culminating final projects.

Analysis: 100% of targets reached

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Action - Decision or Recommendation: Recommendation is to continue advising and guiding the graduate students as we have been doing.

Master of Music: Key Findings and Decisions:

The target for all SLO measures (research, specific performance components, specific music education components, and solving current issues/problems) are being met. The close personal relationship between faculty and graduate students has proven to be highly beneficial because they are mentored and guided through each project and expectation. Students regularly meet with their major professors, which allows for faculty to challenge each student in their individual weaknesses and strengths. We will continue to monitor and challenge students in these areas.