

Department of Music
Academic Assessment Report, 2017

Prepared by Ronda Mains, Chair
and Alan Gosman, Associate Chair

All graduating music students are invited to fill out an exit survey. As part of last year's Academic Assessment Report, we concluded that the survey questions should be revised to present more actionable data and that the survey should be conducted online to increase participation. We followed through with this plan, substantially revising the exit survey and using the university's online Qualtrics program to conduct the survey. In addition, we tailored one survey's questions to undergraduate students (found in Appendix 1) and another to graduate students (found in Appendix 2). These efforts led to much more helpful student responses this year, and the participation rate was 55% higher than last year. Seventeen of forty-two graduating students completing the survey. We are confident that next year we can once again improve the participation rate, given some of the things we learned in offering the survey this year.

There are various capstone experiences built into all programs. For performance, composition and conducting, students successfully present one or two recital(s). A panel of three music faculty adjudicate each recital performance. For music education, students successfully complete a semester internship in both elementary and secondary. There is a University supervisor and two cooperating teachers who decide on the success of the student intern. In the master's program in music education, students complete a project/thesis graded by a committee of three faculty. For music theory and music history, there is a final project or thesis graded by a committee. All masters' candidates do a recital, project, or thesis and a final written and oral examination.

This year 72 (out of 72) students successfully completed their recitals (100%). All music education students successfully completed their internships and will apply for licensure (100%). I made several phone calls to cooperating teachers. As a result, we will make some changes in our string music education preparation.

The results of the survey present some actionable data. We have already instituted many changes in the department that were instituted after this class of students would have benefitted. I know that many students were unhappy with the practice rooms schedules, but we needed to do this in order to accommodate students who planned their practice and to minimize the number of students who "camped out" in a room. Like many policies, this will take time. We are working on an online reservation system.

The responses we did get suggested that students are very satisfied with the faculty. Several faculty members were mentioned for their superb teaching, both in the specific degree program courses and in the core music courses. The glaring problem this year was in our string

program. We will screen potential substitute faculty more carefully when faculty are on leave. Instruction in violin, viola and 'cello could have been better this year.

There are a few areas of improvement based on survey results:

1. The department will discuss ways to keep students out of the middle of faculty disagreements.
2. Our University Perspectives sections deal with many of the issues that surfaced. We will add a section on how to find the resources on campus. This class, of course, was instituted after our senior class had gone through their freshman year.
3. Our LLC does workshops on topics such as: *What it Means to Be a Music Major*, *How to Practice Effectively*, *Time Management*, *Building a Professional Resume*, *Instrument Repair*, *Becoming your Best Advocate*, *Using Technology to your Advantage*, *Music for People with Special Needs*, and others. Jann Knighten is the Director of the LLC and will work with faculty to develop other workshops. Mostly freshmen participated this year, but there is interest in including older students.
4. We have started to work on string scholarships so that music majors and music minors receive larger scholarships than the participants in the University Symphony Orchestra. We will work with that ensemble to enforce a more stringent attendance policy and encourage faculty to do sectional rehearsals.
5. We will advise students and faculty to communicate issues early rather than wait until nothing can be done. Although I have an "open door" policy, I will make that more widely known to include all students.
6. Advising is an area where we are continually working. Dr. Lia Uribe will be the music contact person who will work with the Fulbright Advising Center.

We have instituted many changes in the department. Our pianos are very good quality and well-maintained despite the complaint in the survey. We have outgrown our building and sharing spaces in the building (now a necessity) has limited access to some faculty. Our number of majors is perhaps slightly larger this year, but the number of non-music-major students who participate in ensembles regularly is staggering. Combine that number with the number of participants in our building who are involved in the Community Music School and it is obvious why our building is so busy.

Several students mentioned areas that have been improved greatly or where important changes have been made over the last few years, including the conducting program and aural skills program.

Many of the changes would not have had much impact on our most recent graduates. Only time will tell whether these changes will positively affect outcomes.

Appendix I
Music Department
2017 Exit Survey for Graduating Undergraduate Students

Q1 What was your degree program and emphasis?

- Bachelor of Arts Degree, Music Major (1)
- Bachelor of Music - Music Education Degree, Choral Emphasis, Piano Major (2)
- Bachelor of Music - Music Education Degree, Choral Emphasis, Voice Major (3)
- Bachelor of Music - Music Education Degree, Instrumental, String Major (4)
- Bachelor of Music - Music Education Degree, Instrumental, WW/Brass/Percussion Major (5)
- Bachelor of Music Degree in Composition (6)
- Bachelor of Music Degree in Guitar Performance (7)
- Bachelor of Music Degree in Piano Performance (8)
- Bachelor of Music Degree in String Performance (9)
- Bachelor of Music Degree in Music Theory (10)
- Bachelor of Music Degree in Voice Performance (11)
- Bachelor of Music Degree in Woodwind, Brass, or Percussion Performance (12)
- Bachelor of Music Degree with Elective Studies in Business (13)

Q2 How many years did it take you to complete the degree?

_____ 1 (1)

Q3 Were you a transfer student to the University of Arkansas?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)

Q4 Were you a double major?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)

Q5 How would you rate the following?

	Excellent (1)	Good (2)	Fair (3)	Poor (4)	Very Poor (5)
Music Department Overall (1)	<input type="radio"/>				
Your Area of Emphasis (2)	<input type="radio"/>				
Overall Studies at University of Arkansas (3)	<input type="radio"/>				

Q6 What are your plans for next year?

Q7 In what did you take private studio lessons at UA? (choose all that apply)

- Bassoon (1)
 - Cello (2)
 - Clarinet (3)
 - Contrabass (4)
 - Conducting - Band (5)
 - Conducting - Choral (6)
 - Electric Bass (7)
 - Euphonium (8)
 - Flute (9)
 - French Horn (10)
 - Guitar (11)
 - Harp (12)
 - Oboe (13)
 - Percussion (14)
 - Piano (Classical) (15)
 - Piano (Collaborative) (16)
 - Piano (Jazz) (17)
 - Saxophone (18)
 - Trombone (19)
 - Trumpet (20)
 - Tuba (21)
 - Viola (22)
 - Violin (23)
 - Voice (24)
-

Q8 Indicate your opinion of the quality of the following classes:

	Excellent (1)	Good (2)	Fair (3)	Poor (4)	Very Poor (5)	Not Applicable (6)
Private Lessons (1)	<input type="radio"/>					
Ensembles - Band (2)	<input type="radio"/>					
Ensembles - Choral (3)	<input type="radio"/>					
Ensembles - Orchestra (4)	<input type="radio"/>					
Music Theory (written) (5)	<input type="radio"/>					
Music Theory (aural perception) (6)	<input type="radio"/>					
Music History (7)	<input type="radio"/>					
Teaching Methods/Pedagogy (8)	<input type="radio"/>					
Advanced Literature/Repertoire (9)	<input type="radio"/>					
Internship (10)	<input type="radio"/>					

Q9 Please comment on your private lessons. What was terrific and what could use improvement?

Q10 Please comment on your ensembles. What was terrific and what could use improvement?

Q11 Please comment on your other music classes. What was terrific and what could use improvement?

Q12 Do you feel that you had adequate opportunities for the following:

	Click to write Column 1		
	Yes (1)	No (2)	Not Applicable (3)
Large-ensemble performance (conducted) (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Small-ensemble performance (not conducted) (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Solo Performance (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Teaching (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Research/Writing (5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q13 Please list any courses you think should be added for music majors at UA.

Q14 Please list any required courses that you believe should not be required.

Q15 Did you perform a degree recital?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)

Condition: No Is Selected. Skip To: Click to write the question text.

Q16 How did you feel your preparation was for your recital?

- Excellent (1)
 - Good (2)
 - Fair (3)
 - Poor (4)
 - Very Poor (5)
-

Q17 Did you complete a thesis?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)

Condition: No Is Selected. Skip To: Who were your most influential music

Q18 How did you feel your preparation was for your thesis?

- Excellent (1)
 - Good (2)
 - Fair (3)
 - Poor (4)
 - Very Poor (5)
-

Q19 Who were your most influential music professors at UA?

Q20 Would you recommend the University of Arkansas to a prospective music student in your area?

- Definitely yes (1)
- Probably yes (2)
- Maybe (3)
- Probably not (4)
- Definitely not (5)

Q21 What are two or three reasons for your recommendation?

Q22 Please provide any additional information you would like to share about your experience in the music department at UA. Are there improvements you would like to see? Are there improvements that have happened while you were here?

Q23 So we can keep in touch with you in the future, please provide a permanent email address below. Student email accounts (uark.edu) are only active for two years after the end of the last term of enrollment.

Appendix 2
Music Department
2017 Exit Survey for Graduating Graduate Students

Q1 What was your program and emphasis? (select all that apply)

- Master of Music in Performance (1)
 - Master of Music in Collaborative Piano (2)
 - Master of Music in Composition (3)
 - Master of Music in Music Theory (4)
 - Master of Music in Music History (5)
 - Master of Music in Instrumental and Choral Conducting (6)
 - Master of Music in Music Education (7)
 - Graduate Certificate (8)
-

Q2 How many years did it take you to complete your program?

_____ 1 (1)

Q3 How would you rate the following?

	Excellent (1)	Good (2)	Fair (3)	Poor (4)	Very Poor (5)
Music Department Overall (1)	<input type="radio"/>				
Your Area of Emphasis (2)	<input type="radio"/>				

Q4 What are your plans for next year? (select all that apply)

- Job in Music (1)
- Graduate School in Music (2)
- Job Outside of Music (3)
- Graduate School Outside of Music (4)
- Undetermined (5)

Q5 Please describe your upcoming employment or graduate school.

Q6 In what did you take private studio lessons at UA? (select all that apply)

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- Clarinet (3)
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- Conducting - Band (5)
- Conducting - Choral (6)
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- Saxophone (18)
- Trombone (19)
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- Tuba (21)
- Viola (22)
- Violin (23)
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Q7 Indicate your opinion of the quality of the following classes:

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Solo Performance (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Teaching (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Research/Writing (5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q12 Please list any courses you think should be added for your concentration.

Q13 Please list any required courses that you believe should not be required for your concentration.

Q14 Did you perform a degree recital?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)

Condition: No Is Selected. Skip To: Click to write the question text.

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