



Program Assessment Report (PAR)

Music (MUS) Baccalaureate Degree

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ACADEMIC YEAR COVERED BY THIS REPORT: 2020-2021

I. PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES

Learning Outcomes: Because students in the BA Music Degree must show ability to play the piano, students are required to take 1 year of class piano MUS 1550 and MUS 1560. Students must show proficiency of technical skill in playing scales and arpeggios in all major and minor keys (2 octaves, hands together), harmonization, transposition, and sight-reading.

II. PROCEDURES USED FOR ASSESSMENT

A. Direct Assessment

Assessment: In academic year 20-21, the assessed skill was harmonization and transposition. In the spring, at the end of the one-year course (MUS 1560), students must demonstrate the ability to harmonize a melody by the professor, as well as transpose it into another key (also selected by the professor). Students have a minimum of 3 weeks to work on the harmonization and transposition portions of the exam. Students choose whether to play live or through submitted videos. Videos are evaluated by applied music faculty who also teach class piano. Students who do not meet the standard are given feedback and an opportunity play portions again or resubmit a video. Students are graded on the students' accuracy in choosing the correct harmony for the melody selected. Students are also graded on accuracy of their accompaniment pattern; missed notes that obscure the selected chords and/or show lack of preparation result in lower scores. Outcome: In the spring of 2021, 2 BA (Music) students completed the assigned a melody to harmonize and transpose on a final exam.

B. Scoring of Student Work

Students choose whether to play live or through submitted videos. Videos are evaluated by applied music faculty who also teach class piano. Students who do not meet the standard are given feedback and an opportunity play portions again or resubmit a video. Harmonization and transposition involve harmonizing and transposing a given melody. Chord selection is based on melodic indicators and typical cadential patterns. The chords requested are usually confined to I-IV-V-ii, though occasionally a vi-chord may be requested. Students should demonstrate the ability to play their harmonization with a variety of accompanimental patterns (alberti bass, block chord, etc.). Transposition required may involve transposing the given harmonization into a different key. Student scoring on are graded on the students' accuracy in choosing the correct harmony for the melody selected. Students are also graded on accuracy of their accompaniment pattern; missed notes that obscure the selected chords and/or show lack of preparation result in lower scores. Outcome: In the spring of 2021 BA (Music) students completed the assigned a melody to harmonize and transpose on a final exam.

C. Indirect Assessment

[IndirectAssessment]

III. ASSESSMENT RESULTS/INFORMATION:

2 students in this program who were assessed in this skill (harmonization and transposition) in the spring of 2021 (BA-Music) were enrolled in class. Two of the students were found to be minimally proficient; one other did not complete the class.

This skill involves several skills necessary for music, and involves some music theory as well as accuracy of chord selection. The ability to read music in other keys and then transpose and play them in another key involves an advanced musical processing. This is especially difficult on an instrument with which one is unfamiliar. It was determined that more time should be spent on this skill.

[Analysis]

IV. ACTIONS TO IMPROVE STUDENT LEARNING

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V. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

Additional documentation, when provided, is stored in the internal Academic Program Assessment of Student Learning SharePoint site.