

VOICE AREA HANDBOOK

Department of Music

Oklahoma State University

(revised January 2011)

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About this handbook

This handbook serves as the syllabus for all courses in applied voice at Oklahoma State University. Any requirements in the syllabi for individual studio professors are in addition to, not in place of, those found in this document. This is intended to be a “living document” that is subject to revision. Therefore, the policies contained herein are considered applicable for students in voice who are enrolled beginning in January 2010 and beyond. This handbook should in no way be construed to supersede OSU or Department of Music policies.

UNDERGRADUATE STUDY

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

ADMITTANCE

Admittance into the vocal area is based on an audition for the OSU voice faculty. Students applying for the BM in performance degree need to sing three memorized classical vocal selections, with at least one work in a foreign language (German, French, Italian, Spanish, etc.). Students applying for the BM in Music Education, BA in Music, or BM with Elective Studies in Business need to sing two memorized classical vocal selections, with one work in a foreign language. All applicants are expected to execute the above from memory, with poise, excellent pitch, proper breathing, phrasing, and expression. An accompanist is provided. However, the student may bring their own if desired.

UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE OFFERINGS

BM in Vocal Performance
BM in Music Education
BA in Music
BM with Elective Studies in Business

ATTENDANCE

Voice students will receive an appointed weekly lesson with their assigned professor. If an absence must occur, the student should notify the studio professor as soon as possible. The studio professor will make up only those lessons canceled at her/his request and for certain extenuating circumstances expressed by the student (*i.e.*, death in the family, etc.). The studio professor is not expected to make up more than two lessons missed by the student. The student should also consult the studio professor's syllabus for contact information and further absence policies.

ACCOMPANISTS

Voice students are required to hire an accompanist. A directory of accompanists is posted at the beginning of each semester throughout the Seretean Center. All scheduling details, supplication of repertoire, and fees are the responsibility of the student. The student is strongly encouraged to find an accompanist as soon as possible, as accompanists are more difficult to find as the semester progresses. The student should consult the studio professor for further information.

STUDIO/JOINT STUDIO CLASSES (COLLECTIVE)

Voice students are required to attend a weekly studio class and the scheduled collective studio classes. Voice students should consult the studio syllabus for the location and time of their weekly studio class and scheduled collective studio classes. Individual studio requirements may vary. These classes provide an opportunity for singers to:

- Perform for other students.
- Observe and learn from performances by fellow singers.
- Learn new literature both for the student's voice type and other voice classifications.
- Collectively discuss pedagogical and performance concepts, as well as information for the vocal area.

REPERTOIRE REQUIREMENTS

Standard art songs, oratorio, and opera literature is used for vocal study and jury adjudication at OSU. Repertoire deemed appropriate to fulfill these requirements will be determined by the voice teacher. Any exceptions to these requirements must be approved by the studio teacher and the area faculty. Difficulty of the literature will be determined by the teacher. All repertoire must be memorized with the exception of oratorio arias.

Minimum repertoire requirements are as follows:

Course No.	Mus. Ed.	Performance	Business	BA
1270, sem. 1	4	4	3	3
1270, sem. 2	4	4	3	3
2270, sem. 1	5	5	4	4
2270, sem. 2	6	6	4	4
3270, sem. 1	7	7	4	4
3270, sem. 2	8	recital	4	4
4270, sem. 1	recital	8	4	4
4270, sem. 2	NA	recital	4	4
5490 (Grad. Major):		minimum of 10		
5480 (Grad. Secondary):		minimum of 4		
1200 (Lower div. Secondary Minor):		3		
3200 (Upper div. Secondary Minor):		4		
1130 (Lower div. Elective):		3		
3130 (Upper div. Elective):		4		

* A major operatic role is equivalent to two repertoire requirements in the semester preceding the performance of the operatic role (excluding the sophomore barrier semester).

REPERTOIRE LIST

Each student will be responsible for keeping an updated repertoire list of the solo vocal music they study. This list should include all the solo vocal music studied at OSU. The songs/arias should be put into categories according to their language. Each student will be required to provide 6 copies of their repertoire list at juries.

ENSEMBLE REQUIREMENTS

Every undergraduate music major or minor, taking applied voice lessons (1-4 credits), must be in a choral ensemble, regardless of accumulated ensemble credit hours. (An instrumental ensemble can be substituted here for instrumental majors who are taking applied voice as a secondary study.) A “choral ensemble” at OSU is one of the following: University Singers, Women’s Chorus, Chamber Choir or Concert Chorale. Students in the BM (Vocal Performance) track are expected to be a part of the OSU opera as needed by the faculty. Students in the BM (Music Education) track are strongly encouraged to be a part of the OSU opera program. Ensemble singing is a vital part of every student’s education. Students will be assigned choral ensembles the weekend before classes begin in August.

JURIES

Students enrolled in studio voice lessons are required to sing a final jury exam. The jury will be presented to the entire voice faculty. Students will perform the following number of songs from memory:

Non-majors:	1 song will be sung at juries.
Majors:	
1 credit hour:	1-2 songs, at the discretion of the faculty.
2 credit hours:	2-3 songs, at the discretion of the faculty.
3-4 credit hours:	2-3 songs, at the discretion of the faculty.

Students will choose one selection. Any additional songs will be selected by the faculty. Students are required to hand in (to their respective teachers) six signed jury sheets one week prior to the jury.

GRADING OF JURIES

Each faculty member will assign a numerical grade on a 1-100 scale after the jury is complete. Each grade will be averaged to determine the student's final jury grade. The jury grade represents 50% of the final semester grade.

Special Note: IF A STUDENT IS UNABLE TO PERFORM A JURY, he/she will be given an incomplete, and must makeup the jury within the first TWO weeks of the next semester. Reasons for missing a jury include illness, death in the family, or military service. Inadequate preparation is not considered a viable reason for delaying a jury.

SEMESTER GRADES

The final grade each semester in applied lessons is part of the student's permanent academic record, and is a critically important indication of the student's progress.

SOPHOMORE BARRIER EXAM

All Bachelor's degree level Vocal majors must perform a Sophomore Barrier Exam at the end of their fourth semester of study. Music Education, Music Business, and Bachelor of Arts students will prepare art song and/or aria selections in a minimum of three languages for this exam. Bachelor of Music (Vocal Performance) majors will prepare at least one art song and/or aria selection in English, French, German, and Italian. The exam will not include repertoire studied from previous semesters. See *Repertoire Requirements*, for further information. Prior to the barrier exam, the student will prepare a repertoire sheet, a document that contains the titles and composers of the Sophomore Barrier Exam music selections. After the studio professor has approved the repertoire sheet, the student will make six copies of the repertoire sheet and bring them on the exam date. The voice faculty members in attendance will grade and adjudicate the exam; each grade will be averaged equally to determine the final grade. If the grade is determined to be 80% or higher, the student will advance to the junior level of study (MUSI 3270). If the average grade is determined to be 79% or lower, the student may repeat the fourth semester of study (MUSI 2270) and perform a second barrier exam the following semester. If the student fails the second exam, the voice faculty may deny further applied voice study.

RECITALS

Students giving a recital must also be enrolled in, and complete, applied voice during that semester. Recital dates are scheduled by studio teachers and students in conjunction with the building manager. All posters, programs, and publicity materials must be approved by the studio teacher before their public display.

UNDERGRADUATE RECITAL REQUIREMENTS

MUSI 3901 – Junior Recital. Required of Performance majors. (See Department of Music Handbook for requirements and prerequisites.) A Junior recital will consist of a minimum of 30 minutes of music, representing at least three languages: English, Italian, German or French. The program should include representative music from the Baroque or Classical periods, Romantic, and the twentieth/twenty-first century. This recital may be shared with another student.

MUSI 4901 – Senior Recital. Required of Performance and Music Education majors. (See Department of Music Handbook for requirements and prerequisites.)

A Performance Major Senior Recital will consist of a minimum of 50 minutes of music, representing at least four languages: English, French, German, Italian. Another language may be included in addition to, or instead of, one of the preceding languages. The program should include music from the Baroque or Classical periods, and the twentieth/twenty-first century. It is recommended that a chamber piece be included on this recital.

A Music Education Senior Recital will consist of a minimum of 30 minutes of music, representing at least three languages: English, Italian, French or German. A fourth language is recommended. The program should include representative music from the Baroque or Classical periods, the nineteenth century, and the twentieth/twenty-first century. This recital may be shared with another student.

Non-Degree Recitals are not required. Non-degree recitals may be presented by BM with Elective Studies in Business, Bachelor of Arts, or Junior Music Education majors. (Permission of the studio teacher is required.)

GRADING OF RECITALS

Each voice faculty member in attendance will grade the recital. The studio teacher's grade will determine 50% of the grade, and the other grades will be averaged to make up the remaining 50%.

RECITAL HEARINGS

(All recitals must be preceded by a hearing.)

The recital hearing is a private recital performance in the presence of the voice faculty. The recital hearing must be presented two to four weeks prior to the public recital. (This is an additional requirement to the stated policy in the "Undergraduate Student Handbook".) All repertoire must be performed by memory (excluding oratorio/chamber music). At the hearing, students will provide six copies of the Voice Recital Hearing Grade Form/Repertoire comment sheets. An average grade of "B" or higher must be achieved on the hearing in order to present to recital.

GRADING OF THE RECITAL HEARING

Each voice faculty member in attendance will grade the hearing. The studio teacher's grade will determine 50% of the grade, and the average of the remainder of the voice faculty grades will determine 50% of the grade.

CHANGE OF STUDIO PROFESSOR

A student may request a change of studio professors. After their current teacher has been notified, the student must submit a written request to the head of the voice faculty. All final decisions will be up to the discretion of the entire voice faculty.

CHANGE OF DEGREE TRACK

A student may request a change of degree tracks within the vocal area (*e.g.*, BM to BME). Some degree track changes may require an audition. After the student has spoken with their voice professor and Dr. Stroope, the student may then request the change with their advisor.

OUTSIDE SOLO PERFORMANCES

All vocal students are considered representatives of both the voice studio and the OSU Department of Music when performing in public. Students are encouraged to perform publicly as often as possible and are expected to discuss repertoire with the studio professor before making a commitment for a performance.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS OF SINGING STATE AND REGIONAL AUDITIONS

The Oklahoma chapter of NATS holds its annual state convention in early April of each year. The Texoma Region (Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico) of NATS holds its annual convention in early November of each year. The main event at each convention is a competition for high school and collegiate singers. The conventions are held on various college campuses in the state or region. All members of the OSU voice faculty are members of NATS and generally enter students in the competitions.

GRADUATE STUDY

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

DEGREE OFFERINGS

Master of Music in Pedagogy and Performance: Conducting
Master of Music in Pedagogy and Performance: Applied Voice

ADMITTANCE

Admittance into the Master of Music in Pedagogy and Performance program (Choral Conducting) is based on an audition and interview. See the vocal area website (<http://sing.okstate.edu>) for a detailed explanation and audition requirements.

Admittance into the graduate voice program is based on a successful audition for the OSU voice faculty. Applicants must perform a minimum of 30 minutes of music representing at least four languages: English, French, German, Italian. (Another language may be substituted.) The program should include representative music from Baroque, Classical, Romantic, and the modern period. It is expected that the candidate will also include representative opera/oratorio arias. The applicant must supply the voice faculty with comprehensive repertoire sheets at the time of the audition.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE DICTION EXAMINATION FOR MM VOICE AND MM CONDUCTING

Students who are seeking the MM in Performance and Pedagogy in voice must demonstrate proficiency in French, German, and Italian diction. The voice faculty will administer a three-part language proficiency examination to students during the first week of classes each semester. Students must pass each section of the exam. A student who fails any of the three parts must re-take that portion in a subsequent semester. To remediate the deficiency, a student may enroll in an appropriate undergraduate course or may study independently.

GRADUATE RECITAL REQUIREMENTS

A Master of Music degree recital of approximately one hour of music is required of all degree candidates. The student shall also submit a substantive paper related to the repertoire of the degree recital. (See the Graduate Handbook for further details.) Recitals should consist of repertoire that the student has not performed in any previous degree recital. The repertoire shall be determined primarily by the major teacher. Voice recitals shall be performed from memory (excluding chamber/oratorio music).

The student will be required by the major professor to pass a recital hearing four weeks prior to the Graduate Recital. Failure to pass the hearing will result in postponement of the recital until a successful hearing has been presented.

The degree candidate shall follow the procedures of the Department of Music and of the Concert Hall regarding scheduling, program printing, piano tuning, and recording. The printed program for the Graduate degree recital shall carry this notification: *This recital is presented in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Master of Music degree.* Consult the Department of Music Graduate Student Handbook for further information and policies concerning scheduling, program printing, recital recording, program notes, fees, rehearsals, grading, and the final degree project paper and recital.

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