



VOICE AREA HANDBOOK

I. AUDITIONS

All students will be heard by a committee of the voice faculty and other faculty as delegated. Level of study and admission into a degree program are determined at this time.

Undergraduate auditions consist of:

1. A solo vocal piece in English. (Each auditioner should bring sheet music as a pianist will be provided. Auditioners may bring their own pianist. Pre-recorded accompaniments are not acceptable at live auditions.)
2. A sight-reading test.
3. A pitch recognition test.
4. For BM or BM voice performance or choral music education majors, one additional solo in a foreign language is required.

Graduate auditions consist of:

1. All graduate voice applicants (both MM and DMA) must submit a pre-screening video. This video should be one opera aria in the original language plus a contrasting selection of your choice. Live auditions will be granted to applicants who pass this screening.
2. Repertoire from the pre-screening video may be repeated at the live audition.

Master of Music (Same requirements for performance and pedagogy degrees)
and Doctor of Musical Arts:

4 selections including English, French, German, and Italian. The selections should represent a variety of styles and time periods, but also reveal your strengths and personality as a performer. All selections are to be performed from memory.

Applicants should submit recital programs from previous degree(s) and/or a representative repertoire list of undergraduate literature performed by the applicant.

Artist Diploma

4 Operatic Arias of contrasting styles and languages, 2 Art Songs of contrasting styles and languages, and a Monologue.

If the audition is successful, the applicant may be admitted directly into the program; or given probationary status, meaning that the applicant shall take applied music for one semester at the graduate level (Voice 6611) with the opportunity to re-audition at the end of that semester.

Note: Graduate students who did not complete a piano proficiency exam on the undergraduate level will be required to take the exam before graduation.

II. STUDIO CLASSES

Studio classes are normally held once a week.

All students studying voice are required to attend.

All students who have missed Studio Class must submit representative work for the time missed as assigned by the studio voice teacher.

Attendance and/or failure to do make-up work will affect the final grade.

III. VOICE AREA RECITALS AND VOICE DIVISION ATTENDANCE POLICY

Voice Area Recitals:

Voice Area Recitals are held throughout each semester as scheduled by the Director of the School of Music.

All voice majors, performance and education, are required to perform on divisional recitals once each semester with the exception of the first semester of study.

Attendance policy for Voice Area Recitals:

All students in Applied Voice 1610—8611 are required to attend 100% of all voice area workshops. Exemptions may apply for Artist Diploma Students.

Failure to accomplish the above will result in a lowering of one letter grade of the student's studio grade average.

Attendance policy for Student Recital:

All students in Applied Voice 1610—4611 are required to attend at least 75% of the total of all faculty and student voice recitals, opera performances, and choral concerts (University Singers or Chamber Choir). Graduate students should follow the policy as required by their applied instructor.

IV. JURIES

Voice repertoire requirements:

The following is only a guide. The number of songs memorized is at the discretion of the studio professor.

1. The graduate jury has a duration of fifteen minutes.
2. Upper divisional juries (testing from MUAP 1611 to MUAP 4611 at the end of your 4th semester of study) will include a minimum of five memorized songs, and at least 15 minutes of repertoire. Selections may be sung in the order preferred by the student. Repertoire may be selected from any previous period study.

Performance majors must sing at least one song in German, French, Italian, and English. Music education majors must sing at least one song in German, Italian, and English.

Music reading portion: After they have performed their jury, students will pick up a designated piece from the attending voice faculty; practice it themselves for up to one hour, and return to perform it. An accompanist will be provided for this component.

3. Musical theater selections may be used at the discretion of the studio professor.
4. 1610 Voice Intro Instruction: 2 songs memorized. 1 selection of the student's choosing will be heard at the jury. If the student is auditioning to advance to MUAP 1611 study, then 3 memorized songs are required in the semester, and 2 will be heard at the jury.
5. Suggested Repertoire each semester:

MUAP 1610 Applied Voice:

Music Business/Recording Technology/Music Minor/Lessons Only

1st semester: 3 songs memorized

2nd semester: 3 songs memorized

3rd semester (and any subsequent semester at 1611): 4 songs memorized

MUAP 1611 and MUAP 4611 Applied Voice:

Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance

1st Semester: 5 songs memorized

2nd Semester: 5 songs memorized

3rd Semester: 6 songs memorized

4th Semester: 6 songs memorized

5th Semester: 7 songs memorized
6th Semester: Junior Recital
7th Semester: 8 songs memorized
8th Semester: Senior Recital

Bachelor of Music in Music Education

1st Semester: 3 songs memorized
2nd Semester: 4 songs memorized
3rd Semester: 4 songs memorized
4th Semester: 5 songs memorized
5th Semester: 6 songs memorized
6th Semester: Junior Recital

MUAP 6611 or MUAP 7611 MM in Vocal Performance or Pedagogy:

6 to 8 songs memorized

MUAP 8611 DMA in Vocal Performance:

Number of songs memorized each semester is left to the discretion of the studio professor. Students will present the jury with a memorized list of repertoire of which the jury will hear fifteen minutes of music of the student's choosing.

All selections are to be sung from memory. At the voice teacher's discretion, students singing chamber music or oratorio that would normally be performed "on-book" may use their music.

All repertoire should be new each semester.

6. Exceptions to repertoire requirements:

Graduate students who successfully perform major roles in the U of M Opera production during the semester of study are exempt from jury. The definition of a "major role" must be confirmed with the applied faculty. Undergraduates who perform a major role with the opera may have a reduced jury repertoire requirement.

Students presenting a Degree Recital are exempt from jury during the semester of their recital performance. When the student receives the grade of "I" (Incomplete) for failure to complete the Degree Recital in the scheduled term, he/she is exempt from jury performance during the term in which the recital was originally scheduled, but not from the term during which the performance actually takes place.

7. Failure to perform a jury may result in a grade of F for the semester. All requests for delaying a jury must be submitted in writing to the Voice Area Coordinator no later than 24 hours prior to the beginning of the voice juries.

V. GRADES

The applied teacher has the option of accepting the jury's recommended grade, grading one letter grade higher, or one grade lower.

Under special circumstances, the applied teacher may request suspension of this policy above. This request must be approved by a majority vote of the applied voice faculty.

VI. RECITAL PLANNING GUIDELINES

Recital enrollment

MUAP 3999 - Junior Recital for BM vocal performance majors
MUAP 3999 - Degree Recital for BME majors

A student must be at the 4611 level of voice.

The recital shall be approximately 25-30 minutes of singing.

MUAP 4999- Artist Recital required for BM vocal performance majors.

The 4 credits include voice lessons.

This recital counts as an integrative course and requires a written paper to be submitted before the recital hearing.

MUAP 7999 and 8999

Graduate students should refer to the Music Graduate Handbook for information about recital

Dates for hearing and recital.

Student should coordinate planning of hearing and recital dates with teacher and voice faculty/committee members.

The hearing date should be scheduled for at least two weeks before the tentative recital date.

MM and DMA students are exempt from formal recital hearings. However, at the discretion of the applied teacher, a hearing may be requested. The student may also request this option and should coordinate this with their teacher and committee.

Location for hearing and recital.

Once the dates have been agreed upon, the student should book the location where the hearing and recital will be held with the Scheduling Office.

Harris Hall is available at 5:30 for an undergraduate recital and at 7:30 for a graduate recital.

For the hearing, schedule Room 113 or Harris Auditorium; the recital itself should be held in Harris Auditorium.

Since Harris Auditorium is booked far in advance, the student's request should be made as early as possible, preferably during the semester preceding the planned recital.

Recital program and advertising.

The recital program, after consultation with the student's voice teacher, should be turned in to the Programs Office two weeks prior to the recital. Refer to the recital program procedure for detailed instructions.

The student may make up his or her own poster for advertising purposes. The University of Memphis School of Music designation should be included at the top and the statement of the University at the bottom. These items will be provided by the Office of Admissions and Marketing.

VII. ENSEMBLE REQUIREMENTS FOR VOICE STUDENTS

All students enrolled in voice 1610 – 4611, regardless of major, MUST be concurrently enrolled in an ensemble each semester of study. Exceptions are rarely made, and should be requested through the Vocal Area Coordinator if needed.

All students seeking a BM in Vocal Performance must enroll in **6** semesters of large ensembles, **4** semesters of small ensembles, and 1 other ensemble of their choice, totaling **11** semesters of ensembles, to complete their degree.

All students seeking a BM in Music Education must enroll in **6** semesters of large ensembles and **2** semester of small ensembles to complete their degree.

The large ensemble for this requirement is University Singers.

The small ensembles that may be considered for this requirement are Opera Workshop, Mazi, MemChor, and Chamber Choir.

Students who are not vocal majors should consult their advisor for ensemble degree requirements.

CODE OF ETHICS

[This is the Code of Ethics for NATS, which we adhere to in our Vocal Area.]

The relationship between a student and a voice teacher is unique in education. There is closeness and confidentiality that often forms during the years of study and a sense of loyalty toward each other is a natural and desirable result. In the event that a change of teacher is deemed appropriate, the current teacher should initiate the contact between the student and the next voice teacher. In no circumstances is it ethical for a teacher to confer with a prospective student before the current teacher has formally released him/her from the studio. When a student studies with a new teacher, the old teacher's name must appear as that student's teacher for a period of no less than six months. (The National Association of Teachers of Singing says eight months is the minimum.) It is not appropriate to study with two teachers at the same time unless it is part of a formal program of study, such as a summer workshop or apprentice program where voice instruction is part of the curriculum. Gossip and criticism of singers and teachers within the studio will not be tolerated. Singing is a difficult art, and everyone's efforts are to be viewed from a positive perspective.

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