

Hood College Department of Music
Applied Music Handbook

Note: the information included here is intended as a supplemental handbook to the information found in the College Catalog. For College-wide academic policies and requirements, please refer to the catalog.

Applied Music lessons are offered at Hood for academic credit in the following areas: piano, organ, harpsichord, flute, clarinet, oboe, saxophone, bassoon, trumpet, trombone, French horn, tuba, euphonium, violin, viola, cello, string bass, voice, classical guitar and composition. Under special circumstances, arrangements may be made for other instruments, off-campus. Refer to the schedule of classes for the appropriate course number when registering for lessons. One-credit lessons are 30 minutes/week in length and 2-credit lessons are 60 minutes/week in length. Before registering for any applied music, please be in touch with the department to determine the appropriate level and credit. For voice and piano lessons, placement will be determined by the department (contact Dr. Lester for piano placement and the Chair for voice placement). There is an additional fee for lessons and, as well, pianists and organists pay a small fee for the use of the College's instruments. (Please consult the department or accounting office for current fees). For all other areas, students are expected to supply their own instruments. **Once you have registered for an applied music course, it is your responsibility to be in touch with the instructor to set up a lesson time. If you do not know how to reach your instructor, please be in touch with the Administrative Assistant of the Department, Jeanie Cronin, at ext. 3473 or contact the Chair of the Department.**

Attendance/grading policy. Each instructor has the option of setting individual requirements, but, in general, students are expected to attend all lessons and practice regularly to prepare for those lessons. **Lessons canceled by the student are not usually made up;** in cases where the instructor determines that a makeup lesson is in order, it will be rescheduled at a mutually convenient time. Lessons canceled by the instructor or by the college (due to inclement weather or other emergencies) may be made up at the discretion of the instructor. The practice studios are located in Carson Cottage and the hours are posted on the front of the building. These studios are reserved for students who are enrolled in applied music for credit.

Performance labs. Toward the end of each semester, there are a number of performance labs scheduled for students taking applied music for credit. An attempt is made to schedule these on as many different days and at as many different times as possible in order to offer several choices to each student. **Students are required to attend at least 3 labs each semester and to perform at least once in each area of applied music for which they are earning credit.** Any deviation from this requirement must be cleared with the instructor. Sign-up sheets for each lab will be posted at the beginning of the semester. Students should sign up for their times as early as possible, so as to avoid crowding at the end of the semester. Arrangements for an accompanist, if needed, should be made in advance. A student should not come to the lab expecting an accompanist to be there, unless those arrangements have been made ahead of time. **Instructors will lower the grade one degree point (A to A-, for example) for each lab missed or for failure**

to perform. Labs are for students in applied music and their instructors only! No guests are invited.

Recitals. At the end of each semester, there is a general student recital and an honors recital sponsored by the department. Students are nominated by their instructors for these recitals. Students are required to have performed on a general recital before being nominated for an honors recital (during a later semester). **Students are required to have performed their selection(s) in a lab before the date of the recital.** Students who are pursuing a minor in performance are required to be on two recitals, one of which must be an honors recital. **Student recital guidelines are described at the end of this document.**

Scholarships and Prizes. The department awards a number of scholarships in applied music each semester, offsetting the cost of the music lessons. They are totally separate from any financial aid package which the student may have received. Students are recommended by their instructors, based on ability, potential, work ethic, and financial need. Normally, selection for a scholarship is initiated by the instructor, but you may request consideration, by speaking with your instructor. Prizes in overall excellence (music and academics) and in piano performance are awarded each spring at the Honors and Awards ceremony. The recipients of these awards are determined by the AC faculty.

Final Exams. At the end of each semester, applied music students, except for those in their first semester of study in that instrument, are required to perform for the music faculty, or “jury.” Normally, students taking Applied Music for one credit will be expected to prepare 5 minutes of music. Those taking Applied Music for 2 credits will be expected to prepare 10 minutes of music. Students will be evaluated on their performance and progress. Students are asked to dress as you would for a performance (no jeans, shorts, etc.) and will be expected to come to the exam with the appropriate information sheet completed beforehand. A signup sheet for individual exams will be posted towards the end of the semester. The jury grade will count as 1/3 of the final grade; it is averaged in with the individual instructor’s grade, which counts as the other 2/3.

Memorization. Memorization is not required for performance labs (though students who are performing in a recital for memory should perform for memory in lab). Memorization is required for recitals and juries for pianists and singers enrolled at the 200 level or above. Memorization is not required for the piano or voice at the 100 level or for any other instrument, unless the student is directed otherwise by his or her instructor.

Concert attendance. Each semester, there are numerous faculty, guest artist and student concerts on the Hood campus. Applied music students are required to attend **three approved concerts** as part of their course work, one of which may be a student concert (recital or ensemble). Some off-campus concerts may be acceptable, but in all cases you should check with your instructor as to which concerts are acceptable and which are not. Your instructor may ask to see copies of programs, especially for off-campus concerts. Your instructor will determine whether or not you may count a concert in which you participated as a performer.

Applied music students who have declared a music major are required to attend five concerts, one of which may be a student concert. Failure to meet this requirement will also result in a lowered grade, as determined by the instructor.

Ensembles. Any student at Hood may take an ensemble for credit, pending acceptance into the group by the ensemble's director, and may earn up to 3 credits participating in ensembles during his or her Hood career. An ensemble requirement exists for all music minors and majors. Minors are required to take at least two semesters (1 credit) of ensemble and majors are required to take four (2 credits). All majors are required to take at least two semesters in one of the Tier-1 ensembles (Choir, Wind Ensemble, String Ensemble); the remaining requirement may be satisfied with Tier-1 or Tier-2 Ensembles (Chamber Singers, Early Music Ensemble, Jazz Ensemble). There is a placement audition for all ensembles. Please contact the department for contact information for individual ensemble directors.

Declaration of a performance major. In the semester before a major in performance is declared, students are required to make that intention known to the applied music jury. As part of the exam, the jurors will determine whether or not approval will be granted to the student. Students may not declare a major in performance without the department's approval.

Senior Recital Guidelines. The Senior Recital (MUSC 475) is the capstone experience in performance and is required for all performance majors. It is normally given in conjunction with the last 2 credits of study in the area of applied music in which the student is majoring. It is normally given in the last semester of the senior year, though exceptions can be made if the student has scheduling constraints (another major, student teaching, study abroad, etc.). If the student has already completed the 10 credits of applied music and has not given the recital, he or she will be required to take an additional 2 credits in the semester of the recital. The recital should, if possible, be given no later than six weeks before the end of the semester. The recital is given in lieu of a departmental exam that semester.

In the semester before the recital is given, the student will submit a proposed program at his or her jury and be prepared to perform 1/3 of the program at that jury. The jury will accept or reject the program and may suggest modifications to the program. After the program has been approved by the department, the student will work with the Chair or Concert Manager to choose a suitable date. The recital will be announced and promoted, along with all other public events in the department.

The recital will be approximately 50 minutes in duration, representative of the important styles and eras in the area of study. If it is the professional norm for the recital to be performed from memory, then it will be required at Hood (e.g., piano and voice students are required to perform from memory—other areas will be determined by the instructors in those areas). Each area of applied music may have its own set of recital criteria. In all cases, the recital program is worked out between the student and his or her instructor, subject to the approval of the jury.

The recital will be adjudicated by at least three faculty, in addition to the individual's instructor. There will be at least one other juror from the same area of study, and other members of the department, as they are available, will make up the remainder of the jury. The instructor's grade will count 50 percent and the other jurors' grades will make up the other 50 percent.

All information for the program will be submitted to the Concert Manager no later than three weeks in advance of the recital, in order to have the program printed. It is up to the student to do "local" publicity (fliers, e-mail invitations, etc.).

When a piano accompanist is needed, the student will work with the instructor and the Chair to determine the appropriate person for this. Compensation for those services is arranged between the student and the pianist, with department input, if needed. That compensation, as well as any for other musicians who may be invited to assist, is the responsibility of the student.

Student Recital Guidelines. If selected by your instructor to participate in a general or honors recital, please adhere to the following guidelines:

If you need a piano accompanist, please work with you instructor to determine the appropriate accompanist for your needs. You will then need to be in touch with the accompanist at least three weeks in advance of the recital to arrange for rehearsal times. There is a fee for this service, for which you are responsible; please consult with the department as to current rates. Payment should be made directly to the accompanist before the performance.

You are required to perform your piece(s) on a performance lab in advance of the recital. Please consult the lab schedule and sign up for your slot well in advance of the recital.

Unlike the labs, the recitals are open to the public and you are encouraged to invite your family and friends.

Please dress appropriately for the recital. While it is not necessary to wear a tuxedo or long gown, you should wear "dressy" clothes. A good rule of thumb is to wear what you might wear to a formal church service or to a dressy party.

Be sure to bow after your performance (and smile appreciatively, no matter how you think you might have done!). Acknowledge your accompanist, on stage, following your performance.

Be sure to congratulate your fellow performers and to thank your teacher and accompanist for their help and guidance.

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