

7/31/2024

BA/BM Music

National Association of Schools of Music

AY22

Continuation

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- For summer 2024, three additional department-sponsored camps have been scheduled for guitar, chamber music and opera. The Alaska Artist Development Program in Opera for High School, College students and community singers is a col

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directors, and being integrated into professionally produced performance experiences at the PAC.

*Recommendation 2: Continue to review and refine the curriculum, to analyze changes in enrollment as the campus returns to "near normal", and to consider adding a music certificate or other credential.*

*(2500 characters or*

*less)*

In response to the first recommendation, the department has worked closely with the Dean's office to ensure meaningful development and progress as our curriculum evolves to meet the demands of our students and their educational needs. We have been working to address both small- and

*(3000 characters or less)*

One of the department's faculty members serves on the Faculty Senate Diversity Committee and is taking the lead on designating all the Music Department's Fine Arts GERs with the DEI designation. All four of the competencies have been discussed, explored, and implemented through these following initiatives:

- In 2023, the core competency focus was on Intercultural Fluency. In collaboration with the FSDC,

requirements to pass Functional Piano proficiency have been updated to reflect current practices and relevancy to positively affect degree-to-completion times.

- Technical proficiency on a chosen instrument (including voice) is assessed through division juries at the end of each semester. Students are additionally assessed through a variety of on-campus and off-campus performances: informal recitals, ensemble concerts, competitions, and Junior and Senior Recitals. This variety of low-stakes and high-stakes assessment techniques has proven to be effective in developing our students into proficient and creative musicians by the time they graduate.
- We have two large assessment measures to capture students' knowledge of musical literacy, construction, and form, and they are administered as the students come into the program and at the midway point. The Theory Placement Exam serves as an entrance assessment measure and provides feedback to the faculty on how they can structure their four-semester music theory sequence. The capstone course (MUS 331 - Form and Analysis) provides exit information about the students' musical literacy, with most students passing.
- The assessment of students' understanding of historical periods and forms within a socio-political context is achieved through the Music in Western Culture (MUS 220). This course must be passed before taking the upper-division specialized music-history topics. The course also includes an assessment at the end of the semester to better guide students in selecting their next upper-level seminars.

*Describe actions taken to improve student learning for these outcomes. (3500 characters or less)*

The Music Department has made several major changes in the last review period to improve student learning:

- The biggest action is the passing of an updated Annual Assessment Plan (the previous

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Competency in piano proficiency, basic music theory and introductory music history are all essential components in the development of the musician. It is gratifying to see the application of these basic skills and knowledge to the more advanced theory courses and history seminars in the upper division. The upper-level students often mentor the freshman and sophomores (and non-majors),reW8A0 g0 G720.00000912 0 612 792 re

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credit GER course is anticipated to be about 30 students for AY 24-25, or statistically speaking, a gain of 90 student credit hours for that period.

- The faculty also hope to see demand for the program grow because of the impending hire of a new Instrumental/Music Education position, whereby the position has received targeted extra funding to be used specifically for recruitment. The department greatly anticipates the arrival of this new member. This position will also serve as a community liaison with the other music education and arts groups in Southcentral which should further raise the profile of the department and lead to more shared events and experiences with student groups in the public schools. One specific example is the desire of the local AMEA (Alaska Music Educators Group) to have their statewide conference once again held at UAA. This is a significant step in re-establishing a strong bond between public school music educators and the Department of Music at UAA.
- Finally, the new faculty position will bring yet another facet of expertise (at several levels and in different areas) which will lead to more breadth and relevance in the curriculum to contemporary pedagogies.



- UAA offers a cohort of Alaska Native themed courses, including Music of Alaska Natives, Indigenous Peoples of Northern Regions, Alaska Native Drum-making Techniques, and World Indigenous Music. UAF does not offer these specialized music-topics.
- UAA Music offers all the core music-history courses by distance. UAF history courses are primarily face-to-face.
- With the advent of MUS 100 (History of Rock & Pop) and MUS 110 (Popular Songwriting) in AY '22-'23, UAA Music offers a wider and more current selection of GERs for its students than UAF. All of these are available through distance learning.
- A primary justification for the existence of both programs is the vast geographical distance between the two campuses. Furthermore, statistics gathered by the Office of Student Success have shown that UAA students tend to be non-traditional with different needs than a typical UAF student. Most UAA students attend UAA because they can live and work in their hometown and, therefore, rarely consider pursuing a music degree in Fairbanks.
- Two collaborations have occurred.

*(4000 characters or less)*

The strength of the program is greatly dependent on its resilient, resourceful, and respected faculty. We have weathered challenges with flexibility, tenacity, and an innovative vision for the future. Music is an essential component of any university with a liberal arts program. We have proven our value by producing graduates who are leading music educators and performers in the state and beyond. Current students and faculty bring distinction to the university with high-quality performances, scholarship, publishing, and a strong online presence. The faculty maintains an active and esteemed profile of creative activity and research. Below are some recent Tier 1 and 2 examples that bring recognition to UAA:

- The department chair conducted UAA students in a concert at Carnegie Hall with the Anchorage Concert Chorus (ACC) and the New England Symphonic Ensemble in June 2022. Current local collaborations include a joint concert of ACC and University Singers with the Yale Glee Club in March 2024. He will be leading a choir tour (ACC and UAA) to Ireland in May/June 2025.
- A faculty member received a Faculty Initiative Grant for a joint project involving UAA and UAF voice majors to devise a program on the theme of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. This concert was performed both in Anchorage and Fairbanks (Spring 2022). She is also a featured soloist in the nationally released CD recording Soundscapes of Restoration, performing a work by Alaskan composer Matthew Burtner (2023).
- Another faculty member has performed two national-level virtual concerts and recently premiered a piece by an Alaskan composer (2022). He is scheduled to perform at the East Carolina Guitar Festival in July 2024.
- Another faculty member was a featured guest artist with the Sitka Music Festival in a performance with Grammy award winning cellist Zuill Bailey in the UAA Recital Hall (2024). He was featured soloist on the Anchorage Symphony Orchestra subscription concert season, in a

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(2500

*characters or less for each recommendation)*

*Recommendation 1: Work with the college to expand new entrepreneurial venues and approaches to community engagement, which could include the creation of a non-*

*(2000 characters or less)*

The Department has made significant strides in removing barriers from their curriculum, these range from a redesign of the introductory music theory courses, to a decrease in the number of credits required for the major, to flexibility of options of ensembles for performance majors. The faculty have made great efforts to assess entering students' musical competencies and to advise them accordingly, often requiring them to take additional introductory courses in order to be successful in the major. The Department continues to monitor success rates in courses and strives to improve these rates.

5. *(2000 characters or less)*

The music programs continue to attract students from other majors, in general education courses, performance ensembles, and upper division courses. The re-establishment of the minor will allow these students to obtain a credential for their coursework in music. The music program continues to engage alumni as guest artists in the ensembles, a practice that exposes current students to successful and talented graduates. I encourage the department to consider how to capture this alumni engagement. The music department is poised to hire a new faculty member who will be tasked with growing the teaching-focused emphasis of the major to increase the demand to that of the performance-focused emphasis. Lastly, community support for the program is high with increased attendance at events and increased financial support.

*(2000 characters or less)*

The music faculty have been very productive in producing both faculty and student events and bringing the community back to campus post-pandemic. Ticket sales for these events have increased, with revenue being used for upgrades to instruments as well as scholarships for students. Additionally, the department has seen several philanthropic efforts that positively impacted the program.

Roughly 2/3 of the SCH generated in music are by non-majors. This has remained fairly constant over the past five years. Thus, decreases in student enrollment at UAA, has resulted in decreases in enrollment in the music programs. Additionally, the field of music was one of the disciplines most negatively impacted by the pandemic. The recent data show a strong increase in total SCH, which is also reflected in the efficiency metrics of SCH per FTF. While the discipline of music is inherently individualized, the music department does a good job in balancing one-on-one instruction with teaching larger general education courses.

*(2000 characters or less)*

The UAA music program is distinct in part because of its geographical location in the population center of Alaska, Anchorage. This gives students opportunities to perform with numerous professional organizations in the community such as the Anchorage Symphony, Anchorage Concert Chorus, Anchorage Opera, and the Anchorage Concert Association. As noted a

*(2000 characters or less)*

I agree with the program review that one of the major strengths of the program is the faculty, their tenacity, flexibility and excellence. Our faculty have achieved a high level of excellence - in performance, conducting and publishing. I have attended many music events and am impressed with how our faculty inspire and train our students, not only to excel in their studies and their technical skills, but also the passion and joy both faculty and students exhibit in their public performances.

*(number and list the specific commendations in the narrative box, 2000-character limit)*

The music faculty are commended for their tenacity and resilience as a large portion of the period under review was a time of no public concerts or in-person music lessons and of mask wearing that prohibited playing of many instruments and hindered other activities such as singing. Amidst this backdrop, the music faculty undertook major renovations of their general education and entry-level courses, their placement exams, and their major. Faculty and students returned to the stage and delivered high-quality and impactful performances to increasingly larger audiences. The department has been successful in garnering philanthropic funds that support the program, faculty, and students. The program is on a strong upward trajectory.

*(number and list the specific recommendations in the narrative box, 2000-character limit)*

The music program has a strong foundation with excellence in many areas. Moving forward, I encourage the department to focus on (1) rebuilding the teaching-focused track, (2) to increase the number of



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: Jenny McNulty

4/1/2024

END OF DEAN SECTION

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If yes, add your response below, enter your name and date, and follow the guidance below for submission. If no, enter your name and date, and follow the guidance below for submission.

*(10,000 characters or less)*

: Grant Cochran

4/5/2024

END OF PROGRAM OPTIONAL RESPONSE SECTION

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*(3500 characters or less)*

I agree with the dean's commendations and would like to recognize the high level of activity and innovation in the department, ranging from curricular revisions to strengthened community connections. I also agree with the dean's recommendations.

Finally, I encourage the department to continue to think about how it supports all students, regardless of their backgrounds. In particular, I am asking programs to ensure that all students have access to high-

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quality, highly-engaged learning opportunities, such as internships, practicums, clinicals, study away, and undergraduate research, regardless of modality or location. Programs will be asked to report on progress toward this goal in their next Program Review. These efforts naturally complement and extend our commitment to UAA's core competencies: Effective Communication; Creative and Critical Thinking; Intercultural Fluency; and Personal, Professional, and Community Responsibility. The Music program is well positioned to demonstrate this in its next scheduled Program Review.

Continuation -- Program is successfully serving its students and meeting its mission and goals. No immediate changes necessary, other than regular, ongoing program improvements.

N/A

N/A

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