

# Towson University – Department of Music

## Proficiency Levels for Applied Lessons

### Discipline: JAZZ/COMMERCIAL COMPOSITION

#### *General Information:*

- The stated proficiencies below apply to all students taking lessons in the particular discipline.
- Level of difficulty for specific repertoire will be adjusted based upon the student's degree program.
- These proficiencies are the minimums for a passing grade in the discipline.
- Any student wishing to take 300-level applied lessons must successfully pass an upper division jury demonstrating the proficiencies as articulated below.

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#### *Proficiencies for a 1-credit lesson*

##### Freshman Level

- Study of basic compositional technique and the composition of exercises and short works of original music
- Beginning development of notational skill, compositional methods and media with an emphasis on smaller designs and expanding harmonic languages based on student interests
- Analysis of compositions from various styles and periods based upon the student's level of experience

##### Sophomore Level

- Study of intermediate compositional technique and the composition of exercises and short works of original music
- Intermediate development of notational skill, conceptual and compositional methods
- Develop clear and accurate music manuscript

- Beginning at the 200-level, students are encouraged to organize and produce readings, recordings and performances of their work during each semester. These performed works will be part of the assessment during the upper division jury at the end of two semesters of 200-level lessons.

### Upper Division Jury (end of 2<sup>nd</sup> semester sophomore lessons)

- Proficiency in all material assigned in the first two years

### Junior Level

- Complete original compositions and present them in public performances
- At the conclusion of each 300-level semester, the student is expected to have completed at least one substantial work of 3 – 6 minutes duration.
- Organize and produce readings, recordings, and performances of work during each semester.

### Senior Level

- Complete original works completing portfolio and preparing for the senior composition recital
- Development of moderate to large-scale chamber works addressing advanced techniques for formal design and mature expression
- Continue to develop and master their notational skills using computer notation applications
- At the conclusion of the 400-level semesters, students are expected to have completed at least one substantial work of 4-8 minutes duration for their portfolio and recital.
- Students are encouraged to organize and produce performances of their works during the fall and spring semesters
- Senior Recital (*required based upon degree program*)
- Composition Portfolio (*required based upon degree program*)

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## Proficiencies for a 2-credit lesson

### Freshman Level

- Study of basic compositional technique and the composition of exercises and short works of original music

- Beginning development of notational skill, compositional methods and media with an emphasis on smaller designs and expanding harmonic languages based on student interests
- Analysis of compositions from various styles and periods based upon the student's level of experience

### **Sophomore Level**

- Study of intermediate compositional technique and the composition of exercises and short works of original music
- Intermediate development of notational skill, conceptual and compositional methods
- Develop clear and accurate music manuscript
- Analysis of compositions from various styles and periods based upon the student's level of experience
- Beginning at the 200-level, students are expected to organize and produce readings, recordings, and performances of their work during each semester. These performed works will be part of the assessment during the upper division jury at the end of two semesters of 200-level lessons.

### **Upper Division Jury** (end of 2<sup>nd</sup> semester sophomore lessons)

- Proficiency in all material assigned in the first two years

### **Junior Level**

- Complete original compositions and present them in public performances
- Development of compositional methods and media with an emphasis on the development of the student's original approaches to musical line, formal structure, and harmonic language
- At the conclusion of each 300-level semester, the student is expected to have completed at least one substantial work of 3 – 6 minutes duration
- During the junior year, students begin to plan and compose for their senior composition recital

### **Senior Level**

- Complete original works completing the student's portfolio and preparing for the senior composition recital

- Development of moderate to large-scale works addressing advanced techniques for formal design and mature expression
- Continue to develop and master notational skills using computer notation applications
- At the conclusion of the 400-level semesters, students are expected to have completed at least one substantial work of 4 – 8 minutes duration for their portfolio and recital
- During the two semesters at the 400-level, the student will have completed the required portfolio of 4 – 6 original compositions and will successfully propose and present a recital of his/her original compositions
- Senior Recital (*required based upon degree program*)
- Composition portfolio