Learning Outcomes Data Report

Master of Music
Conducting Concentration

Department of Music

Fall, 2011 enrollment - 6
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1. Learning-outcomes trajectory
In recent years, we have moved away from focusing our assessment reports on individual classes and toward a focus on the learning outcomes for the entire program. This shift became most noticeable about a year ago when we wrote our first draft of learning outcomes for the Bachelor of Arts in Music program. Those were contained in our Assessment Report submitted in June 2011. Since then, learning outcomes have been revised and expanded to address the needs of all of our undergraduate degree programs. The department has not yet expanded its learning outcomes to the graduate program in a comprehensive manner. This document will discuss those areas in which assessment is well established.

2. Learning Outcomes
The department has not yet expanded its learning outcomes to the graduate program in a formal way, therefore, no specific learning outcomes exist at this time.

However, it is clear that the focus of this program is on conducting ensembles and expansion of academic knowledge that forms the underpinnings of excellent ensemble performance. In this way, we know that the learning goals would be quite similar to those for the Bachelor of Music in Performance only at a higher, more focused level. Students complete courses in research, theory, and history as well as conducting and score studies.

3. Alignment with the Baccalaureate Learning Goals
Not applicable.

4. Monitoring Learning Outcomes
Performance outcomes are monitored through weekly lessons and ensemble rehearsals. All M.M. Conducting students give one or two major concerts or a series of guest conducting performances that would equal the same level of experience. Public performances of conducting students are video recorded; those recordings are archived in the department’s Listening Lab.

The department believes that this system provides a great deal of quality control over the acquisition of conducting skills for these students.
5. Outcomes used to address the curriculum
   The department has not made formal curricular change to this program due to assessment data.

6. Data from alumni
   Alumni surveys have focused on graduates of the bachelor degree programs. The department has not made formal curricular change to this program due to alumni data.

7. Learning outcomes and accreditation
   As a fully accredited member of the National Association of Schools of Music, each program must adhere to “standards” and “competencies” as published in the NASM Handbook. For this program, the Handbook states:
   
a. Students demonstrate advanced competencies in conducting. Conducting, analytical studies, score reading, and rehearsal techniques comprise as much as two-thirds or at least one-third of the total curriculum.
b. Students gain knowledge and skills in one or more fields of music outside the major such as orchestration, history and literature, musicology and ethnomusicology, performance, and composition. Such supportive studies in music that broaden and deepen musical competence comprise at least one-third of the total curriculum. Unless a high level of proficiency is determined by examination, advanced studies in ear training should continue throughout the degree program.
c. Choral conducting majors must be proficient in vocal pedagogy and in English, German, French, Italian, and Latin diction. They must have general phonetic knowledge and skills that can be related to other languages. They should have language competencies sufficient to understand texts in the repertory.
d. Students must be afforded the opportunity for regular conducting experience under faculty supervision and with an appropriate ensemble.
e. As a culminating demonstration of professional capability in the major field, the student must conduct a concert-length public performance or the equivalent.

   NASM Handbook, XIV, B, 3 (page 124)

As the department develops learning outcomes for this program, this set of competencies will be carefully considered for alignment with our local goals.

8. A final word
   We appreciate your interest in this program and desire to understand the unique educational goals associated with programs in music. If there are aspects of this document that are unclear, please contact us for clarification.