

TO: Dr. Todd A. Mondor, Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies
FROM: James V. Maiello, Associate Professor of Musicology and Graduate Chair, Music
DATE: 23 April 2018
SUBJECT: Bona Fide Academic Requirements (BFARS) for the Master of Music degree.

The following Bona Fide Academic Requirements (BFARS) were ratified by the Faculty of Music Council on 26 March 2018 and subsequently endorsed by the Cooper Commission pending removal of the phrase "University of Manitoba." This change is reflected in the language below. I submit them here for approval by the Faculty of Graduate Studies.

Please contact me should you require further action or information, or should you have questions or concerns.

Many thanks!

Jimmy

BONA FIDE ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS (BFARS) FOR MASTER OF MUSIC

To be read in conjunction with FGS BFARS and Department Supplemental Regulations

BONA FIDE ACADEMIC REQUIREMENT 1

STATEMENT:

Students must demonstrate consistently the ability to meet standards for attendance, effective participation, and preparation that reflect the best practices of professionals working in the field.

RATIONALE:

Because professional praxis in music is predicated on the consistent physical presence, effective participation, and adequate preparation of practitioners, it is essential that M.Mus. students and candidates attend and participate physically in all rehearsals, performances, classes, etc. associated with assigned activities in the Faculty of Music. Similarly, students must be prepared and able to participate effectively in these activities at a level that reflects accurately the expectations and standards of working professional musicians. For example, an M. Mus. student in performance must prepare solo and ensemble repertoire in their applied medium and perform in rehearsals and performances at a level that reflects current standards in a professional orchestra or chamber ensemble. Moreover, said student is also expected to be present and participate effectively for the duration of such rehearsals and performances. Put another way, just like professional musicians, M.Mus. students must consistently show up on time and be prepared for all rehearsals and performances, and other professional activities. This same principle may be applied to conducting and composition students.

TAUGHT:

Embedded in the program generally and made explicit in MUSC 7180 and MUSC 7400 and MUSC 7410, as well as in GRAD 7030.

ASSESSED:

Demonstrated and assessed through successful completion of coursework, in particular MUSC 7180, MUSC 7400, and MUSC 7410, as well as in GRAD 7300. Faculty may also assess this requirement in the student's non-curricular paraprofessional activities.

BONA FIDE ACADEMIC REQUIREMENT 2

STATEMENT:

Students must demonstrate a level of mastery in their major area (performance, conducting, composition), including technical mastery and the ability to produce work and solve professional problems independently, commensurate with current professional standards in the field.

RATIONALE:

Musical performance, composition, and conducting are synthetic practices that combine technical mastery and the ability to apply a broad corpus of theoretical knowledge critically, often in real time. In addition, all major areas of the M.Mus. require students to develop the ability to form independent aesthetic positions and transfer that theoretical knowledge into practice in the form of coherent musical interpretations or compositional approaches. For example, a composer must demonstrate technical mastery of skills like writing tonal counterpoint, but also deploy those skills as part of a broader aesthetic approach and be able to articulate clearly how and why he or she has made certain choices. A conductor is expected to employ effective gesture (e.g., a clear beat pattern, cue entrances accurately, etc.), but he or she must also justify artistic choices with historical, theoretical, and aesthetic reasons; conductors must also demonstrate effective rehearsal techniques and strategies. A vocalist must demonstrate mastery of vocal technique and foreign language diction, but also make appropriate stylistic and interpretive decisions based on the repertoire's genre or historical period. N.B. Examples provided herein are representative and illustrative, but not exhaustive.

TAUGHT:

Embedded in the program generally and made explicit in MUSC 7180 and MUSC 7400 and MUSC 7410, as well as in GRAD 7030.

ASSESSED:

Demonstrated and assessed through successful completion of coursework, in particular MUSC 7180, MUSC 7400, and MUSC 7410, as well as in GRAD 7300. Faculty may also assess this requirement in the student's non-curricular paraprofessional activities.

BONA FIDE ACADEMIC REQUIREMENT 3

STATEMENT:

Students must demonstrate consistently the ability to complete work in a timely manner and meet such deadlines as would be expected of successful practitioners in the field.

RATIONALE:

In-practice music professionals are often faced with strict deadlines and relatively short time to prepare work, be it preparing repertoire for performance, completing compositions, authoring program notes, completing grant/funding applications, or other associated professional tasks. There is very little flexibility with respect to these deadlines in the professional world, especially given the collaborative nature of the discipline. Indeed, professional practice in music relies heavily on interdependent relationships, and successful professionals in the field are able to meet deadlines consistently and reliably. N.B. Examples provided herein are representative and illustrative, but not exhaustive.

TAUGHT:

Embedded in the program generally and made explicit in MUSC 7000, MUSC 7150, MUSC 7110, MUSC 7180, MUSC 7400, and MUSC 7410, as well as in GRAD 7030.

ASSESSED:

Demonstrated and assessed through successful completion of coursework, in particular MUSC 7000, MUSC 7150, MUSC 7110, MUSC 7180, MUSC 7400, and MUSC 7410, as well as in GRAD 7030.

BONA FIDE ACADEMIC REQUIREMENT 4

STATEMENT:

Students must demonstrate consistently the ability to produce written work and to communicate orally in English at a level appropriate for the Master of Music program.

RATIONALE:

English is the language of instruction and communication in the Master of Music program. Students engage with many individuals and groups during their degree program and professional activities and they must be able to communicate efficiently and effectively through oral and written media. For example, graduates must be able to communicate effectively with booking agents, author programs/accompanying literature, and understand employment contracts. N.B. Examples provided herein are representative and illustrative, but not exhaustive.

TAUGHT:

Embedded in the program generally and made explicit in MUSC 7000, MUSC 7150, MUSC 7110, as well as in GRAD 7030.

ASSESSED: Demonstrated and assessed by meeting the Faculty of Graduate Studies's admissions requirements and through completion of the coursework listed above.