

Proposal

The music theory area would like to

1. Reallocate the credit assignment between Music Theory and Aural Skills.
2. Relabel the Music Theory Courses as a lecture with a recitation, in keeping with the practice since 2017.

Rationale

Currently, Music Theory and Aural Skills equate to a combined total of four (4) credits between them, which is in keeping with most Schools of Music in the United States that use the semester system. However, unlike most programs, we split these credits evenly, despite both a difference in the workload required and the difference in instructional setting. Music theory requires a great deal of out-of-class work, including composition assignments, performance assignments, and written papers. It also meets three times a week for 55 minutes. Aural Skills meets twice a week for 55 minutes, and requires performance assignments and dictation assignments, and is most often considered to be a lab/recitation type of learning environment, [which UCAT defines as](#) "practical, hands-on situations".

Such a change would be in line with peer-programs, would be more reflective of student workload, and would address concerns presented in the recent NASM evaluation, which stated:

"An additional problem was noted regarding the undergraduate music theory sequence (Music Theory I, II, III, and IV). Each of them requires three contact hours per week, along with an expectation of preparation for each class meeting, yet these classes are assigned just 2 hours of credit."

Our proposed solution to this includes the following reallocation:

	Current Credit Allotment	Proposed Credit Allotment
Theory I (MUS2021/MUS2221)	2	3
Theory II (MUS2022/MUS2222)	2	3
Theory III (MUS3421/3021)	2	3
Theory IV (MUS3422/3022)	2	3
Aural Skills I (MUS2224)	2	1
Aural Skills II (MUS2225)	2	1
Aural Skills III (MUS3424)	2	1
Aural Skills IV (MUS3425)	2	1
Total	16	16

As for the **second proposed change** (the relabeling of music theory as a lecture + recitation), this would simply be in keeping with current practice, and would allow for better scheduling of rooms and graduate student teaching assignments. At the moment, the current model in SIS is not reflective of current practice.

Below we have listed some similar programs, and have listed how they have structured their theory core curriculum. There are a couple of points that we would like to emphasize:

1. 11 of these 25 programs have more than four semesters of music theory.
2. The majority of programs (17/25) have separated theory from aural skills, and 15 of those 17 allot more credits to Music Theory than for Aural Skills.

Institution	Who attends?	Theory combined with aural?	How many semesters?	How many meeting times per week?
1. Baylor U	100 per year, majority in music education and performance	no	5 semesters of theory 4 semesters of aural	Theory: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3h per week Aural: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2h per week
2. Queen's College (ON)	50 per year, majority in BM or a combined degree in performance and music education	no	5 semesters of theory 4 semesters of aural	Theory: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4h per week in semesters 1-4 • 3h per week for fifth semester Aural: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3h per week in semesters 1-2 • 2h per week in semesters 3-4
3. Indiana U	200 students per year, majority in performance, composition, education	no	5 semesters of theory 4 semesters of aural 1 semester capstone elective	Theory: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 75m, 5 days a week Aural: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 75m, 4-5 days a week
4. Kansas U	80 per year, majority in music therapy and music education	yes	5 semesters for BA, BM, BFA 4 semesters for BME & Therapy	5h per week <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4h in lecture • 1h in keyboard/tech lab
5. Illinois Wesleyan University	50 per year, majority in education	yes	4 semesters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50 minutes MWF • 75 minutes TR

6. University of California-Santa Cruz	40 per year, majority in education	yes	5 semesters (4 core + 1 semester advanced elective)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5h per week (3 lectures, 2 labs)
7. Charleston Southern University	40 per year, majority in music therapy or worship music leadership	yes	4 semesters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5h per week, meet in keyboard tech lab
8. St. Olaf College	140 per year, majority in music education and vocal performance	yes	4 semesters of integrated theory/aural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 55m MWF • 85m TR
9. U. of Oklahoma	80-100 per year, majority in music education and performance	no	5 semesters of theory 4 semesters of aural	<p>Theory (2 credits):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 semesters meet 2h per week; 2 semesters meet 3h per week <p>Aural (2 credits):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 semesters meet 3h per week, 2 meet 2h per week
10. UMass-Amherst	70 per year	No	5 semesters of theory 4 semesters of aural skills	<p>Theory (3 credits):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3h per week <p>Aural skills (1 credit):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3h per week • Remedial AS for bottom 3rd meets 5h per week
11. Bowling Green State University		no	4 semesters of theory 4 semesters of aural	<p>Theory (2 credits):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3h per week (1 large lecture + 2 small group meetings) <p>Aural (2 credits)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3h per week (1 large lecture + 2 small group meetings)

12. Cleveland Institute of Music		yes	7 semesters total <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 semesters core, • 1 semester of form and analysis, • 1 semester of counterpoint, • 1 required elective 	Core theory (4 credits) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5h per week Form, Counterpoint, Elective (all 3 credits): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3h per week
13. East Carolina University		no	5 semesters of theory 5 semesters of aural skills	Theory <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Semesters 1-4 meet 3h per week • Semester 5 meets 2h per week Aural skills <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All semesters meet 2h per week
14. UMass Lowell		yes	4 semesters	Semesters 1-2 (5 credits) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5h per week (300 minutes) Semesters 1-2 (4 credits) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5h per week (300 minutes) “no difference in workload”
15. Oakland University ¹		no	4 semesters of theory 4 semesters of aural skills	Theory (3 credits) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 57 minutes MWF Aural (1 credit) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 49m TR
16. Rutgers University		No	4 semesters of theory 5 semesters of aural skills	Theory (3 credits) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3h per week Aural skills (2 credits) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3h per week
17. Baldwin Wallace Conservatory		No	6 semesters of theory (latter 3 semesters coordinated with history)	Theory (3 credits) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3h per week Aural skills (2 credits)

¹ “Having only four semesters of theory is an issue, because we have to cram all of advanced chromatic harmony and post-1900 analysis into the fourth semester, and they never really get true advanced chromatic harmony. It is also really hard to do a good job with formal analysis.”

			3 semesters of aural skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3h per week (2 solfege/dictation, 1 eurhythmics)
18. University of MO-St. Louis		no	4 semesters of theory 4 semesters of aural (no 20 th c. included in core)	Theory (3 credits) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3h per week Aural (1 credit) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2h per week
19. University of Vermont		No	4 semesters of theory 4 semesters of aural	Theory (3 credits) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3h per week Aural (1 credit) 2h per week
20. New England Conservatory		no	4 semesters of theory 4 semesters of aural	Theory (3 credits) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3h per week Aural (3 credits) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3h per week + 1h keyboard
21. Temple University		yes ²	4 semesters	5 credit hours 5h per week
22. St. Mary's College of Maryland		no	4 semesters of theory 4 semesters of aural	Theory (3 credits) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4h per week Aural (1 credits) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2h per week
23. Oklahoma Baptist University		no	4 semesters of theory + 1 post-tonal (hist/theory) 4 semesters of aural	Theory (3 credits) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4h per week (3 lecture + 1 technology lab) Aural (2 credits) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2h per week
24. University of Minnesota		no	4 semesters of theory 4 semesters of aural (further requirements vary depending on degree track. BME has no further requirements; BM has 2 more semesters).	Theory (2 credits) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3h per week Aural (1 credit) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2h per week
25. University of Utah		No	5 semesters of theory 4 semesters of aural	Theory (3 credits) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3h per week Aural (1 credit) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2h per week

² "We try to do both written AND aural work in each session, but the reality of the situation is that aural work (sadly) often gets pushed to the Tuesday/Thursday sessions with our grad students."

			(further requirements vary depending on degree track. BME has no further requirements; BM has 1 more semesters).	
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