



May 2, 2024

Dear Chair and Members of the Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee:

On March 27, 2024, the Arts and Humanities Subcommittee 2 reviewed a request from the School of Music to make revisions in the BA in Music degree program.

The proposed revisions are aimed at “broadening access to music studies and facilitating opportunities for students to pursue double majors.” The revisions align with changing practices in the field as carried out in similar programs at peer and aspirational institutions such as Harvard, Cornell, Reed, and the University of Minnesota (see pp. 3-4 of proposal). The proposed adjustments also align with OSU’s strategic plan and ASC’s goal of enhancing diversity, equity and inclusion, as well as with the recent diversification of the School of Music’s curricular offerings (which now include hip-hop studies and electronic and video game music as the result of recent hires). Finally, it is important to note that unlike other degree programs in Music (e.g., the BME), the BA in Music is not associated with any licensure or certification and, thus, the proposed revisions will not be subject to further oversight outside of OSU’s curricular review process.

The following list provides a summary of the proposed changes:

- Elimination of the requirement of a musical audition on a classical or jazz instrument for admission to the program.
- Creation of a new intensive, 5 credit-hour music theory course (MUSIC 2121) to provide an accelerated “on-ramp” to the study of music for those with less prior knowledge of that topic
- Substantially decreasing the minimum credit-hours required for the major from 45 c-h to 34 c-h through ...
 - reductions –e.g. eliminating certain courses as requirements, as well as the demand that students demonstrate keyboard skills
 - restructuring –e.g. no longer requiring a concentration; providing a more flexible sequencing of musicology courses; allowing a broad variety of performance options to count toward the major; providing increased options in terms of electives

The revised 34-36 credit-hour major includes the following:

- 4 core courses in Music Theory (totaling 12-14 credit hours)
- 3 core courses in Aural Training (totaling 3 credit hours)
- 3 core courses in Musicology (totaling 9 credit hours)
- Ensemble/Performance courses (totaling 6 credit hours)
- Musical electives (totaling 4 credit-hours)



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As noted in Director Michael Ibrahim's letter, the proposed revision was the product of "nearly 14 months of developmental effort" on the part of faculty and staff. The School hopes to initiate this change starting in Autumn 2024.

A&H Subcommittee 2 voted unanimously to approve the request with four contingencies. Those items have since been addressed by the unit and the proposal is now advanced to the ASCC with a motion to approve.

Sincerely,

Laura A. Podalsky
Professor
Department of Spanish and Portuguese
Chair, ASCC A&H Subcommittee 2