

## **Senior Project Information (MU 4601/MU 4610, MU 4620/MU 4621) Performance, Composition, and Music Education BM degree programs**

### **General Introduction**

Each of the degree programs must complete a capstone project. A capstone project should demonstrate a synthesis what the student has learned during the college career. The project should prove that the student is ready to move forward academically, whether by entering graduate or professional school, joining the workforce, or starting a business.

Depending on the specific major, this project will either be a recital, a presentation, or a combination of the two. Students will enroll in either MU 4601 or MU 4611 and co-enroll in either **MU 4620 or 4621** in the term that he/she presents the capstone project.

### **Scheduling**

Faculty will schedule available dates for project presentations and recitals on Friday afternoons during the fall and spring terms. Students will then be assigned to a particular date by the faculty. Requests for changes from the assigned date may be considered under extenuating circumstances and must be made in writing to the committee chair at least 90 days prior to the original assigned date. Lack of readiness or preparation is not an acceptable reason for changing the date. Last-minute changes will be considered only for verified emergency situations.

You will also need to work with your committee to set dates for your Qualifying Review or Pre-Recital Jury and dress rehearsal. Furthermore, you will need to turn in all required documentation by due-dates and attend meetings with your committee chair. Your attention to and preparation for these important intermediate dates is part of the “timeliness” part of your grade. See the [Qualifying Review Approval](#) and Recital Approval forms for further information.

### **Evaluation**

Each Senior Project will be evaluated based upon the following elements:

1. Final Performance or Presentation (70% of grade)
2. Timeliness of Project including following the guidelines of the Qualifying Review or Recital Approval documents and completing assignments made by the committee or studio teacher (30% of grade)

The successful completion of a capstone recital or project is a vigorous and long process that takes at least one academic year. Students are required to envision, conceptualize, plan and execute their projects to the best of their abilities.

Performance majors must perform a recital for the senior project. Composition majors must organize and present a recital of their own original music, or present a composition/research project. Music Education majors may perform a recital or present a project that combines elements of a recital performance. Recitals and projects will be planned under the direction of the committee chair and the studio teacher.

### Committees

Each senior-project committee shall include the two full-time faculty members assigned to your specific emphasis area with the part time-studio teacher added as needed. Share your ideas about the project with them. Refine your ideas and those suggested to you by the members of the faculty so you can fill out the Draft/Description of project section of the Senior Project Form. The chair of your committee will be responsible for all direct communication with you during the planning and implementing of your senior project and for administering your grade.

### **Recitals/Pre-Recital Jury/Rehearsals**

Recital senior projects are approximately 60 minutes in length. Music Education students may choose to give a recital as all or a portion of their senior project. The recital repertoire must be approved by the studio teacher in conjunction with the student's committee chair. This program will be listed on the Senior Project Form. Each recital will have a printed program with program notes and/or translations written in consultation with the studio teacher.

A Pre-Recital Jury is mandatory for all recital senior projects. See the "Recital Preparation and Approval Form" for detailed information.

Rehearsals for recitals normally take place during student's studio lesson times as well as weekly coaching and individual practice sessions, but if chamber ensembles or small groups/bands are involved on recitals, their rehearsals may need to be coordinated with the staff technician and the studio teacher. The dress rehearsal for a recital is coordinated by the chair of the committee, with the technician, the studio teacher, and the accompanist, if she is performing on your recital. **The studio teacher MUST attend the dress rehearsal of the recital.**

### Recital Preparation Timeline

#### *Spring Semester before final year*

1. Begin thinking about your recital repertoire. For performers, listen to many performances of literature for your instrument to help you in selecting repertoire that is appropriate for your level and for a senior recital. Develop a practice and lesson plan for summer. For composers, determine which works of yours to present, and begin identifying and inviting performers to be involved in your recital.
2. Seek out advice and guidance from your teacher to shape your program.

*Final year*

1. Enroll in Senior Project Research and Preparation (MU 4601) or Senior Studio (MU 4610). This is a requirement, not an option. This class must be taken before the student can complete their capstone project.
2. You should make final selections and develop a regular practice routine for learning your recital repertoire. Composers doing recitals should distribute parts to the performers and create a rehearsal schedule. If your recital is in fall, this should have been done the previous spring or during the summer.
3. Attend your lessons regularly. Perform recital repertoire in Performance Seminar as often as possible.
4. If your committee chair is NOT your studio teacher, make sure you keep him or her informed of your preparation process.
5. Seek performance opportunities on and off campus; local nursing homes, churches, other schools, family gatherings, Music Hour, MU 3940s projects, etc. Recording these performances in video or audio format, for reflection and personal analysis, is recommended.
6. Work with your studio teacher or committee chair to develop your program draft complete with program notes and translations where necessary.
7. Schedule your pre-recital jury for 4 weeks before your recital date. This often takes place during winter quarter exam week. Your entire committee must attend the pre-recital jury as well as any guest artists who may be performing on your recital. A draft of your program and publicity flyer must be submitted at that time for approval.
8. Schedule your dress rehearsal if you have not already done so. Your studio teacher must attend the dress rehearsal.
9. If possible, it is highly recommended that you take off work or limit work hours to a minimum during the week of your performance. You want to be rested and to have time to practice and do any last minute preparation. You want to be healthy and have the time to focus on your performance.
10. Perform your dress rehearsal 2 or 3 days before the recital. Wear your performance shoes and attire. Receive feedback from your teacher. Reflect and make corrections during the final days before the performance.
11. Perform your recital! Your family may provide a reception following your program.
12. Meet with your committee approximately 1-2 weeks following your recital to evaluate the experience and receive your final grade.

FAQ

1. “How long is the recital?”

*Each recital is about one hour to one hour plus 15 minutes long. That includes a 10-minute intermission.*

2. “How should I dress?”

*You should dress in a professional manner appropriate for your particular area of expertise. Discuss your attire with your teacher for suggestions.*

3. “Can someone assist me on my recital?”

*Your studio teacher has the final word on repertoire for the recital. It is often to the benefit of the student to include chamber music, duets or ensembles as part of the recital program.*

4. “What exactly happens during the pre-recital jury?”

*During the pre-recital jury, you will present your program to the committee. Usually the entire recital is not performed, but the studio teacher takes the lead in determining what segments or excerpts will be performed. The committee must determine if you will be prepared for a public performance in approximately 4 weeks from this jury.*

5. “What happens if I fail the pre-recital jury?”

*As this is your capstone project, you should never be in a position to fail MU 4621. If you have closely followed instructions, and maintained good practice and performance routines, it is unlikely that you will fail. Sometimes however, there may be suggestions on the order of the music or in extreme cases, suggestions to remove something from the program that is not up to par. If the student is clearly not prepared, then failing the pre-recital jury means that you receive an F for MU 4621. You would need to re-register for the class in a subsequent quarter and do the whole process over again.*