General Introduction

Each music major must complete a senior capstone project. A capstone project should demonstrate a synthesis of all the knowledge the student has learned throughout his or her college career. The project should also prove that the student is ready to move forward academically, whether by entering graduate or professional school, pursuing a credential, or entering the work force. Performance majors must present a recital. Music Education majors may present a recital, a presentation, or a combination of the two.

All students will enroll in MU 460: Senior Seminar in the fall of his or her final year. A student enrolled in MU 460 has the option to present a project in the winter or spring quarter of the current academic year, or the fall quarter of the following academic year. The student enrolls in MU 462: Senior Project in the quarter that he/she presents their capstone project.

Scheduling

Faculty will assign your committee members and chair as well as your presentation date and time during the summer of the year preceding your presentation. If you are unable to complete your project on the assigned date for whatever reason, you will be moved to the following academic year for final presentation. If you are enrolled in MU 460 and do not pass your qualifying review, you will receive an “F” for the course and will need to repeat it the following year.

You will also need to work with your committee to set dates for your Pre-Recital Jury and dress rehearsal. Furthermore, you will need to turn in all required documentation by due dates and attend all studio lessons and 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 Recital Approval form 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)

Preparation and Performance

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. Music Education majors may perform a recital, present a project, or combine the two under the direction of the committee chair and the studio teacher.

Committees

Each senior project committee shall consist of 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 MU 462 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 specifically for Performance emphasis music majors and 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 MU 462 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 coachings 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 *(based on a spring quarter recital; if performing in an earlier quarter, make adjustments as needed)*

**Spring Quarter before final year**

1. Begin thinking about your recital repertoire. 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.
2. Seek out advice and guidance from your teacher to shape your program.

**Fall Quarter of final year**

1. Enroll in **MU 460: Senior Seminar.** This is a requirement, not an option. This class is only offered in the fall, and must be taken before the student can complete their capstone project. In this class, you will determine which quarter you will make your presentation. (See 2nd paragraph of general introduction above for more information.)
2. Assuming your recital is in spring quarter, you should make final selections and develop a regular practice routine for learning your recital repertoire. If your recital is in winter quarter, 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.

**Winter Quarter of final year**

1. Continue with more frequent Seminar performances, attendance at lessons and regular practice.
2. Meet with your committee at least once during the quarter to apprise them of how the project is progressing.
3. Seek out performance opportunities on and off campus; local nursing homes, churches, other schools, family gatherings, Music Hour, etc.
4. Work with your studio teacher or committee chair to develop your program draft complete with program notes and translations where necessary.
5. 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.

6. Schedule your dress rehearsal if you have not already done so. Your studio teacher must attend the dress rehearsal.

Spring Quarter of final year
1. Enroll in MU 462: Senior Project if this is the quarter in which you are presenting your recital.
2. Continue with your practice and performance routines. Select your attire for the performance in consultation with your studio teacher.
3. Two weeks before the performance, post your flyers in the department and submit your final program to Teresa.
4. 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.
5. Perform your dress rehearsal 2 or 3 days before the recital. Wear your performance shoes. Receive feedback from your teacher. Reflect and make corrections during the final days before the performance.
6. Perform your recital! Your family may provide a reception following your program.
7. 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 462. 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 462. You would need to re-register for the class in a subsequent year and do the whole process over again.

Rev. 9/22/2011