

Towson University – Department of Music

Proficiency Levels for Applied Lessons

Discipline: COMPOSITION

General Information:

- The stated proficiencies below apply to all students taking lessons in the particular discipline.
- Level of difficulty for specific repertoire will be adjusted based upon the student's degree program.
- These proficiencies are the minimums for a passing grade in the discipline.
- Any student wishing to take 300-level applied lessons must successfully pass an upper division jury demonstrating the proficiencies as articulated below.

Proficiencies for a 1-credit lesson

Freshman Level

- Treatment of basic compositional technique and the composition of exercises and short works of original music
- Beginning development of notational skill, compositional methods and media with an emphasis on smaller designs and expanding harmonic languages based on student interests.
- Students will work with vocal and solo instrumental writing and will develop clear and accurate music manuscript

Sophomore Level

- Treatment of intermediate compositional technique and the composition of exercises and short works of original music
- Intermediate development of notational skill, conceptual and compositional methods, and use of media with an emphasis on larger designs and exploration of chromatic idioms and harmonic language based on student interests

- Students will work with vocal and instrumental writing and will develop clear and accurate music manuscript
- Beginning at the 200-level, students are encouraged to organize and produce readings, recordings and performances of their work during each semester. The performed works will be part of the assessment during the upper division jury at the end of two semesters of lessons at the 200 level.

Upper Division Jury (end of 2nd semester sophomore lessons)

- Proficiency in all material assigned in the first two years

Junior Level

- Complete original compositions and present them in public performances
- Development of compositional methods and media with an emphasis on the development of the student's original approaches to musical line, formal structure, and harmonic language
- Students will work with a variety of vocal and instrumental combinations and will work to develop skills with computer notation applications
- At the conclusion of each 300-level semester, the student is expected to have completed at least one substantial work of 3-6 minutes duration

Senior Level

- Complete original works completing the student's portfolio and preparing for the senior composition recital
- Development of moderate to large-scale chamber works addressing advanced techniques for instrumental and vocal combinations, formal design, and mature expression
- Students will continue to develop and master their notational skills using computer notation applications
- At the conclusion of the 400-level semesters, the student is expected to have completed at least one substantial work of 4-8 minutes duration for his/her portfolio and recital.
- Students are encouraged to organize and produce performances of their works on the composers' joint recital programs during the fall and spring semester
- Senior Recital (*required based upon degree program*)
- Composition portfolio (*required based upon degree program*)

Proficiencies for a 2-credit lesson

Freshman Level

- Treatment of basic compositional technique and the composition of exercises and short works of original music
- Beginning development of notational skill, compositional methods and media with an emphasis on smaller designs and expanding harmonic languages based on student interests
- Students will work with vocal and solo instrumental writing and will develop clear and accurate music manuscript

Sophomore Level

- Treatment of intermediate compositional technique and the composition of exercises and short works of original music
- Intermediate development of notational skill, conceptual and compositional methods, and use of media with an emphasis on larger designs and exploration of chromatic idioms and harmonic language based on student interests
- Students will work with vocal and instrumental writing and will develop clear and accurate music manuscript
- Beginning at the 200-level, students are expected to organize and produce readings, recordings, and performances of their work during each semester. These performed works will be part of the assessment during the upper division jury at the end of two semesters of lessons at the 200 level

Upper Division Jury (end of 2nd semester sophomore lessons)

- Proficiency in all material assigned in the first two years

Junior Level

- Complete original compositions and present them in public performances
- Development of compositional methods and media with an emphasis on the development of the student's original approaches to musical line, formal structure, and harmonic language
- Students will work with a variety of vocal and instrumental combinations and will work to develop skills with computer notation applications

- At the conclusion of each 300-level semester, the student is expect to have completed at least one substantial work of 3-6 minute duration
- Students are expected to organize and produce performances of their works on the composers' joint recital programs during the fall or spring semester of their junior year
- During the junior year, students begin to plan and compose for their senior composition recital

Senior Level

- Complete original works completing the student's portfolio and preparing for the senior composition recital
- Development of moderate to large-scale chamber works addressing advanced techniques for instrumental and vocal combinations, formal design and mature expression
- Students will continue to develop and master their notational skills using computer notation applications
- At the conclusion of the 400-level semesters, the student is expected to have completed at least one substantial work of 4-8 minutes duration for their portfolio and recital
- During the two semesters at the 400-level, the student will have completed the require3d portfolio of 4-6 original music and will successfully propose and present a recital of his or her original compositions
- While the primary focus of the 400-leel semesters is on preparing for the composition portfolio and recital, students are encouraged to organize and produce performances of their works on the composers' joint recital programs during the fall and spring semester
- Senior Recital (*required based upon degree program*)
- Composition portfolio