

STRINGS JURIES/EXAMS

Semester Juries: Every Music Major enrolled in Applied Music lessons must perform a jury for members of the faculty at the close of each semester. The only **exception** to this policy is during the semester in which students perform a juried recital (official graduation requirement). Juries are scheduled during the final examination period. Students are expected to have a pianist for the repertoire that requires one.

Contents: Material for the Semester Jury should include two contrasting pieces (one of these could be an etude), and a scale for those students who have not taken/passed the Sophomore Barrier Exam. One of the pieces must be played from memory.

Time limit: Although the time limit for the Semester Jury is ten minutes, students should prepare complete movements/single pieces/etudes. The faculty jury reserves the right to stop and/or skip portions of larger pieces.

Students should treat juries like a professional audition and should dress professionally. Please consult with your studio teacher if you have any questions about this policy.

SOPHOMORE BARRIER EXAM (Upper-level Proficiency Jury): At the end of the sophomore year all music majors must pass an Upper-Level Proficiency Jury in order to advance to upper-division (300-level) status. Students who fail any portion of this jury will be placed on probationary status and are given two more opportunities to raise their performance level to upper-division status.

Contents: In the String Area the Sophomore Barrier Exam consists of two contrasting movements from standard works (concertos, sonatas, etc.) and **all** major and minor scales. The chosen movements can be from a single piece or from different works. Music **Performance** majors are required to prepare three movements. The scale portion of the exam as well as one of the movements must be played from memory (Performance majors are required to play **all** movements from memory). Students who do not satisfactorily complete the Sophomore Barrier Exam requirements will not be able to register for upper division lessons (300 level). In that case, they may register for lower division lessons and retake the exam.

Grading: The barrier exam is an important performance in which the student demonstrates his/her level of preparation in front of the string faculty. The exam is graded as “pass” or “fail” based on **this single performance**.

Note that the grade for the barrier exam is separate from the grade for applied lessons, and it is not included in official transcripts. Progress and efforts shown throughout the semester in combination with the policies in the teacher’s syllabus are reflected on the student’s applied lessons grade.

Expectations: In order to pass, students are expected to show evidence of extensive practice on the assigned material. The repertoire pieces and scales should be nearly perfect.*

** For grading purposes, nearly perfect means that the student must know the music sufficiently well, that good intonation is consistent, rhythm and memory are solid, and that the student has good control of her/his tone production.*

Retaking the Barrier Exam: Students can retake the exam toward the beginning of the following semester before the drop/add period ends. If they pass, this will allow them to register for the appropriate course number without delaying their graduation plans. Students who retake the barrier exam must play all portions of the exam, two contrasting movements (three for Music Performance majors) from standard works and **all** major and minor scales. It is at the discretion of the teacher to change or retain the repertoire pieces from a previous exam.

Upper-level Study: The number of semesters of upper-level study in Applied Music is dependent upon the student's degree plan:

- Bachelor of Music in Performance: requires a minimum of four semesters.
- Bachelor of Music with Teacher Certification (Music Education): requires a minimum of three semesters.
- Bachelor of Music in Music Therapy: requires a minimum of two semesters.