

Assurance of Student Learning Reflection 2024-2025

<i>PCAL</i>	<i>Department of Music</i>
<i>Master of Music 453</i>	
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Is this an online program? ☐ Yes ☒ No	Please make sure the Program Learning Outcomes listed match those in CourseLeaf. Indicate verification here ☒ Yes, they match! (If they don't match, explain on this page under Evaluation)

Instructions: For the 2024-25 assessment, we are asking you to reflect on the last three-year cycle rather than collect data. It's important to take time to look over the results from the last assessment cycle and really focus on a data-informed direction going forward. In collaboration with your assessment team and program faculty, review each submitted template from 2021-2024 and consider the following for each Program Learning Outcome, add your narrative to the template, and submit the draft to your ASL Rep by May 15, 2025.

Program Student Learning Outcome 1	
Program Student Learning Outcome	Demonstrate written/oral analytical processes in musicianship.
Evaluation	This program learning outcome remains relevant and accurately reflects the program's objective to develop analytical and reflective skills in musicianship. It is measurable and well-aligned with graduate-level expectations. Based on the last three cycles, the outcome is appropriate and does not require changes.
Measurement Instruments	The primary instruments are the Exit Oral Exam (direct) and the Annual Student Survey (indirect). The Exit Oral Exam is a comprehensive assessment that requires students to demonstrate their analytical, historical, and pedagogical knowledge. The survey offers insights into student perceptions of their educational experience. While the Exit Oral Exam is effective, the low response rate in surveys suggests that it may not be the most reliable indirect measure.
Criteria & Targets	The target for the Exit Oral Exam is 75% of students earning a score greater than 3 on a 0-4 scale. The survey target is 75% of students rating the quality of their education as "Good" or "Outstanding." These targets remain appropriate for the graduate level. However, the survey may not be an effective measurement instrument.
Results & Conclusion	Results: In the most recent cycle (2023-24), 100% of students met the target on the Exit Oral Exam. In 2022-23, the target was also met, though earlier cycles showed weaker outcomes, primarily due to a cohort with limited research and writing backgrounds. Additionally, the survey is not an effective measurement instrument. Conclusions: The improvement in outcomes can be attributed to the enhanced admission process, which now includes writing samples and interviews. This has led to a more prepared and capable cohort of graduate students. The primary challenge remains the low participation in the survey, suggesting a need for an alternative indirect measure.

<u>**IMPORTANT - Plans for Next Assessment Cycle:</u>	In the next assessment cycle, we will continue utilizing the enhanced admission process, including writing samples and interviews, as it has proven effective in preparing capable graduate cohorts and maintaining a 100% pass rate on the Exit Oral Exam. To sustain this success, we will continue to emphasize critical analysis in coursework and through mentorship. To gather more meaningful feedback, we will implement exit interviews with graduate students immediately following their oral examination, given the small cohort size. To encourage candid responses, students will have the option to participate in the interview or complete an anonymous survey. Data collected will guide further improvements in graduate student preparation and program effectiveness.
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Program Student Learning Outcome 2	
Program Student Learning Outcome	Demonstrate degree level proficiency in applied area of study/performance.
Evaluation	This outcome is vital to the program's mission of training proficient and skilled musicians. It is clearly measurable through the Capstone Project and continues to be relevant.
Measurement Instruments	The primary instruments are the Capstone Project (direct) and the Annual Student Survey (indirect). The Capstone Project remains an effective measure of practical skills and artistic presentation. The survey offers insights but is limited by low participation rates.
Criteria & Targets	The success criterion for the Capstone Project is that 75% of students achieve a score above 3 on a 0-4 scale. The survey criterion is 75% of students rating their applied courses as "Good" or "Outstanding."
Results & Conclusion	<u>Results:</u> The Capstone Project consistently met the target in recent cycles, with all students scoring above 3 in 2023-24. The survey also indicated high satisfaction among students who participated. Earlier cycles, however, faced challenges with lower performance, particularly among students from less rigorous academic backgrounds. <u>Conclusions:</u> The rise in successful Capstone completion reflects improved student preparation and the effectiveness of individualized mentorship. The primary challenge remains the low participation in the survey, suggesting a need for an alternative indirect measure.
<u>**IMPORTANT - Plans for Next Assessment Cycle:</u>	In the next assessment cycle, we will continue to support applied study (instrumental or conducting) through mentorship and consistent feedback, as these practices have proven effective in preparing students for successful Capstone completion. To gather more meaningful feedback on students' proficiency in their applied area of study, we will implement exit interviews immediately following the Capstone presentation, considering the small cohort size. Students will have the option to participate in the interview or complete an anonymous survey. Data collected will guide further improvements in mentorship practices and performance training.

To add more outcomes, if needed, select the table above and copy & paste below.