

Jacksonville State University
David L. Walters Department of Music
Student Handbook

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the David L. Walters Department of Music at Jacksonville State University. This handbook and the JSU Catalog contain all the information music majors will need regarding policies, procedures, and personnel. Please contact the Music Office with any questions regarding these policies. Call (256) 782-5559 or go to the office at 274 Mason Hall.



**DAVID L. WALTERS
DEPARTMENT OF
MUSIC**

MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to develop musicians who are aware of the past, engaged in the present, anticipating the future, and capable of leading and making musical contributions in whatever community or walk of life they choose. We offer professional training and promote scholarship among students in the discipline of music, sharing the expertise of our faculty in the training of music educators and performers. We recognize the interdependence among performance studies, music education and the theoretical and historical aspects of musical study, and we strive to instill excellence in each of these areas. We provide leadership for the region, and serve the musical needs of the University, the general college student, campus cultural goals, and the larger surrounding community through ensembles, solo performances, and curricular offerings.

ACCREDITATION

The David L. Walters Department of Music at Jacksonville State University is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music (NASM). NASM is an organization of schools, colleges, and universities that offer music studies. Founded in 1924, it has 625 institutional members. It establishes threshold standards for undergraduate and graduate degrees and other credentials. Institutional membership is obtained and continued through the peer-review process of accreditation.

PHILOSOPHY OF NASM

Music is a profession requiring talent, knowledge, skill, and dedication. Employment depends almost entirely on demonstrated competence. Success is based primarily on work rather than on credentials. Experience tells us that music, though dependent on talent, inspiration, and creativity, requires much more to function as a significant spiritual and educational force. Talent without skills, inspiration without knowledge, and creativity without technique can account for little but lost potential. The primary purpose of schools of music is to help individual students turn talent, inspiration, creativity, and dedication into significant potential for service to the development of musical culture in its multiple dimensions. Therefore, the focus of NASM's work is on issues of musical content and educational substance as applied to the preparation of music professionals.

ADMINISTRATION- COLLEGE OF ARTS, HUMANITIES, AND SCIENCES

- Dean: Dr. Timothy H. Lindblom (256) 782-8488 tlindblom@jsu.edu
- Associate Dean: J. Seth Johnson (256) 782-8630 jsjohnson@jsu.edu
- Department Head: Dr. Renée Baptiste (256)782-5560 baptiste@jsu.edu
- Senior Lead Advisor: Matt Hill (256) 782-8467 mrhill@jsu.edu

ADMISSION

Admission Procedure Checklist for Incoming Freshmen and Transfer Students

1. Apply for admission to the University.
2. Audition for entry to music degree programs.
3. Music major degree programs and music minor degree programs are all handled the same way.

Admission to Music Degree Programs

Admission to music major and music minor degree programs can be granted during scholarship auditions, during jury exams, or by an ad hoc committee of three faculty members. Students will be judged on solo material, exercises, or scales appropriate to their instrument or voice. They also will be asked to sight read a musical example.

Students who have not been accepted into a music degree program may not sign up for primary applied courses, music theory, or any other professional music courses without prior approval of the appropriate faculty member.

Non-music majors may participate in any of the music ensembles. Acceptance into many of the ensembles is by audition.

Admission to the Teacher Education Program

Students usually apply for admission to the College of Education after completing at least 60 hours of coursework. A minimum 2.5 GPA for all coursework attempted is required for entrance into the College of Education. Further explanation of these requirements will occur during the MU 244 (Introduction to Music Education) course.

Admission requirements can be found at the following link:
<https://www.jsu.edu/education/acpi/application/index.html>

Admission to the University

See the JSU Catalog for information regarding admission policies:

[Admission to the University < JSU](#)

ADVISEMENT/ADVISORS

All new JSU students are required to attend an orientation session. Freshman and transfer students receive information on a wide range of topics at these one-day orientation sessions and are assisted with their first semester registration by orientation faculty advisors and peer student advisors. A first semester trial schedule for incoming freshman music major should include the following: SSC 101 (First Year Experience) *Incoming freshman only

MU 104 (Concerts and Recitals)

MU 134 (Primary Applied)

An ensemble course (Band, Orchestra, or Chorus) MU 169 or 170 (Class Piano)

MU 101 (Music Theory)

MU 111 (Aural Skills)

A Math course and an English course (If scheduling and the student's abilities permit adding another course, then PSY 201, Intro. to Psychology, would be a good choice.)

After the music major is accepted into a degree program and registered for classes, a music advisor will be assigned to the student.

Course requirements for music major and music minor degree programs, as well as course descriptions and plans of study can be found in the JSU Catalog.

[Jacksonville State University Catalogs < JSU](#)

Reasons to see your advisor:

To address any problems which affect your academic performance.

To select courses for the upcoming semester.

To discuss academic performance.

To explore academic and professional issues.

To discuss departmental requirements and course sequences.

To discuss elective course work in the major or in other departments.

Do your own homework. Be prepared with a Trial Schedule and a Course Schedule. Have courses selected, as well as alternative choices for your advisor to see. Your advisor must sign your trial schedule before they give you your PIN, so that you can register for those classes.

See your advisor at least 2 weeks prior to pre-registration.

IMPORTANT: When adding or dropping courses, remember to drop the undesired course **BEFORE** adding an additional course. If you find that you must drop a course, be sure to officially process the drop – do not just stop going to class.

During the **OPEN REGISTRATION** period, you may revise your schedule by adding or dropping courses. After classes begin, there is a period of approximately one week during which courses may still be added to your schedule. Classes may be dropped without academic penalty until approximately one week after mid-term grades are due from the faculty.

Students who register after classes begin are charged a late registration fee.

Auditions for certain ensembles within the Music Department will be held early to ensure that students have time to have the ensemble added to their schedule **BEFORE THE LAST DAY TO ADD**.

ATTENDANCE AND ABSENCES POLICY

The attendance policy for each academic class will be clearly communicated to the student via the course syllabus. Students will receive this syllabus on the first- or second-class meeting. Attendance policies may differ from faculty member to faculty member, however, the basic rule enforced by the music department is that students are allowed a semester total of one absence for each time during the week that the class meets plus one additional absence. For example, if a class meets on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, a student could miss four class meetings for the semester. If a class meets only on Tuesday, the student could miss two class meetings for the semester. If a student misses more than this number of classes for any reason the instructor may fail the student at his/her discretion.

Note: If a student fails a class due to absences, the student will receive an FA (Failure due to Absences).

APPLIED LESSONS

The one-on-one interaction provided through applied lessons is an extremely important part of an education in music and is to be taken very seriously. Absences are not tolerated except in extreme circumstances. Any anticipated absence must be discussed with the applied teacher no later than 24 hours in advance, but preferably as far in advance as possible. Teachers are not

expected to make up lessons due to unexcused absences. Attendance at studio master classes and studio required events such as guest master classes and/or recitals will be factored into the final grade.

SECONDARY APPLIED LESSONS

The secondary lesson can be used for a few reasons:

As an option for non-majors to take lessons.

Music Majors to take lessons on instruments other than their primary instrument.

For a student as they attempt to pass their Mid Degree Assessment or to get into a studio after an unsuccessful jury or audition to move up.

ACCOMPANYING

Students are responsible for finding an accompanist for each performance. This can be a teacher, student, or person outside the department. It is the student's responsibility to set up a rehearsal schedule and to pay the accompanist a fee that is agreed upon by both parties. A list of accompanists can be acquired from your primary teacher or from any piano faculty member.

ENSEMBLES

Each ensemble director sets the attendance policy for their ensemble; however, the music department enforces this rule: a grade of F will be given to any student who has an unexcused absence for a dress rehearsal, a concert, or a scheduled performance.

DEGREES OFFERED (undergraduate)

Bachelor of Arts in Music

Concentration One: Music Education

The Music Education degree has two areas of emphasis - Instrumental and Vocal. The program is intended for students seeking Alabama state teacher licensure K-12 in either instrumental or vocal/choral areas. Successful completion of the designated curriculum as well as meeting other requirements made by the State of Alabama Department of Education will fulfill the requirements for the issuance of the professional certificate to teach music in Alabama public schools on both the elementary and secondary levels. The department seeks to ensure that the musical competencies necessary to teach music are acquired and that the skills required to

conduct music classes in a public-school setting are developed. This requires acquisition of a broad array of skill sets and knowledge: theoretical, historical, and practical. In addition, it requires thorough preparation and public demonstration of musical performance ability in a primary performance medium.

Concentration Two: General Music

The General Music concentration has two areas of emphasis - Instrumental and Vocal. This concentration is intended for students seeking a traditional liberal arts degree with a major in music. It requires a non-music minor area as well as a foreign language. It allows students to become immersed in music in a broad context. The curriculum is complemented with electives which allow the student to choose the area of music he/she desires to pursue in greater depth. Some students choose additional electives in the performance area and others choose the theory area, etc. This curriculum gives the solid structure of a comprehensive major field, a broad background in the liberal arts and allows freedom to pursue individual student interests as well. It allows the student to prepare for specific career interests or for further study at the graduate level.

Concentration Three: Performance

The Music Performance has four areas of emphasis—instrumental, jazz, piano, and vocal. This concentration is for the student desiring a performance career. The typical student will follow this degree with graduate work in the concentration. Individuals with a degree in Music Performance delve deeply into the repertoire of their field, and perform in studio classes, junior and senior recitals, and association competitions. Courses in the degree include Applied Music, Literature/Repertoire, Pedagogy, and a variety of special topics, in addition to general music core courses. Students actively perform as soloists, collaborative musicians, and ensemble performers.

Degree check lists for undergraduate degrees in music at JSU can be found at the following link:

https://www.jsu.edu/music/student_resources.html

ENSEMBLE REQUIREMENTS

All music students are encouraged to participate in ensembles, each for one hour credit, since practical experience of this kind will be invaluable in future teaching, performance, and industry careers. Students may participate in multiple ensembles per semester. Each student must participate in large ensembles representing their certification area (instrumental or vocal/choral). Any change in the selection of requirement ensembles must have the written approval of the head of the Music Department.

The primary goal of any student in the Music Education major is to complete their music education degree and gain employment as a music educator. In the best interest of our students and their success in completing their degrees in a timely fashion, students are advised

to only participate in a number of ensembles that will allow them to complete their required coursework and primary applied responsibilities on a weekly basis. If participation in too many ensembles is hindering the student from completing coursework or adequately preparing for weekly lessons, the ensemble director, class instructor, and primary applied teacher can decide to limit the number of ensembles that students may participate in to allow the student to successfully complete their degree.

Description of JSU Music Ensembles can be found at the following link:
<https://www.jsu.edu/music/ensembles/index.html>

FACULTY/STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

Music faculty and staff contact information can be found at the following link:

[Faculty & Staff - David L. Walters Department of Music \(jsu.edu\)](#)

GRADUATE STUDY

Information regarding graduate programs in music can be found at the following link:

<https://www.jsu.edu/music/graduate/index.html>

JURY EXAMINATIONS

All students registered for primary applied music course are required to play a jury examination.

Students registered in the secondary level are not required to take a jury. However, students studying in the secondary level may be requested to play a jury by the applied teacher as part of the final grade.

Applied Music Final Examination Grade

A student must be registered in the jury-system www.jsu.jury-system.com prior to their jury. Students must select their day and time and complete a repertoire record for each semester.

Incompletes

If a student is given an Incomplete grade in an applied course because of a failure to take a jury examination, a special jury examination may be given at the discretion of the jury members.

Format

Each applied music area determines the jury requirements for that area.

Exceptions

Students may be exempt from jury performances during the semester in which they perform their junior or senior recitals (MU 300/400). Exception decisions are to be determined by the applied instructor.

Jury Grading

The applied teacher will determine the semester grade taking into consideration the jury grade, semester performances and general progress during the semester in question.

The semester grade given by the applied teacher may not differ from the jury grade by more than one letter except that a failing grade given by the jury must be officially recorded as the final grade.

The jury members will decide whether the student will remain at the present level of study, advance to a higher level, or be placed into a lower level.

See your applied teacher for more information about the requirements for your area.

LOCKERS

Lockers in Mason Hall are available through the music office and online at [Music Student Resources - David L. Walters Department of Music \(jsu.edu\)](#). The University is not responsible for any loss or damage of property from the lockers. It is the student's responsibility to see that all materials are secure and that lockers are cleaned out prior to the end of the academic year and/or summer term.

MUSIC LIBRARY

Musical scores, recordings, periodicals, and books are available in the Music Library and Listening Lab located on the sixth floor of the Houston Cole Library. A valid JSU ID is required to check out materials.

Students may also utilize several online databases including audio and text resources by going to www.jsu.edu/library.

RECITAL HALL USE, ORDERLINESS & ARRANGEMENT

The Recital Hall is used for a wide variety of purposes including rehearsals, performances, and classes. It is important that the room look as nice as possible for performances. It is also important that it be neat and tidy when not in use.

“All Clear” or “default” setting:

When not in use for performance or rehearsal, the room should be arranged as follows:

- Concert grand returned to the “garage” and locked.
- All black cloth-covered chairs neatly stacked in the behind-stage area.
- All music stands placed on racks.
- All instruments and percussion equipment returned to storage.
- All electronic equipment secured and safely locked.

Reservations:

The Recital Hall must be reserved for all events. Reservations are maintained in the Music Office, and online in the Student Resources tab (Request for calendar of events listing) and use of facility is made in the following priorities:

- Scheduled classes/rehearsals
- Performances by faculty and department ensembles
- Department-sponsored events
- Student degree recitals
- Student-sponsored events
- Individual reservation by music students
- Other requests for reservations.

The key for the Steinway piano locker is available through the Music Office. Only faculty members may check out this key and they must be present during any use of the Steinway.

RECITAL HALL AND MASON HALL CLASSROOMS AFTER HOURS

The Recital Hall in Mason Hall will be kept locked at all times and may be unlocked and used for performances, rehearsals, private practice, class meetings, or meetings of approved student groups if a faculty member is present.

Classrooms in Mason Hall will be locked after the last class of the day by the faculty member teaching the class. They may be unlocked and used for private practice or meetings of approved student groups if a faculty member is present or in the building. Mason Hall is open M-F 7-11 p.m. Weekends the building is open if events are scheduled.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS, FRATERNITIES, AND STUDENT INTEREST GROUPS

Students may use facilities for fundraising and student interest meetings. Scheduling of timeframes can be done at the Music Office, room 274.