

Contact: Diana Gonzalez

SCHOOL OF MUSIC ACCREDITATION REPORT
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA

Action Requested: Receive the accreditation report from the College of Humanities, Arts, and Sciences at the University of Northern Iowa for the School of Music.

Executive Summary: The School of Music in the College of Humanities, Arts, and Sciences offers the following degree programs that are accredited – Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Music, Artist Diploma, Master of Arts, and Master of Music. The programs (1) underwent a self-study that addressed the criteria defined by the accrediting body; and (2) had an on-site visit by peer evaluators. In December 2011, the School of Music was informed that the programs were accredited for the maximum period of 10 years. This report addresses the Board's Strategic Plan priority to provide "educational excellence and impact."

Background:

- ◇ **Description.** The mission of the School of Music is "to educate and prepare students for productive lives as teachers, performers, composers, scholars, and citizens, while also inspiring students of all degree programs to develop an appreciation for the place of music in a culturally diverse world." Educational experiences at UNI include personal attention to building skill and technique, excellent facilities to promote studies, and abundant opportunities to showcase individual talent.
 - ⇒ **Bachelor of Arts in Music** is a liberal arts degree program for students interested in combining the discipline of music training with the breadth offered by a liberal arts curriculum. Five tracks are available to pursue within this degree program (General, Jazz Studies, Music Technology, Performing Arts Management, and String Pedagogy).
 - ⇒ **Bachelor of Music (Composition Theory, Performance)** is a professional degree designed to prepare students for a career as a composer or an artist-performer; or entrance to graduate schools where further excellence in composition of in a performance area might be pursued.
 - ⇒ **Bachelor of Music (Music Education)** is a professional degree designed to prepare students for a teaching career and provides licensure in music for grades K-8 and 5-12.
 - ⇒ **Master of Arts in Music (General)** is a liberal arts degree program whose course of study comprises a minimum of specialization in an applied area with maximum curricular flexibility.
 - ⇒ **Master of Music (Composition, Conducting, Jazz Pedagogy, Music Education, Music History, Performance, Piano Performance and Pedagogy)** is a professional degree designed to prepare the graduate for enhanced opportunities in public and private school music teaching; college teaching; performance as a professional musician or composer, or further graduate work at the doctoral level. Included in this area are the Artist Diploma, Community Music School, and the Suzuki School.

- ◇ Purpose of Accreditation. An accredited educational program is recognized by its peers as having met national standards for its development and evaluation. To employers, graduate schools, and licensure, certification, and registration boards, graduation from an accredited program signifies adequate preparation for entry into the profession. In fact, many of these groups require graduation from an accredited program as a minimum qualification.
- ◇ Accrediting Agency. The accrediting body is the National Association of Schools of Music (NASM). It establishes national standards for undergraduate and graduate degrees and other credentials.
- ◇ Review Process. The self-study prepared by the School of Music contained the responses to the standards and guidelines required by the accrediting body – Purposes; Size and Scope; Finances; Governance and Administration; Faculty and Staff; Facilities, Equipment, Technology, Health, and Safety; Library and Learning Resources; Recruitment, Admission-Retention, Record Keeping, and Advisement; Published Materials and Web Sites; Programs, Degrees, and Curricula; and Music Unit Evaluation, Planning, and Projections.
- ◇ On-Site Team Report. In April 2011, the visiting team identified strengths and weaknesses. The visiting team determined that the programs met the standards except in two areas – faculty staffing and safety.
- ◇ Strengths Identified by the Visiting Team.
 - ⇒ “It appears that the school’s leadership is effective in managing the daily operation of the school. The Director appears to have the respect and confidence of the faculty and students.
 - ⇒ School appears to have good support from upper administration.
 - ⇒ Faculty appears to be highly competent, engaged, and collegial.
 - ⇒ Facilities are outstanding in terms of quality and meeting needs of the unit. Classes and rehearsal venues are well equipped to meet the needs of both faculty and students.
 - ⇒ Programs are well conceived and appear to satisfy the needs of students.
 - ⇒ It appears the school enjoys a strong reputation throughout region thus attracting very talented musician-scholars to the institution.
 - ⇒ Students are engaged in the program and exhibit strong skills and talent. They express high regard for the faculty, and appeared satisfied with the instruction they are receiving.
 - ⇒ The school recognizes the importance of community engagement and has effectively designed programs that reach out and engage community constituencies of all ages.”
- ◇ Standards Not in Compliance. (Changes implemented or planned by the College are identified in italics.)
 - ⇒ “With a single faculty member in musicology, it is unclear how the institution meets the following standard – ‘institutions shall maintain sufficient enrollment to support the specific programs offered including ...an appropriate number of faculty and other resources.’”

A new adjunct professor was hired to teach four courses during the current academic year. The standard is currently being met through additional staffing with an additional request for a tenure-track position (Assistant Professor of Music History) in progress.

- ⇒ “With regard to the piano lab in Russell Hall Room 61, it is unclear how the institution meets the following standard - ‘All instructional facilities shall be accessible, safe, and secure, and shall meet the standards of local fire and health codes.’”

This standard was met through appropriate corrections made by the University.

- ◇ Recommendations. These recommendations are made to assist the development of the music program at the University. The institution is under no obligation to respond to the Commission concerning these recommendations.

- ⇒ “A strong liberal arts education is among the stated objectives of each new Bachelor of Arts in Music track; however, the high number of music requirements in each program (50-60 credits) makes it possible for students to confuse these tracks with professional degrees in music. The Commission urges advisors to direct students to appropriately broad coursework outside music and not to compound the problem of potential confusion by allowing additional music coursework. In this regard, the Commission asks the institution to review the NASM Advisory on new federal regulations regarding misrepresentation.”

- ⇒ “The Commission recommends that the music unit consider listing only one Artist Diploma, to be identified by the number of credits and courses required, rather than the time on task.”

- ◇ Accreditation Status. In December 2011, the National Association of Schools of Music awarded accreditation to the School of Music Programs at the University of Northern Iowa for the maximum period of 10 years to 2021.