

Music Department Proposal

Concentration in Popular Music

This concentration is designed for young musicians who have not had formal training in music but perform popular music including Rock, Hip-Hop, Country, Gospel, Folk, Rap, and other genres. Some students may not read music but play “by ear” such as Rock guitarists and bass players, rappers, and others who learn music aurally. The music courses in the BA/BS music degree program and courses specific to the concentration will allow students greater depth of study and greater knowledge and skill development in their chosen genre. Since technology plays an important function in modern popular music, students will be required to take two courses in MIDI. Those interested in songwriting will be required to take the ECM course, ECM 2350 – Verse and Voice: Discovering the Poet in You.

All students will be required to audition before music faculty to demonstrate their skills and background in their particular genres.

Courses for Music Majors (B.A. and B.S.) pursuing the Concentration in Popular Music include all general education requirements and most of the required music courses for the B.A. and B.S. degree programs in Music with the following course substitutions:

MUS 3210 Jazz Theory (2 credits) for MUS 2010 Music Theory III (2 credits)

MUS 3220 Analysis and Composition in Small Form (2 credits) for MUS 2020 Music Theory IV (2 credits)

MUS 2080 Jazz Appreciation (4 credits) or MUS 4500 Special Topics in American Music (4credits) for MUS 3110 Music History I (3 credits)

All students in the Popular Music Concentration will also be required to take the following:

MUS 1230 MIDI (2 credits)

MUS 1240 MIDI (2 credits)

*ECM 2350 Verse and Voice: Discovering the Poet in You (4 credits) or ECM 2450 Introduction to Creative Writing (4 credits)

*Required only for students developing songwriting skills.

Students will continue to develop performance skills and literature understanding in their principal instrument private lesson studies (16 credits, 8 semesters) which whether as rock drummers, pop singers, jazz pianists, folk singers or others are the current requirements in the BA/BS music curricula.

They will also be required to take 8 credit hours of ensembles (also a requirement of the BA/BS Degree in Music) related to the styles studied such as the following:

MUS 1612 - Blues/Rock or Jazz Workshop (1 credit)

MUS 1614 – Chorale (1credit)

MUS 1615 - Jazz Ensemble (1 credit)

MUS 1616 – Show Choir (1 credit)

MUS 1617 – New Music Ensemble (1 credit)

MUS 1618 – Small Ensemble (1 credit)

MUS 1611 - Percussion Ensemble (1 credit)