

Bachelor of Arts in Music MUS 440 Senior Project

Course Information

The senior project for the Bachelor of Arts in Music is the culmination of the student's undergraduate education. The project will incorporate knowledge and coursework from the BAM elective plan or a subject related to their music degree. This course is intended for students in their last semester of study prior to graduation.

Course Guidelines and Procedures

Project Panel

The student is responsible for the formation of the project panel. The panel is comprised of:

- A primary reader from the Department of Music who will be the instructor of record;
- A second reader either from the Department of Music or another academic department at the discretion of the primary reader;
- An optional third reader.

Senior Project Proposal Procedures

The student will submit a project proposal under the following stipulations and procedures:

- 1) After discussion with the Primary Reader, the student will write a proposal in the form of an abstract (maximum of 250 words) describing the project;
- 2) The project proposal will be submitted through the [Senior Project Proposal Form](#) located on the Department of Music website. The deadline for submission is THE END OF THE SEVENTH WEEK in the semester prior to enrolling in MUS 440 Senior Project in Music;
- 3) The Primary Reader will indicate his or her approval of the student's proposal on the [Senior Project Proposal Sheet](#) and notify the chair of the Curriculum Committee by email;
- 4) The chair of the Curriculum Committee will communicate approval or denial of the proposal to the Primary Reader who will then communicate with the student.

Senior Project Format

To complete MUS 440, the student may opt to give either a paper presentation or lecture recital. The Primary Reader will schedule the lecture-recital or presentation on behalf of the student in the semester before MUS 440 is taken.

Students giving paper presentations will complete:

- a thesis-style paper
- a presentation script (the thesis paper may not be used as the presentation script)

Students performing lecture-recitals will produce either:

- a recital script, program, and program notes, OR
- thesis-style paper accompanied with recital scripts, program, and program notes.

Alternative formats may be approved by the Curriculum Committee.

All written documents and supplemental materials must be submitted electronically through the [Bachelor of Arts in Music - Senior Project Submission Form](#), TWO WEEKS PRIOR to the scheduled defense. Readers can retrieve submitted documents through the [Senior Project Submission Sheet](#).

Senior Project Defense

The student will complete a defense of their work with the project panel by:

- Giving a complete preview of the lecture-recital or presentation, and
- Successfully completing a question and answer session with project panel.

The defense must take place TWO WEEKS PRIOR to the lecture-recital or presentation.

The defense will have one of the following outcomes:

- Pass: the lecture recital/presentation may proceed as planned
- Pass with revisions: the lecture recital/presentation may continue with the date as planned but with requested changes. If revisions are needed for written documents, students will resubmit documents through [Bachelor of Arts in Music - Senior Project Submission Form](#) by THE LAST DAY OF CLASSES.
- Fail with continuance: The lecture recital or presentation must be rescheduled at least six weeks later in the same semester or the following semester in which case the instructor will assign a grade of incomplete.
- Fail with no continuance: The current project must be postponed to the next semester or a new project must be proposed.

A [Defense Completion Form](#) will be completed and signed by the project panel and filed in the main office.

Student/Primary Reader/Reader(s) Checklist

Summary of responsibilities of the student:

- Select senior project panel (a primary and other readers);
- Decide the topic and scope of the senior project with primary reader;
- Submit the [Senior Project Proposal Form](#) the end of the seventh week in the semester prior to enrolling in MUS 440 Senior Project in Music;
- Coordinate the date of the lecture-recital/presentation and defense with the primary reader;
- Submit the written document if required through the [Senior Project Submission Form](#) two weeks prior to the defense.
- Submit a revised document if required by the last day of classes.

Summary of responsibilities of the primary reader:

- Assist the student in the topic, scope and format of the senior project;
- Sign the [Senior Project Proposal Sheet](#) and secure the approval of other readers;
- Notify the chair of the Curriculum Committee of the signed proposal;
- Communicate with student regarding project approval;
- Communicate with the other members of the project panel;
- Schedule a date for the lecture-recital or presentation on behalf of the student;
- Schedule a date for the defense on behalf of the student;
- Complete and submit the [Defense Completion Form](#) and file the form at the main office;
- Develop a syllabus and set up criteria and rubrics for the assessment of the project;
- Meet with student on a weekly basis;
- With the agreement of the reader(s), assign a final grade of the project;
- Complete the [Senior Project Outcome Sheet](#) and file it at the main office by the end of the semester.

Summary of the responsibilities of reader(s):

- Meet individually with the student a minimum of two times;
- Approve the project on the [Senior Project Proposal Sheet](#) (NOTE: Readers outside the Department of Music will need to notify the primary of approval);
- Take part in the defense and sign the [Defense Completion Form](#).