

Violin/Viola Lessons – Spring 2018

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Student Learning Outcomes Through this course you will make progress towards meeting the following Student Learning Outcomes:

Course SLOs:

- 1) Students will demonstrate improvement in technique, tone, musicianship, and, where appropriate, intonation and/or diction.
- 2) Students will polish and perform repertoire appropriate to their level of skill.

Music Major SLOs:

- 1) Students will demonstrate the ability to hear, identify, and work conceptually with the elements of music – rhythm, melody, harmony, and structure.
- 2) Students will demonstrate familiarity with, and an ability to perform a wide selection of musical literature representing principal eras, genres, and cultural sources
- 3) Students will demonstrate ability in performing areas appropriate to the student's needs, interests, and degree path.

HSU Outcomes

- 2) HSU graduates will have demonstrated critical and creative thinking skills in acquiring a broad base of knowledge and applying it to complex issues
- 6) HSU graduates will be prepared to take responsibility for identifying personal goals and practicing lifelong learning.

Grades: will be based on

- 20% - attendance at concerts (10%), completion of reading/listening assignments (5%)
non-musical preparation (getting music, communication with pianists) (5%)
- 70% - evidence of consistent, quality practice, improvement in playing
- 10% end-of-semester jury grade

Note: The departmental lesson policy states: "A grade of B- is the minimum acceptable grade for lessons. A lower grade will result in probationary status in the studio."

Ensembles: All students who are taking lessons are required to play violin or viola in at least one music department ensemble. (Exceptions to this policy will only be granted for irresolvable schedule conflicts in semesters where only limited numbers of ensembles are offered.) Lesson grades will be lowered one complete letter grade if you do not perform in an ensemble (and have not discussed an exception with me within the first three weeks of the semester.) Ensemble requirements for Music Majors are found on the last page of this syllabus. Non-majors are encouraged to satisfy the requirements for General Option majors.

Attendance: You may miss up to two lessons for any reason. After that, each additional missed lesson will lower your semester grade by one complete letter grade.

Practice: "Let us be aware that, when we look back on our lives, we will have results or we will have reasons why we do not." – Ronda Cole

Your improvement and progress is directly related to the quantity and quality of your practice. Music majors at the top schools are consistently practicing 3 to 4 hours every day. (Note that those students practice more in a day than a half-hour-a-day student does in a week! Work that difference into months and years and you can easily see why some people progress more rapidly than others.) To make adequate progress, advanced music majors at HSU will need to schedule at least 1 1/2 to 2 hours of *daily* practice, while non- majors are encouraged to strive for at least an hour every day. Of course, quality of practice is as important as length of practice. Make sure that you are *concentrating* while you practice and that you focus on doing what we work on in your lesson. Try to practice so I don't have to say the same things two lessons in a row.

Performance: Musicians share their art through performances. The only way to develop confidence and control while performing is to do *lots* of performing. For music majors this is absolutely essential, but even for non-majors, the experience of performing tends to inspire better practice, prepares you for auditions into the community orchestra in the town where you will eventually live, prepares you for the performances you will give at your friends' weddings, and gives you confidence in your ability to make public presentations of any sort later in life. All students are expected to perform *at least* once a semester on a Friday at noon concert or a studio recital. *Students are strongly encouraged to attend all Friday at noon concerts.*

Concerts: All music majors are required to attend a minimum of 6 concerts each semester. (Concerts that you play in count only if you are in the audience for at least 75% of the concert.) In addition, I require that three of those concerts must involve a violin or viola. Music minors must attend at least four concerts, while non-majors are expected to attend at least three; in both cases, at least two of the performances must involve a violin or viola. *Save your concert programs!* They are due (along with your Lesson Summary Form) at your end of the semester jury.

Listening/ Reading: You can learn a great deal about music making from listening to recordings, attending concerts, and reading about various aspects of music making. All students will be expected to attend concerts and do some reading or listening, as described on the "Private Lesson Summary Form." Listening to as many recordings as possible of the piece you are studying is especially important. Listening is by far the best way to learn about the expressive aspects of music; daily listening to the piece you are studying improves your playing as much as if you practiced an eighth day in each week.

Juries: All students who take private lessons are required to take a jury examination at the end of the semester. During the jury you will play various of the technical exercises that we have worked on during the semester. In addition, you may play some of your solo repertoire. Special "upper division qualifying juries" are required to determine if & when you are ready to register for upper division (400-level) studio lessons. Students who plan to perform a Junior or Senior recital will have a special jury at least 5 days before the recital. For these pre-recital juries, students will perform excerpts from the recital repertoire; the jury panel must give clearance before the recital can be performed. Students who complete a recital jury do not have to take an end-of-the-semester jury.

Your completed lesson summary form (and concert programs) are due at your jury appointment. If you do not hand in a lesson summary form, you will receive no credit for concert attendance or reading/listing (15% of your grade).

Injuries Playing any instrument is a very repetitive activity that can lead to overuse injuries in hands and shoulders. In your lessons, we will work on developing a relaxed and efficient technique that will help you prevent injuries. In addition, keeping the following points in mind can help prevent injuries or keep them from becoming a chronic problem.

- Monitor yourself to be sure you are as relaxed as possible as you play.
- Take breaks, stretch, and rest. Avoid playing more than an hour without a break.
- Build up endurance to playing long hours. If you haven't been practicing, playing 3 hours in one shot is an easy way to injure yourself.
- If something hurts, it's a sign that something is wrong. STOP and rest – and come talk to me about it! Usually taking a day or two off will solve the problem *if* you take that day off as soon as you notice you have a problem. Continuing to play can make a small problem into a very large one.

Ensemble Requirements for Violin and Viola Majors

General or Composition Option:

- Play violin or viola in an ensemble every semester during which you take studio lessons.
- Complete at least five semesters of a conducted Ensemble (either Humboldt Symphony or Intermediate Orchestra)
- Complete at least two semesters of Chamber Music
- Complete a minimum of 8 semesters of Ensemble participation

Performance Option:

- Play violin or viola in an ensemble every semester during which you take studio lessons.
- Complete at least eight semesters of a conducted Ensemble (either Humboldt Symphony or Intermediate Orchestra)
- Complete at least four semesters of Chamber Music
- Complete a minimum of 12 Ensemble courses.

Music Education Option:

- Complete at least four semesters of a conducted instrumental Ensemble (Intermediate Orchestra, Symphonic Band, Humboldt Symphony)
- Complete at least one semester of a jazz ensemble
- Complete at least one semester of chamber music
- Complete at least two semesters of a vocal ensemble
- Complete a minimum of 8 semesters of Ensemble participation

Recommended:

- A conducted ensemble on your instrument *every* semester
- At least four semesters of chamber music and/or jazz ensembles
- At least one semester of Intermediate Orchestra on a “Families” instrument
- At least four semesters of vocal ensembles (with as much variety as possible)

Music Education Audition Requirements

Students must audition and be accepted into the Music Education concentrations no later than the end of their fourth semester at HSU for native HSU students, or by the end of their first semester at HSU for transfers, or by the end of their first semester as a Music Major for native students who change their major to music after completing four semesters at HSU.

Violin:

15 minutes of music including

1. 3 octave scales
2. A minimum of 13 minutes of music (one or two contrasting pieces or movements) chosen from the following or other works of comparable or greater difficulty
 - Accolay: Concerto
 - Bach: Concerto in a minor
 - Dvorak: Sonata
 - Handel: Sonatas in D major or A Major
 - Monti: Csardas

3. Sight Reading

Viola:

15 minutes of music including

1. 3 octave scales
2. A minimum of 13 minutes of music (one or two contrasting pieces or movements) chosen from the following or other works of comparable or greater difficulty
 - Bach: Suites
 - JC Bach/Cassadesus: Concerto
 - Handel/Cassadesus: Concerto
 - Schubert: Sonata in g

3. Sight Reading

Performance Concentration Audition Requirements

Students must audition and be accepted into the Performance concentration no later than the end of their fourth semester at HSU for native HSU students, or by the end of their first semester at HSU for transfers, or by the end of their first semester as a Music Major for native students who change their major to music after completing four semesters at HSU.

Violin:

1. Major and minor scales in 3 octaves
2. A fast movement of one of the following concertos: Kabalevsky, Mozart #4 or #5, Bruch, Lalo, Mendelssohn or other concerto of comparable or greater difficulty
3. A movement of a solo Bach Partita or Sonata
4. If needed, additional contrasting repertoire sufficient to have a total of 15 minutes of solo repertoire prepared. The additional repertoire could include the following or other works of comparable or greater difficulty
 - Beethoven: Romances, or any Sonata
 - Copland: Sonata
 - Kreister: Sicilienne and Rigadon, Praeludium & Allegro, Tamborin Chinois
 - Standard Orchestral Excerpts

4. sight reading

Viola:

1. Major and minor scales in 3 octaves
2. A fast movement of one of the following concertos: Hoffmeister, Stamitz, Walton, or other concerto of comparable or greater difficulty
3. A movement of solo Bach (not from the first Suite)
4. If needed, additional contrasting repertoire sufficient to have a total of 15 minutes of solo repertoire prepared. The additional repertoire could include the following or other works of comparable or greater difficulty
 - Brahms: Sonatas
 - Schubert: Arpeggione Sonata
 - Schumann: Fairy Tales
 - Vaughn Williams: Suite
 - Standard Orchestral Excerpts

4. sight reading