

**UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL OKLAHOMA**  
**JACKSON COLLEGE OF GRADUATE STUDIES**  
**MASTER OF MUSIC IN JAZZ STUDIES**  
**Performance and Music Production Majors**  
**Brian W. Gorrell, Graduate Advisor – updated August 2011**

The Master of Music in Jazz Studies is a specialized program allowing the student to concentrate in a traditional performance option or music production and engineering (instrumental or vocal). Both options develop a high level of performance proficiency in jazz and commercial music styles and expand creative skill, pedagogical practice, composition, arranging, and music technology at a more comprehensive level than can be obtained on the undergraduate level.

This program meets the need for a graduate course of study preparing students for successful careers in the jazz and commercial music industry. Many skills needed in modern music production are closely related to skills needed in jazz improvisation, composition, and arranging. Two areas of specialization allow students to focus primarily on the performance or production of jazz and other commercial styles culminating in either a graduate recital or the completion of a graduate CD album. The program is fully accredited by NASM (National Association of Schools of Music)

**I. Admission Essentials for the Master of Music in Jazz Studies:**

- A. Hold an undergraduate degree from an accredited institution.
- B. Contact the Graduate Advisor – Brian W. Gorrell to discuss the program. He can be reached via e-mail at [briangorrell@ucojazzlab.com](mailto:briangorrell@ucojazzlab.com) or by phone at: **(405) 359-7989 x 278**.
- C. Apply for admission to the **Jackson College of Graduate Studies (JCGS)**. The application can be completed online here: <http://www.uco.edu/graduate>

**Note:** No student will be admitted to this program or to the Jackson College of Graduate Studies who does not meet the program admission standards of an overall GPA of 2.50, or 2.75 GPA in the last 60 hours attempted.

- D. Perform an audition on your primary performance medium (instrumental or vocal). If accepted, take the Entrance Advisory Examination in Jazz Studies the week prior to your first semester. Information regarding the audition and exam is given below.
- E. Following the Entrance Advisory Examination, meet with Mr. Gorrell to work out a formal plan of study. A signed copy of this plan should be filed with the Jackson College no later than the end of the second week of classes.
- F. Any deficiencies or other provisions for the Master of Music in Jazz Studies degree (as outlined in the formal plan of study) are to be completed as soon as possible.

**II. Entrance Advisory Examination in Jazz Studies**

The required Entrance Advisory Exam is given the week prior to the start of the first semester. Students must take this exam prior to attending classes as overall academic qualifications are being assessed. The exam includes tests in aural skills, jazz theory & analysis, music history, arranging, and keyboard proficiency. A passing grade of 70% is required for each test. Students falling below 70% may make up deficiencies in one of two ways: Retake the test and score a passing grade, or enroll in course(s) as recommended by the graduate advisor and make a B or better. Note: Deficiencies must be removed prior to the Comprehensive Final Exam.

### **III. Audition**

All candidates must perform an audition on his/her primary applied instrument or voice to determine program eligibility. Candidates should plan to present a 20-30 minute audition. An accompanist is not required for instrumental auditions. Vocalists should bring either an accompanist or appropriate backing-tracks. Candidates should consult with the graduate advisor and the [MM Jazz Audition Requirements](#) online document regarding music selection and other specific expectations.

### **IV. Graduate Advisory Committee**

At the beginning of the second year of study every candidate for the Master of Music in Jazz Studies shall select an advisory committee consisting of the Graduate Advisor, the candidate's primary applied music instructor, and one additional jazz faculty member. The Advisory Committee shall serve as jury for the candidate's graduate recital or completed CD album, evaluate the graduate portfolio, and administer the final comprehensive oral examination.

### **V. Final Comprehensive Oral Examination**

Every candidate for the Master of Music in Jazz Studies must, at the conclusion of all coursework, pass a final comprehensive oral examination during finals week. Candidates must provide a graduate portfolio in triplicate to all three members of their committee no later than the Friday before finals week. The graduate advisor will provide specific information regarding portfolio contents. A grade of 90% is required to pass the examination. Students not at the 90% level will be required to complete additional studies/research as mandated by the committee.

### **VI. Graduate Jazz Recital (Performance) or Graduate CD Album (Music Production)**

In addition to the final comprehensive oral examination, every candidate for the **Master of Music Jazz Studies – Performance Major** must perform a Graduate Jazz Recital. The Graduate Advisory Committee must approve all material performed. The committee must also attend and approve a preview recital scheduled no later than two weeks prior to the actual recital date. The recital must be comprehensive and represent a variety of jazz styles with a minimum length of 60 minutes (actual playing time). The recital must include at least one selection composed by the candidate and all selections must be solely arranged by the candidate in a manner demonstrating professional quality results as determined by the committee. The recital must be professionally recorded and a final copy submitted to the graduate advisor no later than 10 days afterwards.

In addition to the final comprehensive oral examination, every candidate for the **Master of Music Jazz Studies – Music Production Major** must complete a Graduate CD Album. The Graduate Advisory Committee must approve all material included on the finished album. The completed album must be commercially viable and mixed/mastered to a professional standard with a minimum length of 45 minutes (actual playing time). The album must include at least two tracks composed by the candidate. All tracks must be solely arranged and produced by the candidate in a manner demonstrating professional quality results as determined by the committee. All tracking, overdubs, editing, mixing, and mastering must be completed by the candidate utilizing technology available at the UCO Jazz Lab or within the School of Music.

## **VII. Master of Music in Jazz Studies Curriculum**

### **A. Performance Major**

1. Ensemble Participation:	6 credits
To be chosen from: Jazz Ensemble, Wind Symphony, Symphonic Band, Marching Band, Orchestra, Choir, Graduate Jazz Combo, or any other participation approved by the Graduate Advisor. For at least two semesters, candidates must participate in two concurrent ensembles. <u>Jazz Ensemble is required every semester.</u>	
2. Applied Music (primary instrument/voice):	8 credits
3. Applied Jazz Improvisation:	4 credits
4. Jazz History:	3 credits
5. Computer Music Technology:	2 credits
Available only in Fall Semesters	
6. Jazz & Commercial Music Arranging:	3 credits
Available only in Spring Semesters	
7. Arts Management:	3 credits
Available only in Spring Semesters	
8. Jazz Pedagogy:	3 credits
Available only in Fall Semesters	
9. Graduate Jazz Recital:	2 credits
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Minimum Requirements for Performance Major:	<b>34 credits</b>

### **B. Music Production Major**

1. Ensemble Participation:	6 credits
To be chosen from: Jazz Ensemble, Wind Symphony, Symphonic Band, Marching Band, Orchestra, Choir, Graduate Jazz Combo, or any other participation approved by the Graduate Advisor. For at least two semesters, candidates must participate in two concurrent ensembles. <u>Jazz Ensemble is required every semester.</u>	
2. Applied Music (primary instrument/voice):	4 credits
3. Applied Jazz Improvisation:	4 credits
4. Jazz History:	3 credits
5. Computer Music Technology:	2 credits
Available only in Fall Semesters	
6. Jazz & Commercial Music Arranging:	3 credits
Available only in Spring Semesters	
7. Arts Management:	3 credits
Available only in Spring Semesters	
8. Advanced Recording Technology:	3 credits
Available only in Spring Semesters	
9. CD Album Pre-Production:	2 credits
Available only in Fall Semesters	
10. CD Album Production:	4 credits
Available only in Spring Semesters	
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Minimum Requirements for Music Production Major:	<b>34 credits</b>

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL OKLAHOMA  
MASTER OF MUSIC IN JAZZ STUDIES  
MAJORS IN PERFORMANCE OR MUSIC PRODUCTION  
**EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES – UPDATED AUG. 2011**

### OVERALL JOINT OBJECTIVES

This program satisfies the need for a graduate level course of study preparing students for careers in the jazz and commercial music industry. Many skills needed in modern music production are closely related to skills needed in jazz improvisation, composition, and arranging. The concept of having two majors available within one degree is not only relevant but efficient because there are a number of courses applicable to both areas of study including: Ensemble Participation, Applied Music, Jazz History, Computer Music Technology, Jazz & Commercial Music Arranging, and Arts Management. Students wishing to specialize primarily in the performance of jazz music would be better advised to follow the performance tract. The skills required of a professional jazz artist have proven to be the same necessary skills in many other styles of commercial music. Students wishing to be directly involved in the recording and production aspects of jazz and commercial styles would be better advised to follow the music production tract. Modern music production requires a high level of proficiency in composition, arranging, and recording technology. Music producers however are not always required to be as technically proficient in the actual live performance of such music.

### SPECIFIC EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES

#### **Master of Music in Jazz Studies – Performance Major**

At the completion of this graduate degree, the student shall demonstrate musical skills equivalent to working professional jazz and commercial musicians in major cities of the United States. (E.g. New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, Houston, OKC, Austin, etc.)

- The student shall be a technically proficient sight-reader.
- The student shall have memorized at least thirty jazz standards commonly performed by professional musicians.
- The student shall perform on his/her primary instrument/voice with a level of technical proficiency expected in the professional music business. (tone, style, technique, etc.)
- The student shall possess an appropriate level of technical proficiency on ‘doubling’ instruments in their area as determined by his/her applied music instructor. For example: Saxophonists are expected to double on clarinet and flute; Bassists are expected to perform on acoustic and electric bass; Etc.
- The student shall demonstrate professional arranging skills including writing for small and large ensemble combinations.
- The student shall demonstrate a high level of proficiency in composition.
- The student shall demonstrate competency in the use of computer music technology including notation, MIDI sequencing and audio recording.
- The student shall demonstrate skills necessary to successfully promote, market, and manage his/her professional career.
- The student shall demonstrate a working knowledge of the techniques used in teaching jazz and commercial music styles on both a one-on-one basis and small/large ensembles.

- The student shall be technically proficient sight-reading chord symbols and number charts on his/her primary instrument/voice and at the keyboard.
- The student shall demonstrate competent knowledge of jazz history, influences of all major artists, and current stylistic trends.
- The student shall demonstrate competency in scholarly writing by presenting research in jazz history, recording technology history, music analysis, and recital studies.
- The student shall perform a minimum sixty-minute recital that includes at least one original composition.

### **Master of Music in Jazz Studies – Music Production Major**

At the completion of this graduate degree, the student shall demonstrate skills equivalent to professional music producers in major cities of the United States. (E.g., New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, Nashville, Houston, OKC, Austin, etc.)

- The student shall be a technically proficient sight-reader.
- The student shall have memorized at least ten jazz standards commonly performed by professional musicians.
- The student shall perform on their primary instrument/voice with a demonstrated level of technical proficiency as determined by their applied instructors.
- The student shall demonstrate professional arranging skills writing for small and large ensemble combinations.
- The student shall demonstrate professional composition skills writing for small and large ensembles combinations.
- The student shall demonstrate professional skills in the use of computer music technology including notation, MIDI sequencing, and audio recording.
- The student shall demonstrate the basic skills necessary to successfully promote, market, and manage their professional career.
- The student shall be technically proficient sight-reading chord symbols and number charts on his/her primary instrument/voice and at the keyboard.
- The student shall demonstrate professional level skill working with computer based digital audio workstation software including *Digital Performer*, *Pro Tools*, and/or *Logic Pro*.
- The student shall demonstrate professional level skill in the technique of microphone selection and optimum placement; gain structure, and pre-amp choice.
- The student shall demonstrate professional level skill in the technique of tracking, mixing and mastering music.
- The student shall demonstrate competent knowledge of jazz history, influences of all major artists, and current stylistic trends.
- The student shall demonstrate competency in scholarly writing through the presentation of research in jazz history, recording technology history, digital music technology, and CD liner notes.
- The student shall independently compose, arrange, and produce a professional commercially viable CD album with a minimum of two original compositions. This completed CD will be at least 45 minutes in length.