

**University of Central Oklahoma**  
**College of Arts, Media & Design – School of Music**  
**Master of Music in Jazz Studies with Majors in**  
**Performance or Commercial Music Production**  
Brian Gorrell, Jazz Studies Division Head & Graduate Advisor

The Master of Music in Jazz Studies is a specialized program allowing the student to concentrate in a traditional performance option or commercial music production (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 commercial 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 commercial styles culminating in either a graduate recital or the completion of a graduate CD album.

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

- A. Hold an undergraduate degree from an accredited institution.
- B. Schedule a meeting with Brian Gorrell to discuss the program. Mr. Gorrell can be reached via e-mail at [bgorrell@ucok.edu](mailto:bgorrell@ucok.edu) or by phone at (405) 359-7989 x 278.
- C. Apply for admission to the **Jackson College of Graduate Studies & Research (JCGS&R)**. Forms are available online: <http://www.ucok.edu/graduate>

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

- D. Take the written Entrance Advisory Examination in Jazz Studies and perform an audition on your primary performance medium (instrumental or vocal). This should be done prior attending classes. Information regarding the exam is given below.
- E. Following the Entrance Advisory Examination, meet with Mr. Gorrell to work out a formal plan of study. A copy of this plan should be filed with the JCGS&R no later than the end of the second week of classes.
- F. Any prerequisites and deficiencies 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 Examination is given the week prior to the start of the semester. Consult Mr. Gorrell for specific details. Students should take this exam prior to attending classes. The student's qualifications are assessed by means of the Entrance Advisory Examination administered by the Jazz Studies Division. The examination includes tests in jazz theory & analysis, aural skills, keyboard proficiency, and jazz history. A passing grade of 70% is required in each test. Students falling below 70% may make up deficiencies in one of two ways:

1. Retake the test and score a passing grade.
2. Enroll in course(s) as recommended and make a B or better.

Note: Deficiencies must be removed prior to the Comprehensive Final Exam.

### **III. Audition**

All candidates will perform an audition in his/her applied performance area. This audition must be completed prior to the first meeting of classes. Candidates should plan to present a 20 minute audition. An accompanist is not required for instrumental auditions. Vocalists should bring either an accompanist or appropriate backing-tracks. Candidates should consult with Mr. Gorrell regarding music selection and other requirements.

### **IV. Advisory Committee**

Every candidate for the Master of Music in Jazz Studies shall select an advisory committee consisting of Mr. Gorrell, the candidate's primary applied music instructor, and one additional faculty member. The Advisory Committee shall serve as jury for the candidate's graduate recital or completed CD album and will evaluate the final comprehensive examination.

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

Every candidate for the Master of Music in Jazz Studies must, at the conclusion of coursework, pass a final comprehensive examination based on all courses taken. Students should apply no later than the 5<sup>th</sup> week of the semester in which he/she plans to take the examination. A date will be selected and the exam administered by the Advisory Committee. A grade of 80% is required to pass the examination. Students not at the 80% level will be required to complete additional studies as mandated by the Advisory Committee.

### **VI. Graduate Recital (Performance) or Graduate CD Album (Commercial Music Prod.)**

In addition to the final comprehensive examination, every candidate for the Master of Music in Jazz Studies with a Major in Performance must perform a graduate recital. The Advisory Committee must approve all material performed on the graduate recital. The Advisory Committee must also attend and approve a preview recital scheduled no later than two weeks prior to the actual recital date. The graduate recital must be comprehensive and represent a variety of styles in jazz and commercial music with a minimum length of 60 minutes. The recital must include at least one selection composed and arranged by the candidate. The recital must be professionally recorded and a copy submitted to Brian Gorrell no later than 10 days after the event.

In addition to the final comprehensive examination, every candidate for the Master of Music in Jazz Studies with a Major in Commercial Music Production must complete a graduate CD album. The Advisory Committee must approve all material included on the finished album. The completed CD album must be commercial viable and mixed/mastered to an acceptable standard with a minimum length of 45 minutes. A minimum of two tracks on the album must be composed by the candidate. All tracks must be solely arranged and produced by the candidate. All tracking, overdubs, editing, mixing, and mastering must be completed by the candidate utilizing recording technology at the UCO Jazz Lab or within the School of Music.

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

<b>A. Major in Performance</b>	
1. Ensemble Participation:	6 credits
To be chosen from Jazz Ensemble, Wind Symphony, Symphonic Band, Marching Band, Orchestra, Choir, or other ensemble approved by the Graduate Advisor. For at least two semesters, candidates must participate in two concurrent ensembles. Jazz Ensemble is required every semester.	
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 Semester	
6. Jazz & Commercial Music Arranging:	3 credits
Available only in Spring Semester	
7. Arts Management:	3 credits
Available only in Spring Semester	
8. Jazz Pedagogy:	3 credits
9. Graduate Jazz Recital:	2 credits
 Minimum Requirements for Major in Performance:	<hr/> <b>34 credits</b>

<b>B. Major in Commercial Music Production</b>	
1. Ensemble Participation:	6 credits
To be chosen from Jazz Ensemble, Wind Symphony, Symphonic Band, Marching Band, Orchestra, Choir, or other ensemble approved by the Graduate Advisor. For at least two semesters, candidates must participate in two concurrent ensembles. Jazz Ensemble is required every semester.	
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 Semester	
6. Jazz & Commercial Music Arranging:	3 credits
Available only in Spring Semester	
7. Arts Management:	3 credits
Available only in Spring Semester	
8. Advanced Recording Technology:	3 credits
Available only in Spring Semester	
9. CD Album Pre-Production:	2 credits
Available only in Fall Semester	
10. CD Album Production:	4 credits
Available only in Spring Semester	
 Min. Requirements for Major in Commercial Music Prod:	<hr/> <b>34 credits</b>

**SAMPLE PLAN OF STUDY  
MASTER OF MUSIC IN JAZZ STUDIES  
WITH MAJOR IN PERFORMANCE  
BASED ON FULL-TIME ENROLLMENT  
(9+ HOURS PER SEMESTER)**

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**Fall 1<sup>st</sup> year:**

Jazz Ensemble:	1
Additional Ensemble:	1
Applied Music:	2
Applied Jazz Improvisation:	1
Computer Music Technology (Fall only):	2
Electives:	2
Total:	<hr/> <b>9 credits</b>

**Spring 1<sup>st</sup> year:**

Jazz Ensemble:	1
Additional Ensemble:	1
Applied Music:	2
Applied Jazz Improvisation:	1
Jazz & Commercial Music Arranging (Spr. only):	3
Elective:	1
Total:	<hr/> <b>9 credits</b>

**Fall 2<sup>nd</sup> year:**

Jazz Ensemble:	1
Applied Music:	2
Applied Jazz Improvisation:	1
Jazz History:	3
Jazz Pedagogy:	3
Total:	<hr/> <b>10 credits</b>

**Spring 2<sup>nd</sup> year:**

Jazz Ensemble:	1
Applied Music:	2
Applied Jazz Improvisation:	1
Arts Management (Spr. only):	3
Graduate Jazz Recital:	2
Total:	<hr/> <b>9 credits</b>

TOTAL COMPLETED GRADUATE CREDIT HOURS: 37

**SAMPLE PLAN OF STUDY  
MASTER OF MUSIC IN JAZZ STUDIES  
WITH MAJOR IN COMMERCIAL MUSIC PRODUCTION  
BASED ON FULL-TIME ENROLLMENT  
(9+ HOURS PER SEMESTER)**

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**Fall 1<sup>st</sup> year:**

Jazz Ensemble:	1
Additional Ensemble:	1
Applied Music:	2
Applied Jazz Improvisation:	1
Computer Music Technology (Fall only):	2
Jazz History:	3
Total:	<hr/> <b>10 credits</b>

**Spring 1<sup>st</sup> year:**

Jazz Ensemble:	1
Additional Ensemble:	1
Applied Jazz Improvisation:	1
Jazz & Commercial Music Arranging (Spr. only):	3
Advanced Recording Technology (Spr. only):	3
Total:	<hr/> <b>9 credits</b>

**Fall 2<sup>nd</sup> year:**

Jazz Ensemble:	1
Applied Music:	2
Applied Jazz Improvisation:	1
CD Album Pre-Production (Fall only):	2
Electives:	3
Total:	<hr/> <b>9 credits</b>

**Spring 2<sup>nd</sup> year:**

Jazz Ensemble:	1
Applied Jazz Improvisation:	1
Arts Management (Spr. only):	3
CD Album Production (Spr. only):	4
Total:	<hr/> <b>9 credits</b>

TOTAL COMPLETED GRADUATE CREDIT HOURS: 37