

String Division Handbook
School of Music
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Dear Student,

Welcome to the String Division of the UNLV School of Music-these are important years in your development as an artist and person. We wish you every success in your student career and we are here to help you in any possible way to reach your potential. This document is designed to answer frequently asked questions about the string division at UNLV. The responsibility for knowing the information contained in this handbook, as with all of UNLV's school policies and procedures, rests with you. Consult your major teacher first with any departmental questions or concerns.

With best wishes,

The String Division Faculty

Policies

The UNLV School of Music, Division of Strings, is dedicated to educating string players for professional careers in music as performers, educators, and leading music advocates. Led by a distinguished faculty of international stature, our program offers degrees in BA, BM, MM, DMA, and Artist Diploma in violin, viola, cello, bass and harp.

UNLV string students are provided with ample opportunities locally, regionally, and internationally to refine their skills. The School of Music is dedicated to connecting our string division students to festivals, masterclasses, and professional opportunities on the UNLV campus and around the globe.

This document, the UNLV String Handbook, outlines our String Division policies (which are also compatible with the National Accreditation of Schools of Music).

1. The UNLV String Division is composed of faculty from the studios of violin, viola, cello, double bass, guitar, and harp.

2. As agreed upon by the Dean of the College of Fine Arts and the Director of the SOM, scholarship money allocated for the String Division will be used to recruit and retain the highest level of string music majors. The money allocated to this budget is known as the *STRING SCHOLARSHIP BUDGET*.

NASM Code of Ethics, article II: Student Recruitment section 1:

Recruitment policies and procedures shall demonstrate concern for the needs of students, the institution, and the national effort in the education and training of music professionals.

3. The full-time faculty within the String Division (violin, viola, cello) confer and distribute the scholarship money allotted to our division to music majors, weighing in the needs and recommendations from all string division faculty.

4. Scheduled "UNLV Music String Scholarship Auditions" for violin, viola, cello and bass will be heard by the full time string faculty. However, any faculty member is welcome to attend.

5. All music undergraduate string students (majors) are required to enroll in a major ensemble each semester, such as, but not limited to, the UNLV Symphony Orchestra, (Chamber Orchestra is also a major ensemble), for 8 semesters of their undergraduate degree. Transfer students need to talk with their studio teachers (who are their advisors) for applicable major ensemble transfer credit.

6. String students (violin, viola, cello, bass) that have been awarded a music major scholarship are also required to enroll in a second ensemble (some waivers under special circumstances). The second ensemble will be assigned by the studio teacher, as studio teachers are co-advisors for their students (along with advising staff from UNLV Academic Advising) with recommendations from UNLV Ensemble Directors. Foremost, the pedagogical track is set forth by the studio teacher for a student to determine the second ensemble. After this, the needs of all ensembles will be taken and factored into the decision:

Chamber Music

UNLV Early Chamber Music Ensemble

Nextet

Special Chamber Music (mixed ensembles)

Chamber Orchestra

NASM: Recruitment, Admission-Retention, Advising:

Students with specific career goals should be engaged in a continuous advisement program related to their area of specialization. Advisement should reflect concern for the student's goals and should provide assistance with the selection of courses that serve as appropriate preparation for advanced study.

7. "Lab Orchestra (MUSE 122, 422/ section 2) is not considered a secondary ensemble for enrollment towards fulfilling a second ensemble for scholarship purposes." Director, School of Music.

8. Students receiving scholarships will be sent a letter from the String Division (and/or email) that specifies which ensemble(s) the student will be enrolling in for the upcoming semester, and MAY also include a second ensemble (as deemed by the studio teacher) appropriate for their pedagogical progress.

9. String Juries (violin, viola, cello, bass) are performed by music major students at the end of each semester with a combination of string division faculty in attendance. However, if a degree recital was performed close to the jury, a jury may be waived. This decision will be determined by the studio teacher.

10. String sectionals for any UNLV ensemble will be conducted by graduate students. However, although not mandatory, faculty may choose to assist.

Applied Lessons

Music Majors must enroll in applied lessons with the applied teacher of their instrument. It is the student's responsibility to attend all lessons, be on time and prepared. Should a lesson be missed due to illness or university business (Orchestra tour, etc.) the professor must be notified in advance of the lesson time. Please consult your studio syllabus for further details and policies pertaining to lesson attendance/cancelation and communication policies. Should it be necessary for the professor to miss a lesson, the lesson will be made up at the

student's and professor's earliest convenience. All undergraduates must consult with Student Advising to map out their curriculum. All Graduate Students (Master, Artist Diploma and DMA) must follow all guidelines in the Graduate Handbook at: <https://www.unlv.edu/sites/default/files/assets/degrees/fine-arts/Handbook-Music-Grad.pdf>

Your applied professor is one of the most important parts of a musician's development. Your teacher is among the most vital sources in helping you to make career decisions, both large and small. As in any relationship, issues may arise which need discussion and/or resolution. We encourage you to discuss problems, as they occur, directly with your teacher. Unresolved issues and/or the sense that you cannot discuss problems with your teacher need to be addressed with the String Division Chair.

You are entitled to and required to have 14 private lessons (ranging from 50 minutes to one hour) with your major teacher in the course of each semester. Some teachers give these lessons each week. Others, given the nature of other performance and off campus activities lessons may offer lessons at different intervals. Others still have teaching assistants to give lessons at times when they are unable to do so. Make certain that you understand your teacher's lesson schedule plan. If you are concerned that you are not receiving the requisite number of lessons, or have a problem with the frequency of your lessons, notify the chairperson of the School of Music.

Studio Class

Music Majors are expected to attend and participate in a weekly studio class given at the discretion of the professor. While individual attendance policies between studios may vary, students should not ask to be excused from these classes, as they are considered an important segment of applied lessons.

Practicing for applied lessons / expectations

Your progress is evaluated in private lessons throughout the semester. Expectations for progress and practice time will be discussed with your professor and/or outlined in your studio syllabus. However, to avoid injury and make the most progress, consistent daily practice is mandatory and practical. The amount of expected practice time may slightly vary, but in general a two credit hour lesson should require a minimum of two hours of practice per day, three credit hours of study should require three hours of practice and four credit hour lessons

should require four hours of practice per day. If you experience pain before, during, or after playing your instrument, discuss it immediately with your major teacher. Physical pain is a sign that you are not using your body correctly. It is highly encouraged that proper and ample physical warm and stretching exercises be systematically utilized.

UNLV Chamber Music

All undergraduate string performance majors are required to enroll in 2 semesters of chamber music (MUSE 151 or MUSE 451), during their undergraduate degree.

Juries

Every music major enrolled in applied lessons must play a jury during the week of finals at the end of each semester. Jury sheets are available to sign up for a jury time outside the School of Music office on the bulletin board a few weeks before the jury. All undergraduates will perform a 10 minute jury and graduate students will perform a 15 minute jury. Students must fill out and have 4 COPIES OF THE JURY SHEET for the committee at the jury and bring them to the jury. Forms can be downloaded here:

<https://www.unlv.edu/sites/default/files/24/Music-InstrumentalJuryForm.pdf>

Juries are a vital part of your training as a performer, and the resultant scores have bearing on your applied lesson grade as well as other aspects of your standing within the School of Music. Early planning will avoid last-minute scheduling problems. Students are encouraged to read their jury comments available from the applied teacher.

Jury Postponement

The applied teacher and/or String Division Chair will only consider a student petition requesting postponement of a jury in extreme medical conditions (documented by a physician), sudden family emergencies, or other exceptional circumstances. Any student who fails to play a scheduled jury will receive an F for that jury. A postponed jury must be successfully completed not later than the first week of the subsequent semester.

Fall Juries

Beginning in Fall 2018, all violinists, violists, cellists and bassists will perform a TECHNICAL JURY during the allotted jury time. Undergraduate juries will be 10 minutes in length, graduate juries will be 15 minutes in length. No standard solo repertoire will be performed at the Fall jury.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:

- 1) 3 octave scales with arpeggios (specific fingerings, bowings and rhythms will be discussed with your applied professor).
- 2) 1 or 2 Etudes (as assigned by your applied Professor).

Spring Juries

Will be performed from the standard solo repertoire.

Applied Level IV Jury/ Continuation Jury

This jury, at the end of the level IV applied study, establishes that a student's progress has been sufficient to reasonably ensure completion of the program of study. The evaluation will determine whether or not a student may continue in that program. Download this form to bring to the jury at the end of your level IV applied lessons:

https://www.unlv.edu/sites/default/files/page_files/27/Music_SatisfactoryProgressEvaluationForm.pdf

Recitals

Junior Recital (MUS 399)

All music majors are required to present a recital during their junior year. This recital, consisting of a minimum of 20-30 minutes of music, may be scheduled in conjunction with another student's junior recital (strongly encouraged). You must present the recital repertoire for faculty approval at the applied jury in the semester before the recital. This recital will substitute for the applied jury and convocation performances in the semester in which the recital is scheduled. Registration for MUS 398/399 must be concurrent with registration in applied music Level V or Level VI. A jury of faculty assigned to attend this recital

determines the grade for this performance. Students are responsible for providing their own accompanists.

Senior Recital (MUS 499)

Performance majors are required to present a recital during the senior year. The senior recital must consist of a minimum of 45-50 minutes of music, and you are required to present the recital repertoire for faculty approval at the applied jury in the semester before the recital. This recital will substitute for the applied jury and convocation performances in the semester in which the recital is scheduled. Registration for MUS 499 must be concurrent with registration in applied music Level VII or Level VIII. A jury of faculty assigned to attend this recital determines the grade for this performance.

Master's Level Recital (MUS 698)

The master's level recital is a full recital, with a minimum 45-60 minutes of music. MUS 798A may be repeated for a maximum of 12 credits. Consent of the faculty and concurrent enrollment in MUS 762 are required.

Doctoral-Level Recital (MUS 798B)

The doctoral-level recital is a full recital- 60 minutes of music. MUS 798B may be repeated for a maximum of 15 credits. Consent of your examination committee and concurrent enrollment in MUS 764 are required.

Procedures for All Recitals

1. The student must present the recital repertoire for faculty approval at the applied jury in the semester before the recital.
2. For official recitals, undergraduate students enroll in MUS 399 (Junior Recital), or MUS 499 (Senior Recital). Graduate students enroll in MUS 698 (Master's Recital), MUS 781 (Lecture Recital), or MUS 798B (Doctoral Recital). Please note there is a \$50 fee attached to the course.
3. All students must enroll in the appropriate level of Applied Music in the semester in which the recital is scheduled.

4. Scheduling of your student recital is [done online at Student Recitals](#). Scheduling may begin as early as mid-semester with the dates being posted online. Please read the information carefully before submitting your recital request.
5. The student, in consultation with the Accompanying Coordinator and/or the applied instructor, selects the accompanist(s) and keeps a record of rehearsal, lesson and performance hours with the accompanist(s). The recitalist is responsible for all accompanist fees.
6. All completed forms, program, and posters are due three (3) weeks prior to the recital date to the Scheduler. All program content must be in Concert Program Format, and must be emailed to the Scheduler as a Microsoft Word document. Posters must be emailed PDF format, prior to printing. Failure to adhere to this deadline or to use the template may result in recital cancellation or unavailability of services.
7. The jury of faculty assigned to attend this recital will average their grades for the recital and record the grade in Web Grading.
8. A student who fails to complete the recital as scheduled will receive a failing grade and will forfeit the recital fee.

Student Resources/ More Information

<https://www.unlv.edu/music/student-resources>

Instrumental Lockers

Practice Rooms

Health Issues for Musicians

Music Library