Music – Jazz Studies

Jazz studies is a major that offers in-depth study in the history and literature of jazz, improvisation, jazz arranging and composition, jazz theory and pedagogy, applied music lessons in jazz, and performance opportunities in both jazz combos and big bands. Students majoring in jazz studies elect to complete either an emphasis in jazz performance or jazz composition. Upon completion of the program, a student receives a Bachelor of Music in Jazz Studies.

Pursuing Music – Jazz Studies at Ohio State
Students interested in jazz studies should develop performance skills in preparation for the entrance audition. Piano lessons are also recommended, if available.

All students planning to pursue a music major must complete an entrance audition and the Theory Placement Exam (TPE). Normally students do this during the senior year in high school on a scheduled Audition Day. Transfer students and students already at Ohio State should also plan to complete an audition and the TPE.

For additional information about auditions, visit music.osu.edu/admissions/undergraduate-procedures or contact School of Music Undergraduate Admissions at music-ug@osu.edu or 614-292-2870.

Acceptance into a music performance degree is contingent upon approval of the applied music faculty.

Music – Jazz Studies Requirements
Core courses:
- Music theory
- Music aural training
- Music history and world music
- Large and small ensembles
- Keyboard skills

Required major courses:
- Applied music
- Jazz improvisation
- Jazz theory and history
- Jazz scoring
- Advanced theory courses
- Junior and senior recitals

Educational Objectives
Students majoring in jazz studies will achieve the following learning outcomes:
- Students must demonstrate achievement of professional, entry-level competence in the area of specialization, including significant technical mastery, capability to produce work and solve professional problems independently, and a coherent set of artistic/intellectual goals that are evident in their work.
- Students will engage in applied studies each semester that will provide appropriate skills, knowledge and experience to prepare students for graduate programs and professional careers in the field. They will demonstrate an understanding of a wide range of historical styles and periods.
- Students will complete courses in music theory, music history, and area-specific literature and pedagogy that will provide appropriate skills, knowledge and experience to prepare them for professional careers in the field. These courses will represent a wide range of historical styles and periods.
- Students will have the ability to communicate musical ideas, concepts and requirements to professionals and lay persons related to the practice of the major field. Such communication may involve musical, oral, written and visual media.
- Students will complete curricular requirements that include courses designed to develop oral and written communication skills.
- Students will gain knowledge and experience in pedagogical methodologies in their area of specialization.
- Students will gain an understanding of the nature of the music field in the professional world, particularly related to organizational structures, work ethics, technological resources and entrepreneurial skills required for advancing their careers.
- Students will complete a required course in music technology. They will prepare numerous assignments in music theory and music history courses employing a wide range of software and web-based sources and skills covered in this course.
- Students will build workplace skills through independent studies with applied faculty and ensemble directions.
- Students will gain experiences in general studies sufficient to prepare them for a range of career options.
- Students will gain skills sufficient for clear and effective verbal and written communication.
- Students will include a broad range of general studies courses in their curricula appropriate for complementing degree requirements that address their specific music concentrations.

For more information, check these websites:

School of Music: music.osu.edu
Arts and Sciences: artsandsciences.osu.edu
Ohio State: osu.edu
Admissions: undergrad.osu.edu
Multicultural Center: multiculturalcenter.osu.edu
First Year Experience: fye.osu.edu
Co-Curricular Opportunities
Whether students intend to enter the job market upon graduation or apply to graduate school, internships provide the experience students need to differentiate themselves from other candidates. Employers and graduate school committees are looking for graduates that have already taken the “next step” to becoming professionals in their field.

Internships provide the direct, field-related experience and application of classroom knowledge that is necessary to advance career goals. Ohio State’s career placement office provides a database of available internships, as well as internship advisors. For more information, visit asccareerservices.osu.edu.

Honors & Scholars Opportunities
Ohio State offers the Honors and Scholars programs to create an environment of intellectual support and stimulation within a close-knit community of high-ability undergraduate students. Through these programs, students have access to smaller classes, undergraduate research opportunities, close working relationships with faculty, priority scheduling and unique housing options. Learn more at honors-scholars.osu.edu.

Career Prospects in Music – Jazz Studies
Students in jazz studies have a variety of career opportunities. Some graduates begin playing professionally either as a soloist or in a group following their collegiate experience. Other opportunities include studio work as performers and writers or freelance work. In addition, some graduates move into business and industry or other music-related careers.

Those interested in pursuing a professional career as a performer usually continue directly into graduate study upon completion of the undergraduate degree. The same is true of students interested in securing a position as a jazz studies teacher at a college or university.

Ohio State’s professional counseling staff specializes in personal development and academic growth. In addition, Ohio State’s career and job placement offices around campus offer help in career planning and, as students move closer to graduation, help with resume writing, writing application letters, and job placement. These offices can help students match interests and strengths with a promising career. Ohio State recognizes that students’ needs for career support services vary and offers special services for disabled students, veterans, minority students, and international students. For more information, visit asccareerservices.osu.edu.

More About Music – Jazz Studies
The School of Music’s performing ensembles have received national and international recognition over the years. The Jazz Ensemble performed at the Montreux International Jazz Festival in 1975, 1978, 1986, 1996, and 2001. The Jazz Ensemble also appeared at the Mexico City International Jazz Festival in 1990 and the North Sea Jazz Festival in 1986, 1996, and 2001. This group recently completed a European tour, and frequently performs in venues throughout the United States.

Curriculum Sample
This is a sample list of classes a student will take to pursue a Bachelor of Music in Jazz Studies. Since university students need more than specific education in a narrow field, they also will take classes to complete General Education (GE) requirements. Because GE courses come from a variety of academic areas of study, this course work helps students develop fundamental skills essential to collegiate success and allows them to tailor these courses toward their interests. Note: This sample represents one of several possible paths to a Bachelor of Music in Jazz Studies. Visit music.osu.edu for details.

Curriculum Sample
Freshman Year:
Arts and Sciences Survey 1
Music Theory I-II 4
Music Aural Training I-II 4
Ensemble 2-4
Applied Lessons 4
Keyboard Skills 2
Music Technology 2
Music History 3
GE courses 12
Total hours 34

Sophomore Year:
Music Theory III-IV 4
Music Aural Training III-IV 4
Music History 6
Intro to Music Enterprise 3
Keyboard Skills 2
Ensemble 2-4
Jazz Theory 2
Improvisation I 3
Applied Lessons 4
Jazz Keyboard 2
Total hours 32

Junior Year:
Jazz combo 2-4
Jazz Ensemble Scoring 2
Applied Lessons 8
Conducting 2
Junior recital 0
Jazz Pedagogy 2
African American Music Traditions 2
Jazz Styles 3
Improvisation II 3
GE courses 12
Total hours 36

Senior Year:
Applied Lessons 8
Senior recital 0
Improvisation III 3
Composition 2
Jazz Ensemble 2-4
World Music 3
Jazz Scoring 2
GE courses 13
Total hours 33

Contact information:
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Revised September 2015. Information subject to change. For the most up-to-date information on the jazz studies program, please visit music.osu.edu.