



## **School of Music**

### [Upper Divisional Exam Guidelines](#)

#### **What is the Upper Divisional?**

The purpose of the Upper Divisional Exam is to assess the progress you have made during your first two years of study, and to provide clarity regarding the focus of the remainder of your coursework at HBU. The exam consists of:

- I. an Essay (See requirements on p.2)
- II. Performance and Interview for the School of Music Faculty (See pp.2-3)
- III. Project (see pp. 4-5)

Following the exam, each student and their Applied professor meet with the Director of the School of Music to review faculty comments.

#### **When do I take this Exam?**

1. Typically the 4<sup>th</sup> semester of coursework, or at the end of the semester when 60 hours of credit and theory requirements are completed.
2. Transfer Students with 60 hours of credit take the Upper Divisional Exam within 3 semesters of entrance into the HBU School of Music.
3. Upper Divisional Hearings are scheduled toward the end of the semester (typically November and April). The date is published through the School of Music office.
4. **Please Note:** Students may only take 12 hours of upper-level degree requirements in music before passing the exam.

#### **When are my materials due?**

Your completed essay, project, and Upper Divisional Form are due to Kelly in the School of Music office no later than **2 weeks prior to** your Upper Divisional date.

#### **Postponing the Exam:**

The exam may only be postponed due to extreme circumstance through petition by the Applied professor in addition to written request by the student to the Director of the School of Music. The exam must be passed no later than 2 semesters prior to graduation.

## **I. ESSAY (same requirements for all Music degrees)**

Write a 3-5 page essay presenting the student's personal attributes and musical qualifications for completing the degree requirements and for becoming a contributing member of the music profession. Be prepared for faculty questions regarding this essay during the Upper Divisional Exam. Information included in the essay should include the following:

- A. Justification for why the student has chosen their specific degree and profession.
- B. Description of experience and musical training contributing to her/his ability to be a performer and/or applied teacher
- C. What attributes, abilities, and attitudes the student possesses that contribute to being a musician
- D. Exploration of the students' aspirations and plans for the immediate and long term future. Where would you like to be in five -- ten years?

## **II. PERFORMANCE/INTERVIEW**

All Music Majors are scheduled for a performance/interview critiqued by the entire School of Music faculty. The repertoire requirements for each Major are listed below. Faculty will evaluate the following aspects of the performance:

- Memorization (when applicable)
- Musical accuracy
- Artistry
- Professional presentation including stage etiquette, appropriate dress, and poise
- Knowledge of compositional style and period

### **BM: Church Music**

Prepare two pieces or movements representing different style periods approved by the Applied teacher.

**BM: Composition/Theory**

1. Prepare two works on the Applied instrument from different style periods (one must be from the 20<sup>th</sup> century or later). One piece must be memorized.
2. If piano is NOT your Applied instrument, prepare one work for piano demonstrating present level of skill (memory not required).

**BM: Instrumental Performance**

Refer to the Head of the Department for specific repertoire requirements.

**BM: Music Education**

1. Perform a piano accompaniment for a beginning instrumental or vocal soloist.
2. Two selections for memory prepared with Applied professor.
3. Prepare scales and/or arpeggio or comparable technical etude as approved by Applied professor.
4. Self-prepared piece: Performance-ready without Applied professor's assistance.

**BM: Organ Performance**

1. Perform 4 pieces/movements representing at least 3 different style periods with the assistance of the Applied Instructor.
2. Program notes for each piece/composer must be written and submitted with the required essay.

**BM: Piano Performance**

1. Prepare and memorize 4 selections representing at least 3 contrasting periods.
2. Program notes for each piece/composer must be written and submitted with the required essay.

**BM: Vocal Performance**

1. Prepare 5 selections encompassing at least 4 languages (English, German, French, and Italian) representative of diverse musical style periods.
2. One of the 5 selections is selected with Applied Professor approximately one month prior to the exam and is self-prepared.
3. Repertoire should include at least one aria (or oratorio) and at least 3 Art Songs.

**BA/BS Majors**

1. Perform two works from different time periods on the Applied instrument. One must be memorized.

### **III. PROJECT**

All projects must be pre-approved by the Applied professor (and Department Head, when applicable).

#### **BM: Church Music**

Undertake a practical church music project, such as assisting with preparation of an ensemble for performance, assisting a minister of music, working with a children's choir, teaching private lessons, developing/presenting materials for use in a church setting, etc.

#### **BM: Composition/Theory**

The portfolio for this degree candidate includes one formal analytical paper prepared for a Theory course requirement, edited, corrected, and initialed by the Professor of the course. The second requirement is a collection of works completed during composition study at HBU. Each work must contain the date initiated and completed, as well as a Signature of Authenticity by the composition Professor.

#### **BM: Instrumental Performance**

Refer to the Head of the Instrumental Department for specific guidelines regarding the Project requirements.

#### **BM: Music Education**

Undertake a practical music education project and develop a written summary of the project for faculty including the outcomes of the project. Potential examples of projects include teaching private lessons, assisting with the preparation of an ensemble for performance, assisting a teacher in some capacity, substitute teaching, developing and presenting instructional materials (e.g. writing arrangements, developing ancillary materials or technology-based materials for use in a school setting, etc. The project may be completed in any public school, private school, or church setting, but must be developed for school-age children. The project should be completed during the semester previous to the student's Upper Divisional Examination.

#### **BM: Organ Performance**

Attend three recitals by professional organists and provide a written critique of each recital. Include a copy of the program and notes on each of the pieces performed. The critique should include an evaluation of the music, the performance (interpretation, accuracy, registrations, etc.), and the programming choices made by the performer.

**BM: Piano Performance**

Attend three recitals by professional pianists (one may be a chamber music recital) and provide a 2-3 page written critique of each recital. Include a copy of the program. The critique should include an evaluation of the music (including some historical context when applicable), evaluation of the performance (interpretation, accuracy, performance practice), audience response, and the programming choice made by the performer.

**BM: Vocal Performance** Program notes and translations: must be written for each piece/composer and submitted with the Essay. Refer to Applied Professor and Head of Vocal Department for additional Project Requirements.

**BA/BS Majors**

Develop a project requiring 10-15 hours to complete utilizing skills from your declared majors. The plan must first be presented to your Applied professor for approval.