JAZZ STUDIES (MM)

The graduate jazz studies program provides students a comprehensive education in jazz, allowing students to specialize in either performance or composition. Drawing upon the resources of the Chicago jazz scene, faculty members are highly celebrated performers, teachers, composers, and arrangers. In addition to applied jazz lessons, jazz ensembles, and jazz combos, Master of Music students enroll in courses such as jazz theory, history, pedagogy, improvisation, composing, and/or arranging. Throughout the program, jazz students have multiple opportunities to record performances and compositions in professional recording studios. The Master of Music degree is a two-year program.

Program Requirements | Quarter Hours
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Degree Requirements | 48

Total hours required | 48

Learning Outcomes

Program Specific Outcomes

Students will be able to:

- Perform and improvise on an instrument as a soloist or in an ensemble, with technical proficiency, e.g., tone production, intonation, articulation, technical facility, and rhythmic conception, and musicality at the level of an advanced student or higher.
- Read and sight-read music, with correct musical interpretation.
- Demonstrate an understanding of jazz theory and harmony; possess a vocabulary of jazz figures applicable to improvisation.
- Demonstrate growing maturity in musical concepts
  - Use tools of performance to create artistic products.
- Work independently by fulfilling weekly musical assignments in applicable courses, applied lessons, and ensembles.
- Teach jazz principles and techniques on one's major instrument.
- Understand the historical context of music from significant periods of jazz history.
- Compose and arrange music for small and large jazz ensembles.
- Perform in large ensembles and jazz chamber groups
  - Collaborate, blend, and balance within an ensemble.
- Find, choose, and research repertoire.

Concentration Specific Outcomes

Jazz Performance

- Plan and perform a graduate recital, and be able to collaborate with other musicians.

Jazz Composition

- Create a final composition/arranging project.

Degree Requirements

Course Requirements

A minimum of 48 quarter hours of graduate credit is required for the Master of Music degree. This total is divided between the basic studies required of all master's degree students, and courses in the specialization. Prior to the conclusion of each degree program, graduate students must pass a written comprehensive examination, administered by each department/program.
Terminal Requirements

Two terminal requirements are required of all students:

- A written comprehensive examination, in which the students must demonstrate a satisfactory knowledge of their major field of study. The comprehensive examination may be taken at any time after 32 quarter hours of graduate credit have been earned.
- Performance track, the presentation of a public recital; composition track, the completion of a final writing project.

While preparation of the terminal requirement in the major may take place within some course or activity for which a student is registered for credit, additional academic credit is not granted for the project itself.

Residency Requirements

All courses for the master’s degree must be taken at DePaul University. Graduate credit for courses completed at other institutions may not be applied toward the degree.

A full-time graduate student must be registered for a minimum of six quarter hours in any term. All requirements for the degree must be completed within six calendar years from the time a student is first enrolled. For students removing deficiencies, this period will begin when all deficiencies are removed and admission to the master’s degree program has been granted.