

MUS 4500: BMA Capstone Project Handbook

The BMA Capstone Project is a self-designed capstone experience intended to showcase the student's learning within the interdisciplinary study of the degree with the guidance of a committee of faculty advisors. The project will focus on an individual student's interests and areas of expertise with one of the following final projects: a lecture recital, research paper, or other project such as a service-learning project or multi-media presentation. This handbook provides BMA students with the necessary information to complete their capstone project, which is the synthesis and culmination of their learning experiences of the degree. Most students do their projects in either the fall or spring term of their senior years. **Prerequisite: senior class standing and consent of the Assistant Dean.**

Select from ONE of the following types of projects:

- **Lecture Recital:** Full recital with lecture component. Repertoire and lecture content are determined by respective areas/studios/faculty advisors.
 - Prerequisite: registration in 2 credits of lessons, satisfactory completion of a recital jury and consent of the department chair.
 - One advisor must be the student's studio faculty.
 - The recital must contain 30-45 minutes of music and lecture combined.
- **Research paper and presentation:** Paper and presentation encompassing the multidisciplinary elements of the BMA degree. Topic to be approved by faculty advisors.
 - Students must give a public presentation on their project after it is complete at which advisors for the project must be present.

The Faculty Advisors will set the appropriate length of both project and presentation given industry standards for similar works within the discipline/field of study. The BMA Capstone paper is neither an "ordinary" paper for a course nor a Master's Thesis.

Suggested lengths:

- Research paper around 25 pages
 - Presentation 20 minutes (including time for questions)
- **Other (i.e. Service Learning Project, multi-media presentation, customized project created with faculty guidance):** A project involving BGSU and its surrounding communities to serve and enhance these entities and/or their relationships such as a civic engagement project with a community partner or creation of a resource/planning an event for a campus and/or community organization. Topic to be approved by faculty advisors.
 - Students must give a 20 minute public presentation on their project after it is complete at which advisors for the project must be present.

Learning Outcomes: The BMA Project must demonstrate satisfactory learning among three learning outcomes:

Critical Thinking: the ability to examine an issue or situation in the search for information, to observe and identify the standards or qualities considered desirable, and to create a solution for the problem through original and artistic effort.

Integrative Learning: the ability to recognize and understand how both areas of study in the degree connect and apply to the outside world.

Communication(oral and written): the ability to convey ideas clearly through a prepared and purposeful performance/presentation/written paper designed to promote a deeper understanding to an audience encompassing a wide variety of backgrounds and experiences of the topics.

Faculty Advisors:

Students in MUS 4500 must work with a minimum of two advisors. At least ONE of the two faculty members must be from the College of Musical Arts.

Who can serve: Any Faculty member at the University can serve as an advisor. A non- faculty member with special expertise in the student's area may serve as a third advisor but may not be one of the student's two primary advisors and may not grade the project. Any other advisors outside of this definition must be approved by the Assistant Dean.

Responsibilities of the Faculty Advisors: Faculty Advisors are to help you lay out the basic conception of the project, clarify your objectives, and discover an appropriate research or creative strategy for achieving these. They help solve problems that may arise and also critique drafts of the project. They jointly grade the finished project. It is reasonable for Faculty Advisors to have frequent meetings with you to maintain your progress toward completion.

Advisor Selection: Most students choose at least one advisor from among the faculty for which they have taken courses, know well, and have performed well. You should approach advisor candidates the semester before you start your project (or sooner, if possible). Some specific pieces of advice that you might find useful in your search for advisors include:

- Try to work with or take courses with several members of a department/program before asking a faculty member to serve as your advisor.
- Faculty members in each department and program have specific areas of specialization. You may need to work with a specific professor because of the area of study you have chosen for your project. Research faculty interests and specializations before approaching someone to be an advisor. It is always useful to go into a meeting where you are requesting help with some explanation of what you think a particular faculty member has to offer you and your project.
- Remember that serving as a Faculty Advisor is essentially volunteer work on the part of the faculty member. Be prompt in answering communications from faculty. Be available for meetings and discussions as needed. Be sure to thank your advisors for working with you.
- Remember that you will be working with the advisor over a period of at least one academic year. This person must be someone with whom you can work closely.
- Check with your advisor frequently; set up regular appointments to keep the advisor current about your progress and goals. Bring material with you to the meetings and take notes.

Tips

- Give yourself enough time to meet deadlines.
- Start early on everything.
- Give advisors at least one week to respond with comments.
- *Negotiate* due dates with advisors.
- Keep in mind you may not get your first choice for faculty advisors.
- Have a flexible vision of what you want your project to be when you meet with your advisor.
- Ask what *exactly* you need to turn in to complete your project; it varies on a case-by-case basis, depending on the disciplines involved and which project is selected for the capstone.

BMA Capstone Project Approval Form

Must be completed and turned into the Music Office no later than the beginning of the 2nd to last semester of study.

Student: _____

BGSU ID: _____

Project:

- Lecture Recital
- Research paper and presentation
- Other

Project Description:

Advisors for project:

Minimum of 2 required- ONE of these must be from the College of Musical Arts

1. _____ Signature: _____

2. _____ Signature: _____

3. _____ Signature: _____

Assistant Dean: _____

Signature: _____

Advisor Assessment of Student Project

Please complete this form during the student's final presentation of their project and submit to the Assistant Dean.

Student: _____ Advisors: 1. _____ Signature: _____
BGSU ID: _____ 2. _____ Signature: _____

- Pass
- Fail

Project Description:

- 1. The student demonstrated critical thinking:** *the ability to examination an issue or situation in the search for information, to observe and identify the standards or qualities considered desirable, and to create a solution for the problem through original and artistic effort.*

- Highly Satisfactory
- Satisfactory
- Unsatisfactory

Comments:

- 2. The student demonstrated integrative learning:** *the ability to recognize and understand how both areas of study in the degree connect and apply to the outside world.*

- Highly Satisfactory
- Satisfactory
- Unsatisfactory

Comments:

- 3. The student demonstrated communication**(oral and written): *the ability to convey ideas clearly through a prepared and purposeful performance/presentation/written paper designed to promote a deeper understanding to an audience encompassing a wide variety of backgrounds and experiences of the topics.*

- Highly Satisfactory
- Satisfactory
- Unsatisfactory

Comments: