

Department of Fine Arts

Student Handbook 2023-2024

Dr. Sean Daniels, Chair

Welcome Students!

Housed in the Joyce J. Bolden Fine Arts Building, the Department of Fine Arts offers classes in Art, Humanities, Speech, Theater, and Music. The department is also home to the ASU Concert Choir, The (Sounds of Dyn-O-Mite) Marching Band, Wind Ensemble, Jazz Ensembles, Brass Ensembles, Woodwind Ensembles, Strings, Men's Choral, Chamber Singers, Women Choral and the ASU Steel and Percussion Ensemble. The department includes award-winning faculty and staff. As an accredited member of the National Association of Schools of Music We offer professional Bachelor of Music degree programs in the following areas: **Music Education Vocal, Music Education Instrumental, Music Performance Vocal, Music Performance Instrumental and the Bachelor of Arts in (General) music.**

Purpose

The Department of Fine Arts has as its purpose the provision of curricular and cultural offerings which contribute to the student's acquisition of a broad base of knowledge and skill in the areas of art, humanities, music, speech, and theater. To this end, the department offers the Bachelor of Music degree with majors in Music Education, Music Performance, and the Bachelor of Arts in (General) Music degree. In addition, the department provides service courses in the areas of Art, Humanities, Speech, and Theater. The department's purpose in service is to provide expertise in the arts and offer opportunities to participate in cultural events for the University community, the communities in southwest Mississippi, and in other venues around the state, region, and nation.

The Student Handbook is designed to help students understand information concerning policies, procedures, degree, options, and guidelines of the Department of Fine Arts. Please be aware of the policies and procedures that govern your success here at Alcorn State University as they apply to the degree program you have selected.

The objectives of the music program are as follows:

1. To provide the music major with basic skills, techniques, pedagogical concepts, and perspectives requisite to success in graduate study, as an artist, and a teacher of music on the elementary and secondary levels.
2. To interpret, maintain, and create the highest level in individual and group performance.

3. To enhance the cultural and aesthetic life of Alcorn students through personal experience in a well-directed program of education in music.
4. To provide professional service and expertise to the university and the local community.

Degree Programs

The awarding of the Bachelor of Music degree with majors in Performance and Education is contingent on successful completion of required courses in the following areas:

1. General education core
2. Music theory
3. Music history and music literature
4. Applied music and ensembles
5. Music education methods and/or pedagogy
6. Professional education (music education majors)
7. Electives

A minimum grade of “C” is required in all major courses. The Bachelor of Music degree with a major in music education leads to the “A” type education certificate for the state of Mississippi.

Scholarships and Financial Aid

Music scholarships are available to talented students pursuing degrees in music. Scholarships range from partial to full (excluding books) and are based on auditions and specific needs of the Department of Fine Arts. Scholarships are available for both band and choir.

Students receiving music scholarships must register for applied music level MU 121 and MU 122 whether they are majoring in music or not.

Scholarship support for each student is reviewed at the end of the spring semester. All forms of financial aid are intended primarily to underwrite the education of students. Criteria followed in awarding music, choir and band scholarships include academic achievement and overall musicianship development.

Students requiring additional financial underwriting and assistance due to serious financial need should apply at the Office of

Financial Aid and/or the ASU Foundation. Students awarded scholarships should expect half the amount of the total annual award to be applied to the tuition for each academic semester unless specified otherwise.

Renewal of scholarships is contingent on making satisfactory progress towards completing degree requirements. Satisfactory progress is interpreted as maintaining at least a 2.75 cumulative grade average, passing all music courses (“C” or above), passing standardized test requirements on schedule, completing appropriate applications for admission to the teacher education program (music education majors), and making satisfactory progress in the applied area (including attendance at recitals and other events, and performance on recitals, juries). Students must also be in good standing with the university and have no infractions. Students who receive scholarships are required to participate in departmental activities including ensembles, musicals, tours, and scheduled and unscheduled performances. In addition, students are expected to follow the professional advice of their applied instructor.

Failure to comply with departmental or university policies will result in the loss or reduction of scholarship. Once lost the university is not obligated to renew the scholarship. Upon notification of loss of the scholarship, the student does have the right to appeal against the decision by requesting a hearing with the faculty.

The department has limited funding for scholarships and amounts can vary depending on the amount of funding available. Decisions for amounts awarded are based on student performance as well as need. Students are expected to take responsibility for and adhere to academic and performance expectations.

Auditions

Every student enrolled as a full-time degree candidate must study a major instrument, e.g. piano, voice, trumpet, and saxophone. Students desiring to be considered for a scholarship must perform an audition before an award is granted. Students desiring the music performance major must audition on the chosen instrument before being accepted into the program. Students enrolled as music education majors who wish to change to music performance must audition prior to being admitted to the performance program and prior to the beginning of the junior year. It should be noted that there are differences in the applied music sequences between the music performance and music education curriculums. Consult the current University catalog for specific information.

Audition Requirements for Scholarships open to all majors.

Instrumental, Vocal and String Auditions

Prepare 2-4 minutes of music to play at the audition. Choose repertoire that demonstrates your technical ability and musical skills. Do not select music that is too difficult for you, or that you have not thoroughly prepared. Students will be asked to sightread a short music passage.

Brass: All major Scales
 Chromatic Scale
 Solo or Etude

Piano: All Major Scales Both Hands

Solo or Etude Preferably from the Classical or Romantic repertoire

Percussion: All major scales
Solo or Etude on at least two different instruments:
Snare Drum, Timpani, Mallets and or Drum Set
40 International Rudiments

Strings: **Violin, viola, cello**
Two pieces of contrasting character. At least one of the pieces should be played from memory.
Pieces chosen should demonstrate the applicant's ability in phrasing, sustained playing, and technical facility, including varied bow strokes and tempi.
A 3 octaves Major scale chosen by the applicant, played in quarter notes, slurred 3 or 4 per bow.
Tempo should be quarter note = 80.
Classical Bass
One movement from the standard solo repertoire
One etude selected by the applicant
One three-octave major scale with arpeggio

Woodwinds: All major scales
Solo or Etude
Sight Reading

Voice: Demonstrate the ability to match pitches
Solo or Etude
Classical Art Song preferred

Placement Examinations

Entrance examinations are required for the purpose of placement in music theory and piano class. Entrance examinations are administered during the first week of class in the fall and at the beginning of the spring semester.

Academic Advising

Freshman will be advised through University College the first semester. During pre-registration for the second semester a Music faculty advisor will be assigned as your permanent advisor

Transfer Credit Policy

Students with college credit from other institutions should meet with their advisor for proper placement within their desired degree program as per the following requirements:

Applied/Ensemble

1. The number of applied credits accepted for transfer will be determined by audition.
2. The number of ensemble credits accepted for transfer will be directly related to the level of applied study as determined by the audition.

Transfer Credit Policy

Music Theory

1. The Department of Fine Arts will accept transfer credits for music theory and sight singing/aural skills courses through the sophomore year with grades of C or above from four-year NASM institutions and from those community colleges with which Alcorn has community college course acceptance agreements.
2. All other transfer students must take an examination for placement. Results of the placement examination will determine the number of theory/aural skills/sight singing credits that will transfer.

Keyboard

1. If a transfer student has successfully completed (grade of “C” or above) in four credit hours of keyboard study from a four-year NASM institution, the Department of Fine Arts will accept the transfer credits. However, all transfer students must take and pass a keyboard proficiency examination.
2. All other transfer students must take a keyboard examination for placement.

Ensembles Every full-time music major, (12 credit hours or more), must perform in a major ensemble each semester. Students in the music education degree programs are exempt from ensemble participation during the semester in which they are enrolled in student teaching. Only one ensemble credit per semester counts toward the ensemble requirement.

Vocal Ensembles

The Concert Choir is open to all students by audition.

The Men’s Chorale is open to all male students by audition.

The Women’s Chorus is open to all female students by audition.

Instrumental Ensembles

The Wind Ensemble and Concert Bands are open to all students by audition. It is required of instrumental music majors Students on band scholarships are required to register for either the concert band or the wind ensemble in the spring semester.

The Jazz Ensemble is open to all students subject to the approval of the director.

The Marching Band is open to all university students. Placement is determined by audition results and needs of the ensemble. Instrumental majors are required to perform in this organization. Students on band scholarships are required to register for the marching band during the fall semester.

Chamber ensembles are open to students on a selective basis.

Percussion Ensemble

Saxophone Ensemble

String Ensemble

Trumpet Quartet

Tuba Ensemble

Woodwind Ensemble

Attendance

Classes

Students are expected to regularly attend all classes, recitals, and to complete laboratory sessions. In addition, students are expected to be prompt and on time for all classes and studio appointments. It is the responsibility of students to abide by attendance rules that instructors prescribe and should clear excused absences with individual instructors.

Notice of illness, injury, or hospitalization may be provided by the Student Health Service, Office of Counseling and Testing, a family physician, or the Vice President for Academic Affairs. For unusual circumstances, a temporary leave of absence may be obtained from the Vice President for Academic Affairs. Every student must adhere to the university's policy on attendance. Whenever students miss classes, they are not relieved of responsibilities to meet all course requirements and complete all class assignments. Class attendance regulations are found in the ASU General Catalog. A student who has an excessive number of absences should notify his academic advisor as well as all instructors. A student may not miss more than one-fourth of classes for any reason (excused or not excused).

Applied Lessons

The ASU policy on class attendance applies to individual applied lessons as well. The instructor must be notified in advance of any absence. Make-up lessons are given at the discretion of the instructor and only for valid reasons, such as certifiable illness. Please check with the individual instructor regarding any additional stipulations.

Ensembles

As with lessons, the ASU policy on attendance applies to ensembles. Since participation in a rehearsal cannot be “made-up,” members of the ensemble are expected to attend all rehearsals and to be on time. The instructor/director must be notified in advance of any absence.

Recitals

MU 052 (Student Recital)

All music majors are required to register for and pass eight semesters of MU 052 (Recital). The recital hour is a forum for student performances and an opportunity for faculty and students to consider issues of academic and musical importance. Music students are not only interested in their own performance, but also recognize the value of listening to the performances of others and learning about the various performing media. Attendance at student recitals is required and attendance at additional concerts, recitals, and special events sponsored by the Department of Fine Arts is expected. Music Education majors are exempt from the recital attendance requirement during the semester in which they are enrolled in student teaching.

First semester music majors are required to perform on recital class break-out sessions. Music education and music performance majors in students are required to perform on one student recital in order to receive a passing grade for Recital Class.

Subsequently, all music education majors are required to appear once during the fall semester and spring semesters. However, all music performance majors are required to appear twice during each semester following their freshman level of applied study MU 121-MU122. These are minimum requirements and individual instructors may require additional appearances. The number of appearances, level of performances, and quality of performances will affect the grade for applied lessons as recorded by the student’s applied teacher.

All students must make rehearsal arrangements with their accompanist at least two weeks prior to performing on recital. Students are required to dress appropriately when performing on a recital (semi-formal or formal).

Blue jeans, shorts, and T-shirts are not considered appropriate performance attire.

Applied instructors will submit performance information on each student planning to appear on a recital to the recital coordinator no later than noon on the Tuesday preceding each Thursday recital. Students must have the approval of their applied teachers before appearing on recital.

Major Recitals (Junior/Senior recitals)

All music majors will present a recital during their senior year. Performance majors will present (30-minute Junior Recital and a full-length fifty-minute Senior Recital) and education majors will present a 30-minute recital. These recitals are considered in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Bachelor of Music degree. Music majors are expected to attend recitals given by their fellow students. Students preparing for a major recital must make rehearsal and

performance arrangements with their accompanist and/or supporting performers at least one semester before the performance date. Last minute rehearsing is not tolerated and unacceptable.

Recital Hearing must be requested and passed by the faculty prior to any student performing a Junior or Senior Recital. (See Recital Forms)

Special Events

Alcorn State University Jazz Festival

The Department of Fine Arts with funding from the Mississippi Arts Commission, a state agency, the Southern Arts Federation, a regional agency, and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency, sponsors a Jazz Festival each spring. High school and college jazz ensembles compete for placement and adjudication comments. Along with these performances, the festival includes workshops and performances by featured professional artists. Music majors are encouraged to attend the jazz festival event. Attendance is required of those students enrolled in jazz-related courses.

Other Performances

The Department sponsors recitals and performances by its faculty and others. Many of these performances include workshops and/or master classes. Music majors are expected to attend these performances and sessions.

Performance Juries

All applied music students must take a jury final examination at the end of each semester. The jury consists of a performance session before a faculty committee with a brief period of faculty inquiry.

Students will be exempted from the jury examinations only when they have performed a junior or senior recital meeting partial degree requirements during that semester. The performance jury is the equivalent of a final exam for the applied area of semester study. Juries are normally held during the week preceding final exams.

Approximately one week prior to juries, a sign-up sheet will be posted in the department. (Inquire at the department office.) All music majors (except those exempted) must sign-up for a jury time. The specific content of each student's jury is determined by faculty committee and the applied area instructor. In general, students should have prepared two contrasting pieces at the appropriate level. A composition that has been performed on recital cannot be repeated in the jury. Students must consult with their applied teachers for appropriate pieces and must have the approval of their applied teacher for performance on the jury. Students must prepare a jury sheet prior to appearing on jury. Jury sheets can be obtained from applied teachers, from the Department of Fine Arts office, the Music Dept website, and in the back of this handbook.

Results of the jury session are used by applied instructors for grading purposes. Failure to appear on jury will result in a non-passing grade for the applied course. Dismissal from the applied area

and reduction and or loss of scholarship support will be considered by the chairperson if standards are not being met.

Final Examinations

Final examinations for all courses in the Department of Fine Arts follow the scheduling of examinations listed in the current semester's Schedule of Classes. Check the examination schedule early in the semester to allow for proper preparation and attendance. Early examinations are not sanctioned by the Department of Fine Arts nor the University.

Capstone Project

The Bachelor of Arts in general music requires a senior capstone project. This is a written or oral project that may be combined with a senior recital as a lecture recital.

Piano Proficiency Examination

All music majors are required to take and pass a piano proficiency examination at the end of four credit hours of piano study. Music education majors must pass the piano proficiency examination prior to student teaching.

Practice Rooms

Practice rooms are located on the first floor of the Fine Arts Building. Food, beverages, and smoking are not permitted in practice rooms. Special care should be taken to avoid destruction or damage of school property in the practice rooms. Practice rooms are open on a first come first served basis. Personal items should not be left unattended in practice rooms.

Proper progress as a music major is impossible without practice. All music students should consult with their applied teacher about making effective use of their practice time and expectations for improvement. It is expected that all music majors will make use of the practice rooms on a regular basis.

Music Technology Laboratory

Is located on the second floor in FAB 203. It is open from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Friday. It is often open for extended hours when faculty members are in the building. Students need to check with faculty members for extended hours of operation. The use of the computer laboratory is a requirement for several music courses. Students must schedule their course load and times in a manner such that there is time to use the music laboratory during normal hours of operation.

The laboratory is a designated study area and will be treated as such.

It is impossible for the Department of Fine Arts to supply all the paper needs of its students in the computer laboratory. Students are expected to purchase and supply their own paper. Paper for the printer can be purchased at office supply and discount stores at reasonable prices. Five hundred sheet reams of 8.5" x 11", 20 lb. paper are the best to purchase. Normal typing paper will not work.

Music Library

The music library, located on the second floor of the Department of Fine Arts building, is available for use Monday through Thursday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and on Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The Music

The Library's collection consists of print and non-print materials (musical scores, choral music, LP recordings, CDs, videos, encyclopedias, dictionaries, anthologies, and textbooks). Materials are available for use in the music library. Students may listen to and/or record selections from LP recordings or CDs for study purposes. Students are encouraged to make good use of these materials.

Policies and Procedures for Admission to Teacher Education

All students desiring to enter a professional teacher education program at Alcorn State University must take and pass the Academic Skills Assessments (Praxis I) of the Educational Testing Service Praxis series assessments and make formal application to be accepted in the teacher education program. Students must have completed 44 core semester hours with the cumulative GPA of 2.75. In addition, music majors must achieve a minimum grade of "C" in all music courses. Music majors in the teacher education degree program must complete the PRAXIS I by the end of the sophomore year and before the junior year registration. Failure to complete the PRAXIS requirement will result in loss of scholarship for those students on a music scholarship.

The registration form for the PRAXIS I can be obtained from the Counseling and Testing Center and the application for admission into teacher education can be obtained from the department of Education and Psychology. The application must be accompanied by letters of recommendation from the student's advisor and departmental chairperson and a copy of the student's transcript. The PRAXIS I may be taken at designated times at Alcorn. The times and dates are found in the registration booklet. Students may also elect to take the computerized version at other sites. Information regarding test dates, sites, and procedures can be obtained from the Counseling and Testing Center.

An application for admission must be filed no later than the fourth week of the semester in which the student will have earned at least 44 hours at Alcorn State University. Full Admission will be granted to those applicants meeting the following standards:

1. The applicant must successfully pass PRAXIS I (Reading, Writing, and Math).
2. The applicant has earned a cumulative grade point average of 2.75 on 44 semester hours of core courses.
3. The applicant has earned no grade of less than "C" in EN 111, EN 112, SA 223, PH 132 and all music courses.
4. The applicant has passed the English Proficiency Examination
5. The applicant has been recommended by two faculty members.

Students who do not make the required score(s) may retake the appropriate test(s). Students may not enroll in any of the following courses until full admission has been granted:

ED 498, PH 336, ED 468 Student Teaching, MU 337, and MU 339

Students enrolled in Teacher Education have failed to maintain a cumulative average of 2.75 will be placed on probation for one semester. If at the end of the probationary semester the student's cumulative average is still below 2.75 the student will be dropped from the Teacher Education Program. During the probationary semester the student may not enroll in ED 458, ED 468, Directed Teaching or in any other professional education courses except those previously completed with a grade of less than "C".

Transfer Students

Transfer students must meet the standards set for regular students. Transfer students who have earned 44 or more core hours at another institution and who make application to Teacher Education upon admission to Alcorn State University may be admitted if they have passed the PRAXIS I (Reading, Writing, and Math). Students who present evidence of admission to and in good standing in an NCATE approved Teacher Education Program at another institution may be granted admission to Teacher Education at Alcorn State University.

Admission to Student Teaching

Student teaching is an integral part of the teacher education program at Alcorn State University and is the culmination of the teacher preparation experiences at the University. All students pursuing a degree leading to teacher certification must enroll for student teaching experiences during their final semester at Alcorn State University.

Participation in these experiences is limited to those students who apply and are admitted to student teaching. The student must apply to the Office of Admissions and Student Advisement no later than July 15, for fall semesters, and October 15, for spring semesters. Applicants for admission to student teaching are screened for eligibility based on the following criteria:

1. Full admission to teacher education (students on probation within teacher education may not enroll in student teaching); Recommendation of department chairperson.
3. Completion of all general education requirements.
4. Completion of at least one semester residence at Alcorn State University.
5. An earned grade point average of 2.75 on all work (transfer students must have a 2.75 averages on all work and on all work earned at Alcorn State University).
6. Completion of at least 95% of the major field requirements with a GPA of 2.75 or above.
7. Completion of all applicable professional education requirements with no grade of less than "C".
8. Successful passing of PRAXIS II (Principles of Learning and Teaching, and the Specialty Area), completion of the senior recital

Teaching Certification

The Educational Testing Service (ETS) PRAXIS Series assessment is a requirement for graduation from the undergraduate teaching programs at Alcorn State University. The PRAXIS I and PRAXIS II are requirements for those who desire to teach in the State of Mississippi. Students are responsible for filling out the application and paying required fees to take the examination. Music students must take PRAXIS I (Academic Skills Assessments) in the second semester of their sophomore year. The PRAXISII (Principles of Learning and Teaching Tests and Specialty Area Test) must be taken before student teaching. All teacher education majors should have a copy of their PRAXIS scores sent directly to the Office of Certification in the State Department of Education.

Music Organizations

Alcorn State University Music majors are encouraged to participate in the following organizations:

Pi Kappa Lambda National Music Honor Society

National Association for Music Educators (NAfME)

Kappa Kappa Psi National Honorary Band Fraternity