

## Elimination of Masters of Music in Conducting degree

This Program Elimination Proposal concerns the Master of Arts in Conducting (Instrumental and Choral emphases).

As part of the UMaine 150 initiative at the University of Maine in 2010 (which followed the report and recommendations of the Academic Program Prioritization Working Group, or APPWG), the Music Division agreed that the self-standing graduate degrees in conducting (both instrumental and choral emphases) would be eliminated in favor of sub-plans to be offered within the Masters of Music in Music Education degree. This would enable the music faculty to offer fewer advanced seminars in conducting while still offering graduate-level experiences to those wishing to enhance their music education curricula.

### Five-Year Summary Data.

A summary of the number of majors, degrees conferred, course enrollment levels in affected courses, and faculty FTE associated with the program is included in the following table.

Five-Year Summary: Masters of Music in Conducting  
(Data from Office of Institutional Studies)

AY	# of majors	# of degrees conferred	Course enrollment MUP 530	Course enrollment MUL 531	Course enrollment MUP 540	Course enrollment MUL 541	Faculty FTE
2007 - 2008	2 fall; 6 spring	3	6 (summer 2008)	1 (fall 2007)	5 (summer 2008)		.4
2008 - 2009	6 fall; 5 spring	2		7 (2 fall 2008; 5 summer 2009)		6 (spring 2009)	.4
2009 - 2010	7 fall; 5 spring	2	3 (fall 2009)	4 (spring 2010)	3 (spring 2010)		.4
2010 - 2011	9 fall; 10 spring	2	3 (fall 2010)		4 (fall 2010)		.4
2011 - 2012	4 fall; 4 spring	6		3 (fall 2011)		1 (fall 2011)	.4

FTE figure derived from consultation with Chair Beth Wiemann. In an average semester, two full-time faculty each would have taught a seminar in this program. Music faculty usually have a 3-2 course load. The result is a computation of 2/5ths of an FTE.

### Rationale.

As part of the UMaine 150 initiative at the University of Maine in 2010, the Music Division agreed that the self-standing graduate degrees in conducting (both instrumental and choral emphases) would be eliminated in favor of sub-plans to be offered within the Masters of Music in Music Education degree. This would enable the music faculty to offer fewer advanced seminars in conducting while still offering graduate-level experiences to those wishing to enhance their music education curricula.

As of 2011, the Music Division stopped admitting students to the Masters of Music in Conducting degrees, and students already pursuing those programs will be finished with coursework in 2013. At any one time over the past decade, there were 5-6 students pursuing these degrees, often on part-time schedules. Future students will have the Music Education degree as an option, and the faculty will be involved in offering topics courses in conducting to these students, although at a lower frequency than in the past.

There are no faculty singularly attached to these degrees, as the same faculty are involved in the other graduate and undergraduate degrees at UMaine. The difference will be a decrease in the offerings of smaller graduate seminars and independent studies, which were part of the conducting degrees.

The faculty agreed to this elimination as part of planning for a coming reduction in tenure-track lines in the Music Division, expected in 2014 and beyond. In light of this reduction, the faculty believed that concentrating on the Masters of Music in Music Education and the Masters of Music in Performance would be wise, given the pool of K-12 teachers in this region that would be interested in graduate work.

#### Relationship of Program Elimination to campus mission and other programs on campus.

The UMaine 150 process involved discussions across campus, particularly between the Music Division and the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, as well as discussions between the College and the upper administration of the University of Maine. The community was informed of the process in the wider media as well. The reconfigured degree program will allow for a more efficient use of resources and faculty time.

UMaine remains one of two campuses in the state offering graduate degrees in Music. Our campus's School of Performing Arts and the School of Music at the University of Southern Maine continue to offer courses for both full-time and part-time students in music. Both of these programs are accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music (NASM), while UMaine's Music Education degrees are also accredited by NCATE.

#### Faculty Retrenchment/Reassignment.

Since the music faculty all teach in the remaining undergraduate and graduate music degrees at UMaine, there is no plan for retrenchment of any individual faculty in our division. Music is planning on a reduction in tenure-track lines over the next few years, which will take place by strategically replacing some, not all, of the retiring faculty over this period.

Impact of Program Elimination on Current Students.

Students will still have the option of gaining conducting experience at the graduate level within the more general Music Education graduate degree. The timetable for elimination will allow the few remaining students in the program to complete their degrees.

All students following the Masters of Music in Conducting degrees will have completed their coursework in 2013. Music has already begun accepting students into the sub-plan in conducting within the Music Education degree, and those students will continue following that sub plan.

Timetable for Program Elimination.

The date for formal elimination of the program is January 2014. The four courses that were specific to the Masters of Music in Conducting degrees are no longer being offered as separate courses; the content of these courses has gone into general topics courses already extant in the Masters of Music in Music Education degree program.

Input obtained from meeting and discussion with the Associated Faculties of the University of Maine System.

This proposal was shared with AFUM representative, James McClymer, and he was invited to comment. Professor McClymer responded that he did not have any comments to make or concerns to raise.

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