

# Guidelines for Senior Projects and Recitals

## Definitions and Objective

The Senior Project or Recital is a requirement for the bachelor of arts degree with a music major. It consists of one or more activities that demonstrate a student's highest level of musicianship and leadership. It may be one or more performance events such as a recital or ensemble performance, a printed document such as a research paper or composition, or a significant practicum or internship experience with a culminating event or product.

The Senior Project provides evidence of achievement, completes the student portfolio, and forms a basis for recommendations supporting a student's applications for professional positions or graduate studies.

## Eligibility for Application

The execution of the Senior Project may take place at any time after the student has attained senior status and before graduation. Before the semester of completion the student must have:

- declared a music major;
- completed MUS 222, one music history course, and all courses pertaining to the project. MUS 303 should have been completed or be in process;
- been approved for the project by the full-time music faculty, the applied music instructors who work directly with the student, and the appointed Mentor.

## Selecting the Project or Recital

**A Senior Recital (MU—498)** provides the opportunity to refine performance technique, deepen interpretive understanding, and cultivate confidence in performance.

It is most appropriate for students anticipating further study in solo performance, conducting, or studio teaching but also suitable for music education, church music, and other candidates.

**A Senior Project (MUS 498)** includes research and field studies or composition. It provides the opportunity to cultivate broad knowledge, deeper understanding, skill in research and analysis.

It is most appropriate for students anticipating further study in musicology, ethnomusicology, music education, theory, and composition.

## Procedure

### ***Junior Year*** (one calendar year prior to Project completion)

1. **Junior Project or Recital.** The student is encouraged to write a significant paper as part of a course and/or perform in a junior recital. A practicum (MUS 390) is recommended. A recitalist is expected to register for two units of MU - - 398 during the semester of performance.
2. **Investigation.** The student gathers ideas from faculty members who know him or her. The faculty assists the student in discerning his or her skills, interests, talents, and career goals.

3. **Senior Project Mentor.** The student approaches a member of the full-time music faculty and requests a Senior Project Mentor who will assist the student through to completion of the project. The Mentor may be any full- or part-time instructor willing to accept responsibility for the Project or Recital. The full-time music faculty approves the Mentor.
4. **Application and Proposal.** Assisted by the Senior Project Mentor, the student presents an application (available in the Music Office) and a printed Proposal for the Project to the full-time music faculty and to the student's academic advisor. The Proposal provides the following information, typically in about two pages:

### **SENIOR PROJECT or RECITAL IN MUSIC**

- Title**, *e.g.*, Children's Choir Concert
- Description** of the product to be evaluated (see Sample Projects below for suggestions)
- Content:** outline that indicates the scope and limits of research, a tentative performance program, or list of activities.  
*A recital plan typically lists about 45 minutes of music representing three contrasting styles or periods. Vocalists should present texts in English and two other languages.*  
*Instrumentalists should include one complete sonata or other multi-movement work.*
- Goals:** aspirations and career expectations that motivate the student toward this Project
- Qualifications:** courses and experiences that have prepared the student for this Project
- Time line:** a checklist of dates including all significant steps from proposal to execution
- Participants:** a checklist of all human resources involved from proposal to execution, including the Mentor(s), accompanist(s), ensemble members, etc.

### Senior Year (or four months prior to Project completion)

1. **Progress and Modifications.** The student and the Senior Project Mentor are to assure that all appropriate instruction and preparation takes place. Significant modifications to the Project Proposal should be reported to the entire music faculty through any full-time faculty member. The faculty may recommend further modifications.
2. **Date and Facilities.** Having agreed with the instructor and accompanist on possible dates and times the student should reserve a location and date with University. Include a dress rehearsal and time for set-up and clean-up. See the Music Program Coordinator to help coordinate tasks.
3. **Logistics.** The following details should be planned:
  - θ *Program:* A program must be neatly and accurately typed and ready to print three weeks before the presentation or recital date. See the Music Office for assistance. Preparation and cost are the student's responsibility.
  - θ *Stage Manager:* A stage manager will be appointed to move instruments, chairs, music stands, or props, handle lighting, direct on/off stage cues, etc. (Cost of all musicians and materials are borne by the performer)
  - θ *Accompanist:* The student must contract an accompanist, normally on the Concordia staff. All costs are borne by the student and negotiated with the accompanist.

### Optional:

θ *Decorations:* flowers, plants on stage, etc.

θ *Reception:* room reservations, refreshments, etc.

θ *Recording and Videotaping,* assuring that it be discrete and unobtrusive

4. **Registration.** The student registers as follows before the semester of expected Project completion:  
*Academic Project or field study:* MUS 498. The student registers for two or three units using the guided study application form available from the Music Office or Registrar's office.  
*Recital, conducting, or composition:* MU-- 498. The student registers in the Music Office for two units of applied music, replacing the normal applied music level on the principal instrument.
5. **Appraisal Date/Recital Check. Recitals:** During the jury of the semester before or two months before the planned date of the recital—whichever is *earlier*—the student performs a Recital Check at which time the full-time faculty and concerned part-time faculty will see evidence of the final product. *Vocal and piano recitalists are expected to have the program memorized by this time.*  
**Projects:** Two months prior to presentation the student will present a draft of the document or other evidence of a final product for Appraisal to at least two full-time faculty.  
**Re-check:** If the first Recital Check or Appraisal were not approved, the student must arrange for a second Recital Check or Appraisal to take place not later than two months prior to completion. Failure to be granted approval may result in cancellation of the project and completion of the major.
6. **Completion.**  
*Recitalists and Directors* will be responsible for all setting up, warmup, and presentation of the event, but are encouraged to delegate tasks under the guidance of their Mentors.  
*Researchers and Composers* will make a formal presentation to a group or class and also present a final document to the full-time music faculty.  
**Important:** *The student is responsible for the security of any printed documents and should retain hard and software copies of any printed material.*
7. **Evaluation.** All concerned faculty will be asked by the Music Office to complete evaluations forms within one week after Project or Recital completion. The student will receive the evaluations including a faculty decision. If necessary, remediation will be suggested with a completion date to be negotiated with the student. *The Project must be completed and accepted before graduation.*

## Senior Project Suggestions

- 5 Senior Recital in voice, piano, guitar, French horn, etc.
- 5 Conducting Recital: choral, handbell, or instrumental
- 5 Research paper on a topic in music history, music education, ethnomusicology, or church music
- 5 Preparation of a sequence of music education activities for a given group of people at any level which could be used in the first year of teaching
- 5 Major composition or set of short works for organ, voice, choir, handbells, or other medium with a performance and publishable manuscript
- 5 Direction of a school or church choir or handbell ensemble of any level in a performance
- 5 Preparation and leadership of a festival worship service using a variety of resources

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# Application for a Senior Project or Recital

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of application \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Estimated date of completion \_\_\_\_\_ Mentor requested \_\_\_\_\_

Emphasis (check one):  church music  music education  liberal arts/performance

Attach a proposal on a separate sheet based on the following checklist:

- Title**, e.g., Children's Choir Concert
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- Time line:** a checklist of dates including all significant steps from proposal to execution
- Participants:** a checklist of all human resources involved from proposal to execution, including the Mentor(s), accompanist(s), ensemble members, etc.
- Registration:** Indicate semester of completion, and assure that you complete the standard Applied Music Registration Form for that semester.

**Declaration:** I have read, understand, and agree to the procedures described in the Guidelines for Senior Projects and Recitals.

Signed by student: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Approvals:**

Mentor: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

At least two full-time music faculty signatures:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Other: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Other: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Posted on Music Office calendar and copy filed.** Music Coordinator: \_\_\_\_\_