

**Report of Student Learning and Achievement
Concordia University Irvine
School of Arts and Sciences – Music Program**

For Academic Year:	2025-2026
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School of Arts and Sciences Mission
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Music Program Purpose

The School of Arts & Sciences fosters the virtues of curiosity, courage, and humility in our students, thereby preparing them for their vocations in service to others. This is accomplished within the Lutheran liberal arts tradition by engaging with many enduring questions while relying upon the truth found in Jesus Christ.

The School of Arts and Sciences teaches a majority of the Q&I general education offerings of the university and monitors the courses, majors, minors, and professional programs through its different departments for the purpose of developing "wise, honorable, and cultivated citizens" in a variety of fields of study.

The Music Department trains students to improve their communities with meaningful, beautiful, and edifying musical activity. This is accomplished through coursework designed to develop broadly-skilled musicians and frequent public performances in different contexts, especially where our music can help to share the Christian faith.

Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs)

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| 1. Practical Musicianship: Develop musical skills that reflect competent applications of the materials and conventions of music. |
| 2. Performance Musicianship: Generate musical performances that are technically adept and artistic. |
| 3. Leadership and Collaboration: Utilize the techniques, philosophies, and best practices of musical leadership and collaboration in order to enhance a community. |
| 4. Critical Listening: Interpret, analyze, and evaluate musical works and performances. |
| 5. Contextualization: Evaluate the significance of music in various contexts (e.g., spiritual, social, historical, ritual, cultural). |

Program Assessment Overview			
PLOs Assessed	Evidence and Assessment Instrument	Performance Objectives (Targets/Criteria) Measures:	Results for Measures of Student Learning:
PLO 5 – Contextualization of Music: Evaluate the significance of music in various contexts (e.g. spiritual, social, historical, ritual, cultural). (ULO: Written Communication, Oral Communication, Systematic Inquiry, Christian Literacy and Faith, Informed and Responsive Citizenship, Specialized Knowledge)	MUS 493 - Senior Thesis	70% of students achieve a grade of a B or higher based on the senior thesis grading expectations.	Percentage of students who met or exceed expectations: 82%

Summary of Program Assessment Findings
As anticipated, the majority of students that complete the senior thesis do so successfully. While 82% of students achieve a B grade or higher, these data sets show that 64% - 70% of our students complete this capstone assignment at an A grade level. What is more intriguing to assess are the papers that received a C grade or below. For example, the two F grades that were given in 2024/2025 were due to incomplete papers that were never submitted for grading. These students registered for MUS 493 again in the next semester, completed their papers and received a passing grade. The C+ paper that year was turned in and received that grade due to the quality of the research and writing. Similarly, in 2025/2026 a true failing grade was only given when the paper was not completed or submitted, and the D level paper was submitted and received that grade due to the poor quality of the work.

Program Proposed Course of Action for Improvement in Learning Outcomes

During discussion, the faculty reported that most students stay on top of the 12 week thesis completion timeline outlined in the MUS 493 syllabus. However, an identified area of improvement is a more structured system to set student/advisor meetings to keep the thesis on track. While the capstone is student-led, that individual effort should be more in the content and execution of the thesis paper and the faculty advisor can provide more structure when it comes to meetings and deadlines. A suggestion is to set all student/advisor meetings at the beginning of the semester and rescheduling them if a student doesn't submit the work due on that date.