

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL OKLAHOMA  
MASTER OF MUSIC IN JAZZ STUDIES  
MAJORS IN PERFORMANCE OR COMMERCIAL MUSIC PRODUCTION  
**EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES**

OVERALL JOINT OBJECTIVES

This program satisfies the need for a graduate level course of study preparing students for careers in the jazz and commercial music industry. Many skills needed in commercial music production are closely related to skills needed in jazz improvisation, composition, and arranging. The concept of having two majors available within one degree is not only relevant but efficient because there are a number of courses which are applicable to both areas of study including: Ensemble Participation, Applied Music, Jazz History, Computer Music Technology, Jazz & Commercial Music Arranging, and Arts Management. Students wishing to specialize primarily in the performance of jazz and commercial music would be better advised to follow the performance tract. The skills required of a professional jazz artist have proven to be the same necessary skills in many styles of commercial music. Students wishing to be directly involved in the recording and production aspects of jazz and commercial music would be better advised to follow the commercial music production tract. Commercial music production requires a high level of proficiency in composition, arrangement, and recording technology. Commercial music producers are not however required to be as technically proficient in the actual performance of such music.

SPECIFIC EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES

**Master of Music in Jazz Studies – Major in Performance**

At the completion of this graduate degree, the student shall demonstrate musical skills equivalent to working professional jazz and commercial musicians in major cities of the United States. (E.g. New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, Houston, OKC, Austin, etc.)

- The student shall be a technically proficient sight-reader.
- The student shall have memorized at least thirty jazz standards commonly performed by professional musicians.
- The student shall perform on his/her primary instrument/voice with a level of technical proficiency expected in the professional music business. (E.g. tone, style, technique, etc.)
- The student shall possess an appropriate level of technical proficiency on ‘doubling’ instruments in their area as determined by his/her applied music instructor. For example: Saxophonists are expected to double on clarinet and flute; Bassists are expected to perform on acoustic and electric bass; Etc.
- The student shall demonstrate professional arranging skills including writing for small and large ensemble combinations.
- The student shall demonstrate a high level of proficiency in composition.
- The student shall demonstrate competency in the use of computer music technology including notation, MIDI sequencing and audio recording.
- The student shall demonstrate skills necessary to successfully promote, market, and manage his/her professional career.

- The student shall demonstrate a working knowledge of the techniques used in teaching jazz and commercial music styles on both a one-on-one basis as well as working with small and large ensembles.
- The student shall be technically proficient at sight-reading chord symbols and number charts on his/her primary instrument/voice and at the keyboard.
- The student shall demonstrate competent knowledge of jazz history, influences of all major artists, and current stylistic trends.
- The student will demonstrate competency in scholarly writing by presenting research in jazz history, music analysis, and recital studies.
- The student shall perform a minimum sixty-minute recital that includes at least one original composition.

### **Master of Music in Jazz Studies – Major in Commercial Music Production**

At the completion of this graduate degree, the student shall demonstrate skills equivalent to professional commercial music producers in major cities of the United States. (E.g., New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, Nashville, Houston, OKC, Austin, etc.)

- The student will be a technically proficient sight-reader.
- The student will have memorized at least ten jazz standards commonly performed by professional musicians.
- The student will perform on their primary instrument/voice with a demonstrated level of technical proficiency as determined by their applied instructor.
- The student will demonstrate professional arranging skills writing for small and large ensembles.
- The student will demonstrate professional composition skills writing for small and/or large ensembles.
- The student will demonstrate professional skills in the use of computer music technology including notation, MIDI sequencing, and audio recording.
- The student will demonstrate the basic skills necessary to successfully promote, market, and manage their professional career.
- The student will be technically proficient at sight-reading chord symbols and number charts at the keyboard.
- The student will demonstrate professional level skills working with computer based digital audio workstation software such as *Digital Performer*.
- The student will demonstrate professional level skills in the techniques of microphone selection and optimum placement; gain structure, and pre-amp choices.
- The student will demonstrate professional level skills in the techniques of tracking, mixing and mastering music.
- The student will demonstrate a competent knowledge of jazz history, influences of all major artists, and current stylistic trends.
- The student will demonstrate competency in scholarly writing through the presentation of research in jazz history, music analysis, music technology, and CD liner notes.
- The student will independently compose, arrange, and produce a professional and commercially viable CD album with a minimum of two original compositions. This completed CD will be at least 45 minutes in length.