

Program Requirements by SOU

1. Program must total no less than 45 quarter hours of credits. (36 quarter hours in ABC music courses and 9 quarter hours in related, non-music courses.) [45 quarter hours is equivalent to 30 semester hours.]
2. You must meet the following requirements for admission to the ABC master's program:
 - a. Hold a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university.
 - b. Have official transcripts of all undergraduate and graduate coursework sent to the Office of Admissions.
 - c. Have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 for regular admission (last 90 quarter hours or last 60 semester units), or a 2.75 for provisional admission. Students with provisional admission must earn 12 credits of approved graduate courses toward the proposed program of study and receive grades of B or above to gain regular admission. Permission to take coursework does not constitute admission to the master's degree program.
 - d. Earn a score of 800 in the combined quantitative and verbal areas of the General Graduate Record Examination plus a 3.5 or higher in the Analytical essay portion of the GRE.
 - e. Meet departmental prerequisites for your program of study via the ABC Entrance Exam on June 20.
 - f. International students must have a TOEFL score of 540 or above (score subject to change) or clearance from the Department of English in English proficiency.
3. All courses must carry graduate credit and a letter grade. (See especially numbers 9, 10, 11, 12 below)
4. All courses (36 credits) in the major department must be ABC coursework through the Music Department at Southern Oregon University for completion of the Master of Conducting degree.
5. The 9 quarter hours of credits in the support area must relate to, but be from a department (or departments) other than music at Southern Oregon University. Unless otherwise approved, these non-music courses must be chosen from those specifically offered through ABC each summer.
6. A maximum of 9 quarter hours of research coursework may be used.
7. No more than 21 hours of open-numbered courses may be included in a 45 hour program. Open-numbered courses are those which have no specific subject matter description in the catalog, including the following: 501, 505, 507, 509, 510 (Topics), 599.
8. Courses may be no more than seven years old at the time of completion of the degree.
9. Up to 9 quarter credit hours of recent non-music courses, offered through an SOU master's program but not specifically ABC, may be included if approved by the ABC Director and the Graduate School Coordinator.
10. Graduate credit by examination is not acceptable.
11. In-service and professional development courses are not acceptable; course must be part of one of the master's programs at Southern Oregon University.
12. Non-music correspondence courses may not be used in the master's degree program.



Each summer more than 75 band directors from all areas of North America take the ABC entrance exam as a means of determining individualized areas of study and project creation.

The Admission Process

(See the 3-Year Checklist at www.bandworld.org for step-by-step guidelines)

1. In order to begin the admission process as a master's degree candidate, you must complete the online Southern Oregon University Admission Application (at www.SOU.edu). Payment of the \$50 fee must be paid to Southern Oregon University Admission Office.
2. A file is created at the SOU Admissions Office (not in the Music Department or ABC offices) awaiting:
 - a. The submitted Application for Admission filed and received by SOU with ALL of the following NO LATER THAN APRIL 1.
 - b. Official copies of ALL transcripts from EVERY college and university you have ever attended.
 - c. Your GRE scores with required totals (minimum of 800 total in quantitative and verbal plus a 3.5 in analytical) have been received.
3. If ANY of the above is missing, your file WILL NEVER BE SENT to the Graduate Admissions Auditor for analysis and approval.
4. If you have taken the ABC entrance exam and the SOU Graduate Office has notified ABC that you have been admitted, your Planned Program (signed by you when you arrive on June 20 of your first summer) is then sent through channels for various signatures and full admission.
5. Important note: None of the ABC music courses beyond the first 12 credits will count toward your degree unless you are fully admitted to the institution. In other words, you will not be allowed to do graduate work after the first summer if you are not fully admitted.

Practical Applications

Each candidate receives detailed information on areas of weaknesses identified in entrance exam results (June 20). By the June 25 deadline each candidate must submit an online proposal for 3 projects that will be based around 3 different areas of weakness (not including any weakness that is the same as the candidate's primary performing instrument). The ABC graduate faculty will determine suitability and grant approval or required revision by June 28. Revisions then must be resubmitted by July 1 latest. In August of the following three summers, one of the three Practical Applications must be received by ABC, no later than August 10. All work on the proposals, submission and approval are conducted online at www.bandworld.org / My Account / Practical App Submit. See detailed information by logging in and choosing Practical App Submit (under "My Account").

Research Project 1 Explanation (Mus 515) Performance Evaluation

- Each master's degree candidate must supply a performance-level recording (mp3 only via online upload) of his or her concert band. This must be completed by June 1 of the candidate's first summer at ABC.
- The completed research project must arrive in Ashland by August 10. (Mail to the 407 Terrace, Ashland address by Aug. 5. Use a mail service that provides tracking and guaranteed delivery. Waive signature requirement.
- Each candidate will, by July 5, receive a CD (containing recordings of 5 to 7 bands) to be analyzed.
- Each candidate must then return a professional-quality, voice-overdub commentary on the band's performance as well as appropriate written commentary in printed form. Also submit a disk of related text files. (Retain a copy in case of loss in the mail. Also retain the original CD provided by ABC that contains the various bands in case the project must be redone.)

CANDIDATE PERFORMANCE RECORDINGS

In the event that the candidate is not a director of a band, the candidate may supply a recording made as a result of working with and from a performance given by a concert band in his or her region. This might involve serving as a volunteer or in a substitute role in a school program.

WRITTEN COMMENTARY FORMAT

- Use a standard computer-based word processor or text program. Supply a printout plus a text file-only version on the disc submitted.
- Begin the first section of the document with letter designator and band number; for example: BAND 054A
- Leave a space under BAND 054A, then put WOODWINDS, then a blank space.
- Type all comments about woodwinds under this title.
- Leave a space and type BRASS in caps; then a blank space and all brass comments.
- Leave a space and type PERCUSSION in caps, then a blank space and percussion comments.
- Leave a space and type OVERALL in caps, then a blank space & overall comments.
- Then leave 2 blank spaces and continue: BAND 055A, etc.

The computer file **MUST BE SAVED IN TEXT ONLY FORMAT** so that it can be read by other applications. This **TEXT FILE** may be a Macintosh or PC file and should be returned to 407 Terrace on a CD. Include your name on the disk and a reference to Research Project #1. Also enclose a printout of the written material that is on your disk.

EVALUATION PROCESS AND PROCEDURE

You may, of course, listen to the CD as many times as desired. The ABC Graduate Faculty recommends that you **DO NOT** use a score to do the analysis; we want to promote listening rather than watching.

WRITTEN COMMENTARY CONTENT

After listening to each band, write **VERY** specific comments that will **IMPROVE** the WOODWIND section. Then do the same for the BRASS section and finally the PERCUSSION section. These should address tone quality, intonation, balance, blend, technique, attacks, releases, rhythm, technique, etc. but must be specific to the band and the music being performed. (What *specifically* is out of tune, balance, etc.)

Finally, write comments that concern the **OVERALL** improvement of the band. In the **OVERALL** area, address overall performance as it would relate to the highest possible quality at this age level. Give suggestions for improvements that will have the greatest bearing on attaining superior quality with this band.

Keep comments concise and limit each area (Woodwinds, Brass, Percussion, Overall) to 250 words or less on each areas.

VOICE-OVERDUB

After comments have been written for each group, play the CD (balancing music into the background but clearly audible when combined with voice) while you record comments. Use a free application such as Audacity (Mac or PC) to make the final recording. Test your composite copy to be sure.

Comments on the CD will, of course, reinforce written comments but must be *specific* to what is happening in the music **AT THE TIME THAT IT IS HAPPENING**. Obviously, you cannot address everything in the five minutes of CD allowed for each band; therefore, you should concentrate on comments that can lead to major improvements. (In other words, do not talk about a single missed note in the clarinet part, but also do not make useless generalizations about how the music should be louder or softer in this phrase when the most important consideration is that the entire band is playing with poor tone quality.)

You may make comments after the music ends to address problems you could not amply diagnose while the music was playing (limit after-comments to 2 minutes). The tone of your voice, the helpful nature of your comments and the specific nature of those comments weighs heavily in graduate faculty grading.

Be sure to write your name and Research Project 1 on the CD and the case. Also include your name in the computer files and the printouts of those files.

REQUIRED PROJECT FORM and COMPUTER FILES

Every ABC project must be placed in the 11 x 14-inch envelope provided by ABC on which you must complete the Project Form. Clearly indicate every application and types of data files used. The actual data files must also be burned to CD and submitted with the project.

If either item is missing or incomplete, the candidate must submit a \$10 fee for each missing item. These missing items must arrive at the ABC office no later than August 17 to avoid an automatic "F" in the course.



Frederick Fennell (right) and school director, Max McKee, discuss a missing part during ABC '96.