

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 2 Explanation (Mus 516) Performance Preparation

PROJECT INFORMATION

- Each master's degree candidate must select a composition from standard contest literature appropriate to his or her program. (No pop tunes. Concert band literature only.)
- 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 is to return a digital video (DVD) with three recorded segments in which the band and the conductor are frequently visible:

1. Preliminary sightreading of the chosen composition, including oral introduction and comments prior to the reading (length of composition plus 5 minutes maximum).
2. A mid-point rehearsal of the chosen composition (20 minutes minimum to 30 minutes maximum) in which the candidate actively rehearses the band.
3. An in-performance video of the chosen composition (length of composition maximum length) for an audience.

Each candidate is to return appropriate, *detailed* written materials which support lesson plans:

1. Sightreading presentation: historical or other background, anticipated problems, etc. before first video (short, concise).
2. Problem-solving techniques, examples, etc. to be used in subsequent rehearsals to the mid-point video which address specific problems evident in the *sightreading video*.
3. Problem-solving techniques, examples, etc. to be used in subsequent rehearsals after the mid-point video which address specific problems evident in the *mid-point video*.
4. A final evaluation following the videotaped performance, assessing unsolved problems, etc.
5. A copy of the conductor's score. (Submit a copy that does not need to be returned. A photocopy of the score you own will be destroyed after faculty evaluation.)

It is of utmost importance that the candidate prepare and document every facet of rehearsal with the chosen composition. This must then include methods of problem-solving, music or rhythmic examples as deemed appropriate for teaching, related skill-development (scales, chorales, etc.), as well as commentary following each taped segment that adequately explains what the candidate plans to do in future rehearsals that will improve this music.

It is the ABC Graduate Faculty's hope that the candidate will use this project to improve and professionalize various aspects of rehearsal presentation. For this reason, it is recommended that the candidate do written documentation throughout the course of the project. Without this, it will be extremely difficult to resurrect problems encountered on a daily basis at the time the project is completed.

CANDIDATE VIDEOTAPING

IMPORTANT: Because this is an end-of-second-year master's degree project (which must be submitted by August 10 of that summer), it is important to do the videotaping during the school year following the candidate's first summer in the ABC program.



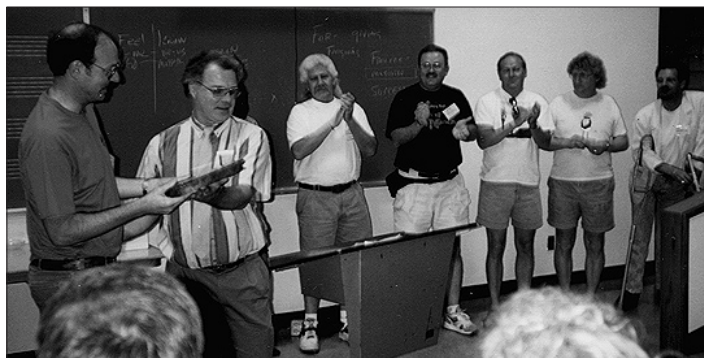
Kazakstan conductor, Kanat Akhmetov, performs on his native carnai while conducting during an ABC Fireworks Concert on July 4.

In the event that the candidate is not a director of a band, the candidate may supply the 3-part videotape created as a result of working with and from a performance presented by a band in his or her region. This might involve serving as a volunteer or in a substitute role in a school program or with a local community band.

GRADES ON PROJECTS

Projects of inferior quality will be rejected by the graduate faculty and/or receive grades below that which is required for graduation. Grades on any project must be a "C" or above to be counted toward degree completion.

The graduate faculty may assign a project a grade of "Incomplete (Redo)". This will be done only if the project will receive a passing grade with slight alterations. When an "Incomplete (Redo)" is given to the project, the candidate must complete the redone project by December 27 of that year in order to avoid a one year extension to the normal program length; this is to guarantee that graduate faculty feedback on the research project will provide ample implementation time for the candidate during the course of that same year.



Max McKee (2nd from left) presents the ABC certification plaque to Roger Lacher, one of six in the first graduating class (July 1994). Other conductors, whose bands have appeared at WIBC or graduated from the ABC undergraduate program, await each graduate to congratulate them and present the prestigious Phoenix pin.

