



JAZZ HANDBOOK

Revised August 2017

UNCG Jazz Studies Handbook

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Jazz Faculty

- Chad Eby Jazz saxophone studio teacher, Jazz History, Jazz Ensemble I
<http://performingarts.uncg.edu/bios/chad-eby>
- Steve Haines Jazz double bass studio teacher, Jazz Arranging I & II, Jazz
Pedagogy, Chamber Music Jazz, Director
<http://performingarts.uncg.edu/bios/steve-haines>
- Greg Hyslop Jazz guitar studio teacher
<http://performingarts.uncg.edu/bios/greg-hyslop>
- Brandon Lee Jazz brass studio teacher, Introduction to Jazz Listening,
Principles of Jazz Theory, Improvisation I & II, Jazz Ensemble II
<http://performingarts.uncg.edu/bios/brandon-lee>
- John Salmon Jazz piano studio teacher
<http://performingarts.uncg.edu/bios/john-salmon>
- Thomas Taylor Jazz drum set and percussion studio teacher
<http://performingarts.uncg.edu/bios/thomas-taylor>

Jazz Courses

- MUS 214-01 **Jazz Appreciation** (3 credits: offered every semester)
Mondays and Wednesdays, 2:00-3:15 pm
Introductory course designed to give the student new insights and general knowledge of all jazz styles. Does not require previous musical training.
- MUP 204/605-01 **Principles of Jazz Theory** (2 credits: offered every spring)
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3:00-4:15 pm
Establishes a foundation of knowledge in jazz theory, stressing improvisation, jazz nomenclature, voice leading and basic chord substitution. In this class students learn by lecture, by rote, and with practical application of jazz improvisation.
- MUP 104-01 **Introduction to Jazz Listening** (2 credits: offered every fall)
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11 am to 11:50 am
This course introduces and enhances the power of listening to jazz music. With specific aural observation, the student will be able to hear more. This benefits our musicianship enormously.
- MUP 321/664-01 **Jazz Improvisation I** (2 credits: offered every “even” year in the fall)
Mondays and Wednesdays, 10:00-10:50 am
- MUP 322/665-01 **Jazz Improvisation II** (2 credits: offered every “odd” year in the spring)
Mondays and Wednesdays, 10:00-10:50 am
The first semester covers essential theoretical knowledge and practical skills and the practice of integrating them into improvisation. The second semester involves continued development of knowledge and skills with emphasis on increased fluency and mastery.

MUP 409/609-01 **Jazz Pedagogy** (2 credits: offered every “even” year in the fall)

Mondays and Wednesdays, 2:00-2:50 pm

This course studies the principles of jazz interpretation, swing, improvisation, and theory. In addition, procedures for organizing and administering jazz programs and for conducting small and large jazz rehearsals are covered. MUP 423/623-01

Jazz Arranging I (2 credits: offered every “odd” year in the fall)

Mondays and Wednesdays, 2:00-2:50 pm

This course introduces jazz arranging and composition for group sizes from duet to nonette. The music of Oscar Peterson, Art Blakey, Miles Davis, Wayne Shorter, Kenny Wheeler and others are studied.

MUS 424/624-01 **Jazz Arranging II** (2 credits: offered every “even” year in the spring)

Mondays and Wednesdays, 10:00-10:50 am

This course introduces jazz arranging and composition for large jazz ensembles. The music of Fletcher Henderson, Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Sammy Nestico, Thad Jones, Jim McNeely, and Kenny Wheeler are studied. In this class, students are able to have their arrangements performed by the UNCG Jazz Ensemble I & II. Many of these arrangements are recorded.

MUP 460/663 **Jazz History** (3 credits: offered every “even” year in the spring)

Mondays and Wednesdays, 2:00-3:15 pm

A chronological survey of jazz music and history are explored in this course as well as an introduction to standard reference works and an investigation of socio-cultural aspects of the music.

- ENS 348/648-02 **Chamber Music: Jazz** (1 credit: offered every semester)
- Students meet twice a week to rehearse, and collectively Wednesdays from 5:00-5:50 pm
- Several "combos" are organized each semester to provide the student an opportunity to study and perform standard jazz literature and original student compositions. The small jazz ensembles perform on campus and in local restaurants and clubs. Small jazz groups receive active training in the studio
- ENS 395/695-01 **Jazz Ensemble I** (1 credit: offered every semester)
- Students meet Mondays through Thursdays from noon-12:50 pm
- ENS 396/696-01 **Jazz Ensemble II** (1 credit: offered every semester)
- Students meet Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 11:00 - 11:50 am
- These large jazz ensembles rehearse and perform published music as well as music of UNCG students.

Auditioning into the Miles Davis Jazz Studies Program

Entrance into the Miles Davis Jazz Studies Program is made by applying to UNCG at large, and also applying for an audition through the School of Music, Theatre and Dance.

We allow twenty-seven jazz majors, which means we accept between six and eight students every academic year. Therefore, admission into the program is very competitive. The instruments we currently accept into the program are saxophone, trumpet, trombone, piano, guitar, double bass, and drums/percussion. Singers or bass players exclusive to the electric bass are not accepted into our program.

Generally speaking, your Grade Point Average has to be fairly high, which demonstrates to the university that you are able to withstand the pressure of the university classroom. For specific guidelines on your GPA check the registrar's website online.

Before your audition, we recommend contacting one of the jazz faculty and setting up a day to visit us on campus. During this time, we can arrange a schedule for you which will include observing classes, sitting in on rehearsals, speaking and performing with UNCG Jazz students, and getting a lesson with your potential primary teacher.

For current audition dates contact the main office at the School of Music, Theatre and Dance. If you can't attend one of the regular audition dates you may be able to come at another time. As well, if international applicants are not able to travel for a live audition we may be able to do the audition live online via skype or facetime.

Your audition will last fifteen to twenty minutes. You will be expected to demonstrate your improvisational ability, sound, feel, range, technique and sight reading. We require you to prepare to play two or three standards of contrasting styles. For example, consider preparing a blues, a ballad, and a tin pan alley type standard. You will be asked to play the melody and improvise. A faculty member will be happy to accompany you during your audition. You should also be prepared to play some scales and arpeggios.

We do not have a preset requirement for the type and speed of your scales: your scales are a good indicator of your level of experience on your instrument. The sight-reading portion of the audition will reveal your ability to swing and read. For rhythm section players, you will also be asked to demonstrate your accompanying ability. Drummers will be asked to play slow, medium and up-tempo swing and Latin feels with brushes and sticks. We also recommend highly for the student to play a transcription, but this is optional. To do this, bring an mp3 with you to play along with the person you are imitating.

For your audition, leave your instrument cases in the hall and be sure to come in warmed up, in tune, and ready to play. Drummers will need to bring a hi-hat clutch, all cymbals and a snare drum. Drums and hardware will be provided. For guitarists an amplifier will be provided.

Scholarships

Scholarships are available to qualified students. All students are considered for scholarships when they audition. Applicants to the jazz program are encouraged to maintain a high GPA in high school, as this will help their case for a scholarship. Generally speaking, our scholarship dollars are low and we can only give three or four scholarships per year in the range of \$1000, which is common, to \$4000, which is rare.

All students with exceptional high school G.P.A.'s are encouraged to apply for the **Blue and Gold Scholarships**, which are four year academic scholarships. The deadline is usually in the late fall prior to the next academic year, so be mindful of your time. A link with more information can be found here:

<https://fia.uncg.edu/uncg-grants-and-scholarships/blue-gold-scholarships/>

Advice for first year students

Your first year in college can be an overwhelming experience. You are undoubtedly going through major changes in your life. It can be difficult for many people.

The key to success in your first year is survival! You must show up, and show up on time.

We advise you to establish a daily routine. In one full day you'll need to eat, sleep, go to classes, practice, study, listen, play with others and socialize. It's a tough balance. Here is an example of how you might consider your weekday:

7:30 am	wake, quick breakfast
8:00-8:50 am	class
9:00-9:50 am	practice
10:00-10:50 am	class
11:00-11:50 am	shower, eat, relax
noon-12:50 pm	rehearsal
1:00-1:50 pm	practice
2:00-2:50 pm	class
3:00-3:50 pm	listening
4:00-4:50 pm	practice
5:00-5:50 pm	relax, exercise, or play with others
6:00-7:00 pm	eat, socialize
7:00-9:00 pm	study, homework, or practice
9:00-11 pm	play with others, go to jam session, transcribe

The culture of jazz studies at UNCG

UNCG is much more than classwork. Students will find that they learn a great deal outside the classroom. Jamming and listening alongside other students is a great way to apply things on your instrument and to develop your ear. Students should attend weekly jam sessions and play and listen with one another as much as possible. You'll find yourself hiring and being hired by your fellow classmates in the future.

The Miles Davis Jazz Studies Program invests a great deal of resources in securing world-class performers to do clinics during the academic year. Attendance is mandatory for all students when special guests visit (this is tied into the repertory/small groups class).

Many students take an interest in writing for small and large groups. There are many opportunities for students in this area and students are encouraged to participate. In the past, clinicians such as Joel Frahm and Lee Konitz have purchased arrangements from students which have been performed with other bands. Faculty are aware that writing music outside of class can be very time consuming. Students are encouraged to speak with their faculty studio teacher about what is appropriate.

Lastly, take advantage of the talent all around you. Do well in your classes and study hard. Participate in Wind Ensemble or Orchestra for a year or two. You'll enjoy it.

Small groups/Repertory class

Our small jazz groups (ENS 348-02/648-02) is a one credit class which meets every Wednesday from 5:00-5:50 pm in room 217. This time also serves as our jazz repertory class, which is mandatory for all jazz majors unless there is a class conflict. Students must also meet once a week with a coach for an hour and at least once a week without a coach for an hour.

Jazz majors should be sure to sign up for the zero credit repertory class. Students are assigned into combos where they can mentor one another. In each semester genres or artists are assigned. In the past we have had combos devoted to the music of Oscar Peterson, Mary Lou Williams, Louis Armstrong, Joe Henderson, the 1st Miles Davis Quintet, Art Blakey and the Jazz Messengers, Blues and Rhythm Changes, etc.

We tend to have between four and seven small jazz combos each semester. Admission into the combo is automatic for jazz majors and by audition for non-jazz majors as space is limited. Combos perform twice on campus and at least once off campus.

Students usually learn the music by rote. They are encouraged to seek the original published music to double check that the melodies are accurate, since melodies are often improvisationally presented in jazz music. As well, each member of the ensemble should bring in a simple arrangement for the band to play. The assigned faculty member can help greatly with this.

The Spartan Jazz Collective is a continuous small jazz septet comprised of two or three jazz faculty and students. UNCG students tend to rotate in and out of this ensemble. In the past, the Spartan Jazz Collective has focused on the music of Herbie Nichols, Bill Evans, Charles Mingus, and Max Roach.

Large Jazz Ensembles

The UNCG Miles Davis Jazz Studies Program houses two large jazz ensembles. Large Jazz Ensembles (ENS 395/695-01, and ENS 396/696-01) is a one credit class. These ensembles typically hold five reed players, three or four trombone players, four or five trumpet players, and a rhythm section consisting of a guitarist, pianist, double bassist and drummer. Both groups proudly perform the music from the entire jazz era, beginning in the 1920's. They also perform music which was written by UNCG students.

Jazz Ensemble I

UNCG Jazz Ensemble I is regarded as one of the premier jazz ensembles in the nation, and has been featured in concerts throughout the United States, on radio and television. The ensemble is comprised of undergraduate jazz studies majors and undergraduate and graduate performance and education majors whom are making jazz a part of their musical training. Guest artists who have performed with Jazz Ensemble I include Clark Terry, Ellis Marsalis, Dick Oatts, Robin Eubanks, Peter Bernstein, Joel Frahm, Seamus Blake, Marcus Printup, Ryan Kisor, Joey Calderazzo, Lee Konitz, Lewis Nash, Vincent Gardner, and many others. Jazz Ensemble I has toured extensively and has performed at Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, and at Lincoln Center in New York City. Every year, the ensemble produces a compact disc recording, which consists of compositions, arrangements, and orchestrations written by current UNCG students. During the participants' tenure, they will be exposed to the great music of large jazz ensembles, such as Fletcher Henderson, Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Thad Jones, as well as contemporary artists.

UNCG Jazz recordings have received five-star reviews and are frequently heard on NPR radio. Our most recent releases are "Turns Out" (2013) and "Bouncing with Blue Note at 75" (2014). As well, Jazz Ensemble I has been honored with the Herb Wong Blue Chip Award for "**Top 10 Best Jazz College Recordings**" three years in a row. For a complete discography, visit the link above.

Our YouTube page features many student arrangements performed with saxophonist John Ellis, among others. We rehearse four days per week, from noon to 12:50 pm in the large rehearsal hall, room 111. The course number is 395-01, or 695-01 for graduate students. Feel free to come and observe us rehearse anytime! We also perform often during the school year. Information about our concerts can be found on the School of Music, Theatre and Dance calendar.

The Jazz Ensemble II meets three times a week on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 11 am to 11:50 am in room 111. It is designed for jazz majors and non-jazz majors who are getting started with improvisatory music and swing. This ensemble recently recorded the compact disc *Metamorphosis* and performs often. Guest artists who have performed with this exciting ensemble include Will Campbell, and Ryan Kisor.

Juries

Juries are given on reading day at the end of each semester between 5-9 pm in room 111. All students except spring semester seniors are required to perform a jury.

A sign up sheet will be posted on the Director's door two weeks prior to juries. There will be a rhythm section assigned to accompany you. You will be expected to play a standard with the rhythm section. Bring lead sheets for your rhythm section just in case they are unfamiliar with your tune. Also, you will be asked to play a transcription at the jury. Please bring an mp3 of the solo you will be playing. Usually the solo is played along with the original recording. Be sure to speak with your studio teacher about this as each studio handles this differently.

The work you have done in addition to your tune and transcription (such as classical work, sight reading, scales, etc.) will be evaluated by your studio teacher outside of this jury time.

Jazz Recitals

Juniors and Seniors are each required to present a recital. They can be done in either the fall or spring semester. Your faculty studio teacher will be responsible for advising you on tune choices, arrangements and personnel. The student is responsible for setting the date of the recital, securing band members and submitting all paperwork and programming related to the recital and recital jury. Faculty are not allowed to perform on student recitals. However, musicians who are not attending UNCG may perform on recitals.

All recitals must first be approved with a recital jury. This must be done at least one month prior to the recital date. At least two members of the faculty must be present for the recital jury. We recommend doing your recital jury six weeks before the jury date so that if there is an issue you can redo the jury without necessarily having to change the recital date.

- You **MUST** have your band and your date/time requests for your jury submitted to Dennis Hopson by Friday of the second week of classes.

Here is a list of things to do:

- Find three common dates that you, your band members and your faculty studio teacher can attend the recital. Do this early in the fall semester as dates in the recital halls fill up fast.
- Go to to secure your date, look at the calendar of events found here:

<http://performingarts.uncg.edu/musical/performance-spaces>

You will be able to see if either the Organ Hall or the Recital Hall are available.

Next, submit this online form:

[CVPA - School of Music - Bookings and Reservations](#)

- Once the date is secure, schedule your recital jury. Find a number of dates your band can get together and then email two faculty members who will serve as your recital jury. One must be your faculty studio teacher.

- Prepare your recital tunes with care. With your studio teacher's advice choose your music and prepare the arrangements. Also remember that the more band members you use, the more difficult scheduling will become. Choose your band wisely.
- Only one physical form will need to be submitted. It is called the Recital Request Form.

You will see instructions on this form with respect to getting your program information sent in and your fee (for programs, student workers, and the recording of your recital). It should be submitted to the main music office. If you would like to request microphones or monitors you must make note of this on the Recital Request Form. Microphones will not be provided if you are in the Organ Recital Hall.

Lastly, remember to rehearse appropriately so that your recital jury sounds great. If your band does not sound good on the recital jury and you sound good you will still fail your recital jury. Your band's success is your responsibility!

You must prepare 45 minutes of music, and your recital should not last over one hour. You should prepare six to eight tunes.

Do not dress casually if you are performing in a recital. This means no jeans, white socks, t-shirts and the like! See the chapter on "helpful hints with dress codes."

UNCG Equipment

All UNCG equipment should remain on UNCG property as our students and faculty rely on this equipment for education and performance on a daily basis. Use of a drum set or guitar amplifier off campus will only be approved if it is a UNCG sponsored event. Requests for use of the equipment must be made to the Director of Jazz Studies. Please notify the faculty immediately of any faulty or missing UNCG equipment

Helpful Hints with Dress Codes

Attire for Concert and Recitals:

As a student in the UNCG jazz studies program, it is required that you wear the proper attire for every type of performance. When you step out on stage you are not only representing yourself, but the entire jazz department and even the art form as a whole. What you wear represents who we are, so it is essential that we look the part as we step out on stage for every performance. There are two different categories of performances that will take place on campus: concerts and recitals. Here are ideas on what to wear.

Large Jazz Ensemble Concerts (Recital Hall or Aycock Auditorium):

The attire for any jazz concert is ***business dress (sometimes known as semi-formal)***. Business dress is a term used to describe a dress code that is something you would typically wear to a job interview, a traditional work environment or a formal wedding (not including if you are in the wedding party).

- MEN: Solid Suit (usually dark tone), dress shirt, tie, dress socks, dress shoes
- WOMEN: women's suit (dark tone), blouse, dress shirt, nylons, dress shoes (heels, etc.); or dress (dark tone, below the knee), nylons

Jazz Recitals and Jazz Combo Performance (Organ Hall or Recital Hall):

The attire for all recitals and yearly combo performance is **business-casual**. Business casual is a term used to describe a dress code a little more casual than traditional business (business dress) attire.

- **MEN:** Blazer (optional), Slacks or khakis (no jeans), collared button-down shirt or solid sweater/cardigan with collared shirt underneath (tie optional), dress socks, dress shoes or loafers or oxfords
- **WOMEN:** Dress slacks or knee length skirts, cotton blouses or patterned shirts, small heel shoes or flats.

Go online to look for examples of these two different types of dress codes. Below is one illustration of Business (professional) dress vs. Business Casual dress.

Business Casual vs. Professional

Have an interview or professional event coming up? Learn how to decode dress code.

Business Casual (Left Figure):

- Suit Jacket or Cardigan Can Be Added for a Classy Look
- More Colors & Patterns Acceptable
- Khaki Pants, Nice Trousers, or Fingertip-length Skirt
- Flats or Heels Acceptable
- Low-Heels Acceptable
- Suit Jacket or Business Dress
- Suit Pants or Slacks
- Skirts & Dresses Extend to Knee

Professional (Right Figure):

- Jacket or Vest Can Be Added For Classy Look
- Collared or Polo Shirt
- More Patterns & Colors Accepted
- Tie Optional
- Khaki Pants or Nice Trousers
- Suit Pants or Nice Trousers
- Dress Shoes

Keep Colors To: (Black, White, Grey, Blue, Brown)

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Additional Notes: Suit or Sports Jacket

Tips for Success in Any Business Situation

- 1 When in doubt, dress conservatively.
- 2 A suit (suit & tie for males) will suffice in most situations
- 3 Make sure your outfit is wrinkle-free.
- 4 Stick with solid colors and tighter-woven fabrics or simple patterns.
- 5 Accessories should be kept simple: basic pumps, modest jewelry, light make-up & light perfume.
- 6 Wear a belt and a watch.
- 7 Be sure your hair is neatly trimmed or groomed. Avoid the "messy" look.
- 8 Shirts with lettering or graphics should not be worn.
- 9 Check your outfit for missing buttons, lint, or a crooked tie.
- 10 A skirt should be no shorter than the tips of your middle fingers (or just above the knee for good measure).

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