

Westminster Choir College
of Rider University

Voice Department
Handbook

2009-2010

Revised 11/10/09

NOTE: Level I jury changes in this edition of the Handbook are applicable to all students who have not yet taken the Level I. Level II changes are applicable only to voice performance majors who have not yet taken the Level II jury.

Voice Department Handbook

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GENERAL DEPARTMENT INFORMATION

LENGTH AND NUMBER OF LESSONS

- Lessons are either 30 minutes or 60 minutes in length.
- A student having fewer than the equivalent of nine 60-minute lessons or eighteen 30-minute lessons will receive a failing grade in voice.
- Lessons missed by a teacher due to illness or other reasons will be made up. Student absences for any reason, including illness or personal scheduling conflicts, will not be made up.

STUDIO/PERFORMANCE CLASS

Although this class is not taken for specific credit, it is required of all undergraduate and graduate voice performance majors, voice primaries, and those graduate students with a concentration in voice. This year, there will be a class on each Tuesday and Thursday afternoon from 3:20-4:20.

Studio Class is a group made up of only those students studying with a particular teacher. The class is structured by the individual teacher and may include demonstrations, discussions and performances.

Performance Class This class allows students to experience performing before a large group. Students who are on the program are asked to exhibit appropriate performance behavior and dress. *Students in the audience are expected to behave in a supportive and respectful manner appropriate to accepted concert etiquette.* All students, including minors, are encouraged to perform.

In order to schedule him/herself for a performance class, the student (with his/her teacher), should fill out a *Performance Class Form*. These forms can be obtained on the Voice Department Bulletin Board in Erdman Hall, from the student's voice teacher, or online. The class is filled on a first come, first served basis; therefore, it is advisable to turn in the form as early as possible since classes are often filled more than a week in advance. If the class for which the student has applied is filled, he/she must resubmit a form for the next available class.

Attendance at these classes is required. In the event that a student has an unavoidable conflict, the student should notify the teacher as early as possible. Any student who is absent from the class more than three times in any semester will be considered deficient and will be required to repeat the semester or complete a project such as a paper, listening assignment, extra reading, etc. assigned by the teacher.

NOTE: A teacher may at any time hold a studio class for his/her studio in place of performance class. Finding a room will be the responsibility of the teacher – each teacher should contact the chair for information on open rooms.

CHANGING VOICE STUDIOS

If a student has problems with his/her studio assignment and wishes to change to another studio, the procedure is as follows:

1. The student must speak to his/her teacher about the concerns.
2. The student must speak with the Chair of the Voice Department, who will offer counsel and act as a mediator if conflict arises. If the student's teacher is the Chair of the Voice Department, he/she should speak with the Associate Dean.
3. If it is determined that a change should happen, the student must obtain a **Student Release Form** from the Chair of the Department.
4. After discussing the concerns and the student's intentions the teacher will sign the form, releasing the student from that studio at the end of the semester.
5. The student should arrange to audition for another teacher and should take the signed form to the audition.
6. At the audition, the prospective teacher may accept the student or suggest another teacher.
7. The new teacher will sign the release form and give it to the head of the Voice Department.
8. **CHANGING VOICE TEACHERS, ONCE THE SEMESTER HAS BEGUN, IS NOT POSSIBLE.**

NOTE: In our profession it is considered unethical to study voice with more than one teacher concurrently. In support of this position, the Voice Department prohibits any student taking voice instruction for credit at Westminster from studying with any other teacher on or off campus.

GUIDELINES FOR VOICE FACULTY

1. Teachers will make up any lessons they miss. Teachers are not required to make up lessons missed because of student illness or other absence.
2. Students must attend at least 9 hour or 18 half hour lessons to receive a passing grade.
3. Faculty who must be absent from lessons for a week or more should inform the department chair of the dates of anticipated absence and the plan for rescheduling lessons.
4. Make-up lessons because of teacher absence must be scheduled in a way that fits the student's schedule and does not penalize the student academically or financially.
5. All teachers must be present for their student's required recital(s).
6. All teachers (full-time and adjunct) must be present at studio class and performance class.
7. All teachers (full-time and adjunct) must be present at the end-of-semester juries of their students. Adjunct faculty must attend at least one full day of juries.

CONCERT ATTENDANCE POLICY

All undergraduate students are required to attend 7 concerts each semester. Students must report this recital attendance to their voice teacher in the way required by their teacher. Compliance with the recital attendance policy will be a part of a student's voice grade.

AUDITION FOR A CHANGE OF DEGREE PROGRAM

Any student wishing to change degree programs may audition for the Voice Faculty at the end of any semester during the exam period. Those auditioning for undergraduate Voice Performance must prepare four songs from memory; graduate students wishing to switch into the performance track must prepare either a Graduate Hearing or Qualifying test.

VOICE AWARDS AUDITIONS

The Voice Awards Auditions, which take place in the second semester, are the means for naming recipients of several voice scholarships for returning students. To be eligible to compete, undergraduate voice students must have a minimum 2.5 cumulative GPA (grade point average). Graduate students must have a minimum 3.0 GPA. Some awards have a higher academic requirements as well as age and financial need restrictions. Students enrolled in VC 101 will compete at the freshman level. Students enrolled in VC 201 will compete at the sophomore level. Students enrolled in VC 301 will compete at the junior level. **Undergraduate students may only audition once at each level. Only first year Graduate students enrolled in VC641, VC645, or VC655 may audition for the graduate award(s).** Results of the competition are announced at the Awards Convocation in May. All scholarships are credited toward payment of tuition for the following year and are divided equally between the two semesters.

RECITAL PROGRAMS

A template for recital programs is now available from the Performance Management Office and online. Programs will be folded 8.5x11 paper, preferably stapled. Programs should include the following information:

- Student name and voice part
- Name of accompanist and any assisting instrumentalists
- Date, time and place
- The following statement: (Student name) is a candidate for the Bachelor of Music degree in Voice Performance/Music Education/Sacred Music (as appropriate). (Student name) is a student of (teacher name).

Program notes should include translations of the foreign language works performed. The translations may be literal, a brief synopsis, or a description of the mood that the piece should project. Except in unusual circumstances, printed texts are not necessary for the English compositions. The student must present the notes to his/her teacher for their approval well in advance of the time when the programs are to be duplicated.

Six copies of each program should be presented to Carren Klenke in Performance Management in Williamson Hall (3 for the library, 1 for Associate Dean, 1 for ASCAP and 1 for the display case, which will be mounted outside the Box Office).

PRIVATE VOCAL COACHING

Private Coaching, VC457/458 (for undergraduates), and VC657/658 (for graduate students), are individual coaching sessions for singers on musical style, interpretation, ensemble, languages and presentation. Private Coaching VC457 and VC 657 consist of weekly hour-length lessons and a fee of \$1,000 per semester. Private Coaching VC458 and VC658 consist of weekly half-hour lessons and a fee of \$500. These courses may be repeated for credit. The prerequisite for VC457 and VC458 is successful completion of Level II. VC657 and VC658 are open to graduate Voice Pedagogy and Performance majors.

PRIVATE DRAMATIC/ROLE COACHING

Private Dramatic/Role Coaching, VC467/468 (for undergraduates), and VC667/668 (for graduate students) are individual dramatic coaching sessions for singers on operatic role study and/or audition preparation. Students will provide their own accompanists as needed. Private Dramatic/Role Coaching VC467 and VC667 consist of weekly hour-length lessons and a fee of \$1,000. Private Dramatic/Role Coaching VC468 and VC668 consist of weekly half-hour lessons and a fee of \$500. These courses may be repeated for credit. The prerequisite for VC467 and VC468 is successful completion of Level II.

VOICE REGISTRATION NUMBERS

No.	Undergraduate Students	Length of lesson
VC101	Freshmen voice primaries in all programs at Westminster Choir College	One hour
VC102	Freshmen theory/composition majors	½ hour
VC103	Voice class for organ and piano primaries	One hour
VC107	Elective voice study (there is a fee for all students matriculating in the fall of 2009, and a fee for half the lesson for all others)	One hour
VC108	Elective voice study (there is a fee for all students matriculating in the fall of 2009)	½ hour
VC201	Sophomore primaries in all programs at Westminster Choir College Voice performance majors may enroll only after passing Level I.	One hour
VC202	Sophomore theory/composition majors	½ hour
VC203	Organ and piano primaries who have passed the General Progress Jury	½ hour
VC301	Junior voice primaries in all programs at Westminster Choir College. Voice performance majors may enroll only after passing Level II.	One hour
VC302	Junior theory/composition majors	½ hour
VC401	Senior voice primaries in all programs at Westminster Choir College. Voice performance majors may enroll only after passing Level III. All other voice primaries may enroll only after passing Level II.	One hour
VC402	Senior theory/composition majors	½ hour
No.	Graduate Students	Length of lesson
VC641	Voice primaries in all programs, including students in the Performance Track of the Master of Music in Voice Pedagogy and Performance who have not yet passed the Voice Qualifying Test	One hour
VC647	Elective voice study (there is an extra fee)	One hour
VC648	Elective voice study (there is an extra fee)	½ hour
VC655	Students in the Performance Track of the Master of Music in Voice Pedagogy and Performance who have passed the Voice Qualifying Test	One hour

VOICE LEVEL PROCEDURES

1. Voice Levels, or juries, take place during exam week at the end of each semester. Make-up juries for students who are sick or have other emergencies during regular exam times will take place during the first week of classes in each semester.
2. **REPERTOIRE LIST FORM** --- This form must be filled out prior to any test or jury. The student must bring this form to the exam. The forms are available in the voice department office and from voice faculty members.
3. The tests are given one of the following grades by faculty vote:

Pass	Student may prepare for the next test or recital.
Conditional Pass	This test is passed but the faculty has concerns about specific problems which are serious enough to require a re-hearing at the next exam period. Both the concerns and the conditions of the rehearing will be explained in detail in writing and will be communicated to the student by the teacher. If the conditions are not satisfied at the next hearing, the student must repeat the semester of voice at the same number and sing again at the next exam period. <i>This option is not available for the Level II and Level III for Voice Performance majors.</i>
Fail	Student must repeat the present course number until the test is successfully completed. Failure to complete any test in <u>three</u> attempts will result in dismissal from the program

4. Students will be notified via e-mail of the results of all tests. Decisions of the faculty are final.
5. A student may attempt any Level or Hearing three times. If a student fails a test three times, he/she will be dismissed from the voice primary.
6. Students should be prepared to give translations from memory of foreign language texts sung as a part of any test.

UNDERGRADUATE APPLIED VOICE REQUIREMENTS

UNDERGRADUATE VOICE PERFORMANCE MAJORS

- Evaluation will be divided between three tests, called “Levels,” and a portfolio documenting repertoire to be assembled throughout the four years of study.
- Language and Diction instruction will parallel the requirements in the Levels:
 - Freshmen will study Italian language in the first year.
 - Freshman diction will be a two semester sequence that includes IPA, clear vowel and consonant sounds, and Italian diction, concluding with English diction.
 - Sophomores will choose between studying German and French language and will take the diction of the chosen language during that year.
 - Juniors will be encouraged to take the other language and will take the diction of that language during the year as well.
 - Students who take only one of the second languages (German or French) will normally take the diction of the other language in their junior year.

Level I

1. Level I is to be taken at the end of the freshman year.
2. The main thrust of the Level I is to evaluate the student’s technical progress
3. Ten minutes will be allowed for the test.

The following are expected of a successful Level I Test:

1. Musical accuracy
2. Physical alignment that serves singing
3. Evidence of efficient breath management
4. Connection of breath to tone
5. Proper pronunciation and inflection of the languages represented
6. Evidence of responsiveness to text
7. Evidence of a communicative performer

Test Requirements

1. Four selections from memory (two in Italian and two in English)
The student will begin with:
 - a. One Italian song or aria from the 17th or early 18th centuries
 - b. One song in English
2. Faculty may request to hear more of the required repertoire.

Outcomes

1. Pass – A passed Level I indicates satisfactory progress in the Voice Performance program and permission to proceed to sophomore level voice.
2. Provisional Pass --The Level I with a provisional pass reveals significant deficiencies but is not deemed failed. This outcome allows the student to proceed to sophomore voice but requires the student to sing again in the next semester. The concerns, the conditions and the repertoire will be explained in detail in writing and will be communicated to the student. Those reasons will NOT be the sole basis on which the next test will be assessed. If the conditions are not satisfied

at the rehearing, or if other parts of the rehearing are deemed by the faculty to be unsatisfactory, the student must repeat the semester of voice at the same number and sing again in the next exam period.

3. Fail—A failed Level I test will put the student on probation in the Voice Performance Program and require the student to repeat a semester of freshman voice.

Level II

- Level II is to be taken at the end of the sophomore year.
- Level II functions as a gateway test for remaining in the Voice Performance Program.
- Technical progress remains a significant part of this assessment.
- Students will present their portfolio for the faculty to assess its progress.
- 15 minutes will be allowed for the test.

The following are expected of a successful Level II Test

1. Musical accuracy
2. Correct pronunciation and inflection of text
3. Vibrant, resonant singing that reflects physical coordination
4. Ability to sing legato line
5. Sensitivity to musical style
6. Performance that reveals understanding of and commitment to text
7. Development as a persuasive and communicative performer

Test Requirements

1. Six selections from memory
 - a. 3 songs in the focus language (either German or French)
 - b. 1 song in English
 - c. 2 songs in any language other than the chosen one (one may be an aria, if appropriate)Student will present 1 song (not an aria) in the focus language and one other selection.
2. Faculty may request to hear more of the presented repertoire.

Outcomes

1. Pass—A passed Level II indicates full acceptance into the Voice Performance Program and permission to proceed to junior level voice and sing the Junior Recital in the junior year.
2. Fail--Failure of the Level II will result in:
 - One semester probation in the Voice Performance Program after which the student must be retested and admitted in full standing to the program or dismissed. The student must repeat a semester of sophomore voice.

OR

- Removal from the Voice Performance Program
3. Pass or Fail are the only options for Level II.

Reasons for dismissal of a student from the Voice Performance Program as the result of a failed Level II:

- Inadequate vocal development
- Inadequate musicality
- Inadequate musical skills
- Lack of performing skills and/or spark
- Level III is to be taken at the end of either semester of the Junior Year.
- 15 minutes will be allowed for the test.

This test should demonstrate a synthesis of vocal, musical and performance achievement, progress in all skill sets, and continued growth in the following areas:

1. Musical accuracy
2. Correct pronunciation and inflection of text
3. Vibrant, resonant singing that reflects physical coordination
4. Ability to sing legato line
5. Sensitivity to musical style
6. Performance that reveals understanding of and commitment to text
7. Development as a persuasive and communicative performer

Level III

- Level III is to be taken at the end of either semester of the junior year.
- Technical progress remains a significant part of this assessment.
- Students will present their portfolio for the faculty to assess its progress.
- 15 minutes will be allowed for the test.

Test Requirements

1. 7 works from memory
 - a. 3 songs in the focus language not tested in the Level II (either German or French)
 - b. 1 post-baroque aria
 - c. 1 song in English
 - d. 1 song in any language other than the focus language of the test
 - e. A secco recitative

Student will sing two selections including one song (not aria) in the focus language tested and a post-baroque aria.
2. Student must include one song or aria written after 1975 (unless satisfied at an earlier test).
3. Faculty may hear further repertoire.

Outcomes

1. Pass—A passed Level III allows the student to progress to senior level voice and prepare the Senior Recital.
2. Fail— If the student does not pass the Level III, the student may not proceed to VC401 or present the Senior Recital. The faculty may place the student on probation or may remove the student from the Voice Performance Program.
3. Pass or Fail are the only options for Level III.

VOICE PERFORMANCE REPERTOIRE REQUIREMENTS

We believe that students should have experience singing in English, Italian, French, and German as well as in many compositional styles and periods. We feel teachers and students should have some flexibility as to how and when they sing in these styles and languages. We also believe that students should learn a significant amount of repertoire over their four years of study.

Requirements:

- Students will document all works studied, both memorized and not memorized (indicating which works were memorized) on the Voice Performance Repertoire List.
- Students shall have the following historic periods represented:
 - Italian Baroque (included in Level I)
 - German-language Baroque
 - Classical
 - 19th Century (including French *mélodie* and German *Lieder*)
 - 20th century
 - Music written after 1975
- Students shall have studied at least four Italian songs or arias.
- Students shall have studied at least two operatic arias.
- Students shall have studied a *secco recitativo*.
- Students shall have studied at least one Oratorio aria.
- Students shall have studied at least four German songs.
- Students shall have studied at least four French songs.
- Students shall have studied at least six songs in English including at least three American songs.
- Students shall have studied at least two songs from “national schools” (Spanish, Czech, Russian, Scandinavian, etc. – English translation allowed).
- Students will complete 35-40 works (songs, arias, recitatives) over the course of their 4 years (including Level requirements and two recitals.)
- Students with their teacher will keep track of the repertoire they have studied on the Voice Performance Repertoire List. Their progress will be monitored at the Level II test and again at the Level III test.
 - At Level II, the Repertoire List should indicate that the student has made significant progress in fulfilling repertoire requirements. At least 18 songs, including three languages and three historic periods, should be completed at the time of the Level II.
 - At least 30 songs should be completed at the time of the Level III.

The completed Voice Performance Repertoire List, signed by the professor, must be submitted to the registrar’s office with documentation of the senior recital. Failure to complete the requirements of the Repertoire List will result in failure to graduate.

Students must have sung each song in the Repertoire List with musical and linguistic accuracy, if not from memory, for the teacher, to be included on the Repertoire List.

Recital Requirements For Undergraduate Performance Majors

Junior Recital during VC 301	20-30 minutes of music
Senior Recital during VC 401	40-50 minutes of music

- While it is understood that the choice of repertoire for a required recital is the decision of both the singer and the teacher, the final judgment rests with the teacher.
- In order for a student to present a required voice recital, he/she must be registered for credit in voice at Westminster during the semester in which the recital is presented and must have full support and endorsement of his/her teacher.
- The Junior Recital should be, when possible, a joint recital with 20-30 minutes of music from each participant.
- Recital repertoire should represent a culmination of the vocal, musical and artistic work done to date, and should be of the sophistication and level of repertoire sung in the Level II exam.
- If the student has met the minimum time requirements stated above for the recital, the remaining available time may be used to sing repertoire of other styles and genres, with the approval of the teacher.
- It is understood that, with the exception of chamber music requiring more than one accompanying instrument, the recital will be performed from memory.

**UNDERGRADUATE VOICE PRIMARIES IN MUSIC EDUCATION, SACRED MUSIC,
AND BACHELOR OF ARTS PROGRAM**

SCHEDULE			
Freshman	Sophomore	Junior	Senior
VC 101 Level I at the end of 2 nd semester of VC 101; it may be delayed until the end of 1 st semester of VC 201 with the teacher's approval.	VC 201	VC 301 Level II at the end of 1 st semester of VC 301, and no later than the end of 2 nd semester of VC 301	VC 401 Senior Recital in either semester of VC 401

Level I Requirements for Music Education, Sacred Music and BA majors:

Level I

1. Level I is to be taken at the end of the freshman year.
2. The main thrust of the Level I is to evaluate the student's technical progress
3. Ten minutes will be allowed for the test.

The following are expected of a successful Level I Test:

1. Musical accuracy
2. Physical alignment that serves singing
3. Evidence of efficient breath management
4. Connection of breath to tone
5. Proper pronunciation and inflection of the languages represented
6. Evidence of responsiveness to text
7. Evidence of a communicative performer

Test Requirements

1. Four selections from memory (two in Italian and two in English)
 The student will begin with:
 - a. One Italian song or aria from the 17th or early 18th centuries
 - b. One song in English
2. Faculty may request to hear more of the required repertoire.

Level II Requirements for Music Education, Sacred Music and BA Majors

Repertoire Requirements	Memory requirements
1. Four German and four French songs or arias	Three songs from memory including both languages
2. Four songs or arias in any language other than German or French	Two songs from memory, one of which must be in English
3. Two arias in the original language (unless English transcription is commonly used) from oratorio and/or opera	One from memory
4. One recitative from and opera or oratorio in the original language	From memory
One aria or art song composed since 1950 must be on the repertoire list	Memorized or not

Repertoire for Level II must represent work done after the successful completion of the Level I test.

- At Level II, the student will sing 2 pieces of his/her choice, and additional pieces will be chosen by the faculty from the submitted repertoire.
- Criteria listed for Level I should be sufficiently advanced to indicate the student's readiness to prepare his/her recital.
- **Students in the above degree programs who do not pass the test are required to continue voice study at VC 301. This additional instruction must be taken by registering for voice through the school and may result in added expense to the student. A student may not enroll in VC 401 until this test is passed.**

Recital Requirements for Undergraduate Music Education, Sacred Music and BA Majors

Senior Recital during VC 401	25-50 minutes of music
(Junior Recital may be given after the successful completion of Level II, with permission of the teacher)	(20-30 minutes of music)

- While it is understood that the choice of repertoire for a required recital is the decision of both the singer and the teacher, the final judgment rests with the teacher.
- In order for a student to present a required voice recital, he/she must be registered for credit in voice at Westminster during the semester in which the recital is presented and must have full support and endorsement of his/her teacher.
- Joint recitals either with another singer or a pianist or organist are strongly encouraged.
- Recital repertoire should represent a culmination of the vocal, musical and artistic work done to date, and should be of the sophistication and level of repertoire sung in the Level II exam.
- If the student has met the minimum time requirements stated above for the recital, the remaining available time may be used to sing repertoire of other styles and genres, with the approval of the teacher.
- It is understood that, with the exception of chamber music requiring more than one accompanying instrument, the recital will be performed from memory.

UNDERGRADUATE MUSIC THEATER MAJORS

SCHEDULE			
<i>Freshman</i>	<i>Sophomore</i>	<i>Junior</i>	<i>Senior</i>
VC 101 Level I jury at the end of 2 nd semester of VC 101	VC 201	VC 301 Level II jury at the end of 1st semester of VC 301	VC 401 Senior Recital in either semester of VC 401

Level I Requirements for Music Theater Majors

Repertoire Requirements	Memory requirements
1. Four classical songs or arias in Italian	two from memory
2. Four classical songs or arias in English	two from memory
3. Four songs from the Musical Theater Repertory: two composed before 1970; two composed after 1970, not to include belt repertoire	two from memory, representing both eras

- The student and his/her teacher will choose one memorized song to begin the level. The faculty will then choose one or more selections from the memorized repertoire.
- Belt repertoire is not to be presented until after the successful completion of Level I.
- Music Theater majors who do not pass the Level I test are required to continue voice study at VC 101. This additional instruction must be taken by registering for voice through the school and may result in added expense to the student.

The following are expected of a successful Level I Test:

1. Musical accuracy
2. Physical alignment that serves singing
3. Evidence of efficient breath management
4. Connection of breath to tone
5. Proper pronunciation and inflection of the languages represented
6. Evidence of responsiveness to text
7. Evidence of a communicative performer

Level 2 Requirements for Undergraduate Music Theater Majors

Repertoire Requirements	Memory requirements
Four Songs from Legitimate Music Theater (Standard, Traditional, Classic Music Theater) <i>Representative composers include (but are not limited to): Rodgers and Hammerstein, Lerner and Loewe, Kern, Loesser, Berlin, Gershwin, Rodgers and Hart, Arlen, Wilson, Porter, certain Bernstein material, Weill, Blitzstein</i>	2 from Memory
Four Songs from Contemporary, Non Pop/Rock Music Theater <i>Representative composers include (but are not limited to): Sondheim, Styne, Kander and Ebb, Coleman, Maltby and Shire, Strouse, Harnick and Bock, Schmidt and Jones, Guettel, certain Bernstein material</i>	2 from Memory

Four Songs from Contemporary, Pop/Rock Music Theater <i>Representative composers include (but are not limited to): Webber, Schwartz, Finn, Flaherty, Hamlisch, Menken, Rice, Jason Robert Brown, LaChiusa, Lippa</i>	2 from Memory
Two Songs from Jazz/Standard (Non-Theatrical) Material <i>Representative composers include (but are not limited to): Mercer, Ellington, Strayhorn, Coward, Gershwin</i>	1 from Memory
Two Songs from Operetta <i>Representative composers include (but are not limited to): Lehar, Romberg, Gilbert and Sullivan, Johann Strauss, Offenbach, Wright and Forrest</i>	1 from Memory

The Level 2 hearing will occur at the conclusion of the fifth semester, and after the successful completion of the Level 1 hearing, the Sophomore Review, and the following courses: MT 216, MT 217, the MT 207, and MT 492 (the student may be enrolled in MT492 and/or MT 207 during the same semester as the hearing).

The student and his/her teacher will choose two of the memorized songs to begin the hearing. The faculty will then choose other selections from the memorized repertoire. Songs from the Sophomore Review may be included if they were not included in the Level 1 hearing. Successful completion of the Level 2 hearing requires a demonstration of the following technical, musical, and dramatic skills:

- A solid vocal technique that affords the singer any and all technical abilities appropriate to the song
- Musical skills that allow for good intonation and musical accuracy
- Musical singing that demonstrates stylistic and textual understanding
- The ability to communicate both the general spirit and specific nuances of the song
- Clearly demonstrated abilities in communicating the dramatic needs of character and story
- The ability to deport oneself in performance with assurance and grace

Music Theater majors who do not pass Level II by the end of the 2nd semester of VC 301 must continue to study voice at VC 301 until Level II is passed. This extra instruction must be taken by registering for the course through the school and may result in added expense to the student.

Recital Requirements For Music Theater Majors

Senior Recital during VC 401	40-50 minutes of music
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- While it is understood that the choice of repertoire for a required recital is the decision of both the singer and the teacher, the final judgment rests with the teacher.
- In order for a student to present a required voice recital, he/she must be registered for credit in voice at Westminster during the semester in which the recital is presented and must have full support and endorsement of his/her teacher.
- Recital repertoire should represent a culmination of the vocal, musical and artistic work done to date, and should be of the sophistication and level of repertoire sung in the Level II exam.
- If the student has met the minimum time requirements stated above for the recital, the remaining available time may be used to sing repertoire of other styles and genres, with the approval of the teacher.
- It is understood that, with the exception of chamber music requiring more than one accompanying instrument, the recital will be performed from memory.

UNDERGRADUATE VOICE PRIMARIES IN THEORY/COMPOSITION

SCHEDULE			
Freshman	Sophomore	Junior	Senior
VC 102 Progress Jury at the end of 2 nd semester of VC 102	VC 202 Level I jury at the end of 2 nd semester of VC 202, or no later than the semester before the recital.	VC 302	VC 402 Recital – 15 minutes of solo vocal music on the Senior Recital

General Progress Jury

Requirements: Two songs from memory

- The student should have at least two songs prepared from memory. The student must present to the faculty committee a list of all repertoire studied during the semester(s) of voice study preceding the test and will indicate which songs have been prepared by memory.
- The student will choose one song to begin the hearing. The faculty may request an additional song from the memorized list.
- The purpose of the General Progress Jury is to determine that the student is making satisfactory progress toward the goals of the Level I.

Successful completion of this requirement will qualify the students to prepare for Level I. Students not passing the jury are required to continue voice study at the same voice number until the jury is passed. This additional instruction must be taken by registering for the course through the school and may result in added expense to the student.

Level I Requirements for Theory/Composition majors:

Repertoire Requirements	Memory requirements
12 songs studied	6 memorized for the jury, representing 3 languages; 1 language must be English

- Level I may include repertoire from the General Progress Jury.
- The student and his/her teacher will choose one memorized song to begin the hearing. The faculty will then choose one or more selections from the memorized repertoire.

The following are expected of a successful Level I Test:

1. Musical accuracy
2. Physical alignment that serves singing
3. Evidence of efficient breath management
4. Connection of breath to tone
5. Proper pronunciation and inflection of the languages represented
6. Evidence of responsiveness to text
7. Evidence of a communicative performer

REQUIREMENTS FOR DOUBLE MAJORS

Voice Performance and Music Ed/Sacred Music/BA

Follow all Performance requirements.

Music Theater and Voice Performance

Level I follow Music Theater requirements.

Level II Music Theater/Voice Performance majors will sing a performance major Level II at the end of the fourth semester, and a Music Theater Level II at the end of the fifth semester. In all cases, the classical Level II may include Music Theater repertoire as part of the “other” category, and the operetta requirement is to be dropped from the Music Theater Level II.

(Songs prepared for the Music Theater Sophomore Review and Jury may be included if they were not included in Level I).

Music Theater and Music Education/Sacred Music/BA

Level I follow Music Theater requirements.

Level II Music Theater/ Music Education, Sacred Music, or BA majors must complete both a Classical Level II and a Music Theater Level II by the end of the Junior year. In all cases, the classical Level II may include Music Theater repertoire as part of the “other” category, and the operetta requirement is to be dropped from the Music Theater Level II.

(Songs prepared for the Music Theater Sophomore Review and Jury may be included if they were not included in Level I).

Music Theater and Theory/Composition

Follow all Music Theater Level requirements.

Theory/Composition and Music Education/Sacred Music/BA

Follow all requirements for Voice Primaries in Music Education/Sacred Music/BA

UNDERGRADUATE VOICE MINORS

Freshman: Secondary Class Voice VC 103	General Progress Jury or Voice Proficiency Test may be taken at the end of either semester
Sophomore: Secondary Applied Lessons VC 203	Voice Proficiency Test (must be taken by end of fourth semester of study)

General Progress Jury Requirements: Two songs from memory

- The student should have at least two songs prepared from memory. The student must present to the faculty committee a list of all repertoire studied during the semester(s) of voice study preceding the test and will indicate which songs have been prepared by memory.
- The student will choose one song to begin the hearing. The faculty may request an additional song from the memorized list.
- Successful completion of this requirement will qualify the students to prepare for the Voice Proficiency Test. Students not passing the jury are required to continue voice study at the same voice number until the jury is passed. This additional instruction must be taken by registering for the course through the school and may result in added expense to the student.

Voice Proficiency Test Requirements for Voice Minors

Ten songs or arias, including works in English and Italian	Four of these songs including one in a foreign language must be sung from memory
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- Repertoire from the General Progress Jury may be included in the Voice Proficiency Test.
- The student and his/her teacher will choose one song to begin the hearing. The faculty will then choose one or more of the memorized selections.
- Once the Voice Proficiency Test is passed, voice requirements are completed.
- Although the test may be attempted at the end of any semester, it must be taken no later than at the end of the fourth semester of instruction.
- Students who fail to pass the test after four semesters of voice study must repeat voice study at VC 204. This extra instruction must be taken by registering for the course through the school and may result in added expense to the student.

Undergraduate Elective Voice

VC 107	hour lesson	no departmental requirements
VC 108	½ hour lesson	no departmental requirements

GRADUATE APPLIED VOICE REQUIREMENTS

GRADUATE VOICE PEDAGOGY AND PERFORMANCE – PERFORMANCE EMPHASIS

First Year	Second Year
VC 641/655 All Graduate students must sing a Graduate Hearing during either semester of their first year. <i>(With the teacher’s permission, the Voice Qualifying Exam may take the place of the Graduate Hearing.)</i>	VC 641/655 Voice Qualifying Exam no later than the end of the semester before the recital is planned. Graduate Recital* – students must be enrolled in applied voice and have passed the Qualifying test in a previous semester before presenting the recital

* Performance Emphasis students must pass a recital hearing one month before the recital date. See page 19 for details.

GRADUATE VOICE PEDAGOGY AND PERFORMANCE – PEDAGOGY EMPHASIS

First Year	Second Year
VC 641 All Graduate students must sing a Graduate Hearing during either semester of their first year. <i>(With the teacher’s permission, the Voice Qualifying Exam may take the place of the Graduate Hearing.)</i>	VC 641 Voice Qualifying Exam no later than the end of the semester before the recital is planned. Graduate Recital – students must be enrolled in applied voice and have passed the Qualifying test in a previous semester before presenting the recital

GRADUATE APPLIED PRIMARY VOICE – MUSIC EDUCATION AND SACRED MUSIC:

First Year	Second Year
VC 641 All Graduate students must sing a Graduate Hearing during either semester of their first year. <i>(With the teacher’s permission, the Voice Qualifying Exam may take the place of the Graduate Hearing.)</i>	VC 641 Voice Qualifying Exam no later than the end of the semester before the recital is planned. Graduate Recital – students must be enrolled in applied voice and have passed the Qualifying test in a previous semester before presenting the recital

GRADUATE ELECTIVE VOICE

- VC 647** hour lesson no departmental requirements
- VC 648** ½ hour lesson no departmental requirements

GRADUATE TEST REQUIREMENTS

GRADUATE HEARING

Ten minutes of memorized music selected by the student and his/her teacher.

- All graduate students must sing a Graduate Hearing or Voice Qualifying Exam by the end of the second semester of study.
- All faculty members at the hearing will write an evaluation of the student's performance. Students will receive the results of the evaluations from their teacher.
- A student placed in VC 655 in his/her first semester need not sing a Graduate Hearing for the faculty.

VOICE QUALIFYING EXAM

1. No less than twelve minutes, and no more than 15 minutes of music
2. Songs and at least one aria from opera or oratorio
3. The following languages must be represented: German, French, Italian and English
4. Students may only repeat one selection sung at a previous graduate hearing.

- In order to pass this test, students must demonstrate sufficient technical, musical and performing proficiency to prepare the graduate recital.
- Students may take the test at the end of any semester of study, including their first semester. Once it is passed, no further hearings are required and they may prepare the graduate recital.
- All faculty members at the hearing will write an evaluation of the student's performance. Students will receive the results of the evaluations from their teacher.
- If after four semesters a student is unable to pass the Voice Qualifying Exam, the faculty may dismiss him/her from their program.

GRADUATE RECITAL REQUIREMENTS

- While it is understood that the choice of repertoire for a required recital is the decision of both the singer and the teacher, the final judgment rests with the teacher.
- **In order for a student to present a required voice recital, he/she must be registered for credit in voice at Westminster during the semester in which the recital is presented and have passed the Graduate Qualifying Exam in a previous semester.**

GRADUATE VOICE PERFORMANCE AND PEDAGOGY - PERFORMANCE EMPHASIS

- A recital of at least 50-60 minutes of music. This recital may be given only after the student has been placed in VC 655.
- A recital committee will be appointed by the Chair of the Piano and Voice Department of three voice faculty members, including the student's teacher. The committee will be present at a **recital hearing** one month in advance of the recital at which time the entire program is to be memorized and ready for presentation. The committee will ask for selections to be heard and from this hearing will determine whether the student is ready to present the recital. If a student fails the recital hearing, the date of the rehearing will be at the discretion of the committee. If after three attempts a student is unsuccessful in passing the recital hearing, he/she may be dismissed from the Voice Performance/ Pedagogy Program.
- Dates and times of the recital hearings, as well as the personnel of each committee will be assigned in advance.
- **Two weeks before the recital hearing** the student must turn in a researched paper, typically 7-10 pages, not including translations, based on the recital to be performed. One of the faculty members on the committee will be designated as the reader of the research paper, who will receive the paper. The paper will be returned to the student at the hearing; any revisions deemed necessary must be submitted within a week. The reader must approve the paper in its final form in order for the recital to take place.
- The student should investigate the poets, poetry, composers and music to be performed, in order to present an analysis of the music. The writing should represent a synthesis of the research, not a reporting of the facts, and should represent an informed point of view, supported by the research, with regard to the songs to be performed. A bibliography of sources consulted should accompany the paper. Citations should be noted as endnotes or footnotes. **This researched paper should be used as the basis for program notes included in the recital program.**
- Considerations may include:
 - What are some salient features of this composer's song literature? Is the composer typical of his or her time period, and why or why not? Consider the vocal line and the accompaniment, both by themselves and as they serve each other.
 - What are some distinguishing characteristics of the poets and their poetry?
 - Can you draw any conclusions as to this composer's choice of poets?
 - How does the composer serve the poetry or not?
 - If you believe a particular work to be a great work, discuss what makes it so.

Graduate Voice Pedagogy and Performance students with a Performance emphasis who have given no previous voice recitals must give a short, preliminary recital before preparing for the graduate

recital. There are no audition or repertoire requirements for this recital. This recital may be done at VC 641.

GRADUATE VOICE PEDAGOGY AND PERFORMANCE - PEDAGOGY EMPHASIS

- A graduate recital of 40-60 minutes of music. It is to be presented in the semester after the successful completion of the Voice Qualifying Exam.

GRADUATE PRIMARY VOICE - MUSIC EDUCATION AND SACRED MUSIC

- A graduate recital of 40-60 minutes of music. It is to be presented in the semester after the successful completion of the Voice Qualifying Exam.

Please see pages 5-6 for information about the formatting and distribution of recital programs.

GRADUATE DICTION REQUIREMENTS

GRADUATE DICTION SCREENING

TESTING:

The content of the Graduate Diction Screening Test varies with the individual screeners. All screenings, however, consist of reading words in IPA, and reading, intoning and/or singing in English, Italian, French and German. The test may include individual words, sentences, or poetry excerpts. In order to further assess the level of diction skills, a student may also be asked to sing part of a song which has already been studied. The test lasts for 15 minutes, at which time the student is informed of the outcome and advised as to the options for further study, if needed.

RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE CASE OF FAILURE:

If the student is found to be deficient in knowledge of IPA, or in the diction of one or more languages, the student may:

1. Audit all or a part of VC115 English and Italian Diction, and VC116 French and German Diction, depending on where the deficiencies are. The student must then retake the portion or portions of the diction screening which were failed.
2. Take VC115 and/or VC116 and earn a B or better. This satisfies the diction requirement and no further testing is needed.
3. Audit or take VC117 English Diction, VC118 Italian Diction, VC119 French Diction or VC120 German Diction. These courses are recommended when a specific deficiency in only one or two languages is found, and in-depth study is appropriate. (Most graduate students are quite time-conscious, and prefer not to take these one-semester courses.) If the course is audited, a retest is necessary.

Occasionally, when the deficiency is mild, a student may elect to prepare for a retest by studying on his or her own. Or a student who plans to take a language course could use that as preparation for the retest.

A retest is always necessary unless the student registers for and takes the recommended undergraduate diction course(s) and earns a B or better.

PROGRAM GOALS

Bachelor of Music in Voice Performance

Students will build and demonstrate a healthy vocal technique.

Students will become acquainted with voice literature, and develop an understanding of the complex relationships between music and poetry.

Students will sing with correct diction in English, Italian, French and German, as well as understand both the general meaning and specific nuances of their sung texts.

Students will integrate musicianship skills and their increasing understanding of musical structure and form to communicate musically, with stylistic and textual understanding.

Students will build vocal and performance skills that equip them for the demands of solo and ensemble singing.

Master of Music in Voice Pedagogy and Performance

Students will develop a high level of proficiency and artistry in vocal technique, musicianship, advanced skills in the pronunciation, translation, and understanding of the basic languages (English, Italian, French and German).

Students will acquire a basic understanding of the science of teaching voice, as well as historical and current methods of voice pedagogy.

Students will learn research methods that will encourage critical thinking in voice pedagogy, and the literature of singing.

Students will understand the roots and development of German Lieder, French mélodie, and/or opera literature as well as the poetry and culture from which they emerged.

Students will learn to synthesize their vocal and interpretive skills to become effective performers on the concert and operatic stages.

All students who study voice as their primary instrument will be encouraged to look to these goals in their vocal study.