

Ball State University College of Fine Arts / School of Music / Music Performance
APPLIED VOICE SYLLABUS
MUSP 600 Major Study
SEC 69 CRN 46007

Instructor Information:

Dr. Daniel Narducci

Time: TBD

Office Hours: Mondays 5:00 PM – 6:00 PM,

Wednesdays 2:00-3:00

or by appointment

Location: Music Building MU418

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Course Description (from catalog): Twenty-five to one hundred minutes of weekly private lesson(s) based on credit-hour enrollment. For master's and artist diploma students approved for major study.

Student Learning Objectives:

At the completion of a semester of MUSP 600, students will be able to:

1. Improve their ability to achieve master's, primary-level technical ability, expressive communication, and aesthetic command.
2. Improve their ability to achieve master's, primary-level musical interpretation.
3. Students will demonstrate competency in preparation, organization, collaboration, and stage deportment.

Course Rationale:

This course will underscore requisite skills necessary in applied voice for master's level music majors or Artist Diploma students with voice performance as their primary area. Approaches to vocal production, repertoire, pitch, rhythm, expression, and technique will be emphasized.

Course Expectations:

As a Master of Music or Artist Diploma in Voice student, you will be expected to develop your singing technique by regular practice of assigned vocal exercises and song literature, appropriate to your level of instruction, voice type, and age. Emphasis is on developing healthy, consistent practice habits to achieve vocal progress and repertoire learning. You are expected to follow guidelines and requirements specified by your applied teacher. Graduate students enrolled in MUSP 600 are required to sing a hearing in front of the Voice Faculty at the end of each semester, except as noted below. Required repertoire is a minimum of 5 pieces or the equivalent in difficulty, with the approval and discretion of the applied teacher. All end-of-semester hearing repertoire must be memorized, with the exception of an oratorio aria or chamber music piece, if applicable. The end-of-semester hearing may be waived if the student gives a half or full recital during that semester. If the recital is performed during the first five weeks of the semester, an end-of-semester hearing is required covering the new repertoire learned after that recital. Students who perform an opera role in lieu of a degree recital are not required to perform an end-of-semester hearing.

Incomplete Grades:

When juries/hearings are missed for documented medical or family emergencies, a semester grade of Incomplete will be given. It is recommended that all grades of Incomplete in applied voice be removed by the 3rd Voice Faculty meeting of the next academic session in residence. The School of Music "Memorandum of Incomplete Grade" form must be completed and filed in the School of Music office. (The Registrar has different deadline requirements for the removal of the I grade, and these will take precedence over the School of Music recommendation.)

Graduate Recitals:

The MM degree in voice performance requires one full and one half solo recital. The half solo recital can be a joint recital with another performer. The minimum length for full recitals is 50 minutes of music, and 25 minutes of music for a half recital. With prior approval of the Voice Faculty, a major opera role or performance with orchestra may be substituted for the half solo recital. Requests to substitute an opera role or major orchestral performance for a recital must be made in writing to the Voice Area Coordinator during the first two weeks of the semester of the performance. Requests will be reviewed by the members of the Voice Faculty and will be approved or denied on a case-by-case basis.

For the AD degree, two faculty-adjudicated solo recitals of at a minimum of 50 minutes of music are required. For voice, the performance of a major opera role or a major performance with orchestra (40-50 minutes of singing) may be substituted for one recital, with advanced permission of the voice faculty.

All graduate-level degree recitals are adjudicated by a panel of School of Music Faculty. Students are responsible for securing faculty adjudicators and filing the required form with the Graduate Area Coordinator and the Graduate Music Office prior to the recital. Three jury members are required for a Masters recital and four jury members are required for an Artist Diploma recital. At least two should be from the area closest to the student's major performance area. Willing non-performance music faculty may be asked as well. The student's major teacher must attend the recital.

Recital Hearings:

Recital hearings are required for all required voice recitals. All recital repertoire must be prepared and memorized, with the exception of one oratorio aria or chamber music work. Recital hearings should be completed 3 weeks prior to the recital date. The student is expected to provide a typed recital program along with program notes and translations for the members of the Voice Faculty. Timings for each selection must be indicated on the typed program. The Voice Area Coordinator should be contacted well in advance to schedule and submit materials for a recital hearing. At the recital hearing, the student is expected to be prepared to sing the entire recital program from memory (except for one oratorio or chamber music selection as noted above).

If any portion of the recital hearing is not acceptable, a second hearing will be scheduled to allow for corrections to be made. If the corrections are not made, the recital must be postponed or cancelled until the recital hearing is passed. Selections may be removed from, but not added to the program following the recital hearing without the approval of the Recital Hearing Committee.

Vocal Event Attendance Requirements:

Students enrolled in MUSP 600 will receive a calendar of required Voice Area events by the first Friday of the first week of the semester. These events have a **mandatory attendance policy** unless excused by your applied teacher. (Applied teachers may require attendance at additional events.) Each missed Voice Area event will account for a 5% loss of value for the student’s final grade as determined by the applied teacher.

Grading:

Each voice lesson receives a numerical grade and the averaging of these grades plus the required activities for the course listed below determines the overall grade received. Repertoire assignments will be clarified by the third lesson of the semester.

These components and percentages make up your final grade:

1. Weekly voice lesson (50%) – This includes attendance for 14 lessons, preparation of lesson assignments, regular practice, demonstration and application of appropriate style, diction, and performance practice. Regular participation at studio class and assigned Voice Area Recitals is additionally reflected in this grade.
2. Midterm Exam (25%) This exam will comprise of a demonstration of the work accomplished up until the seventh week of lessons. The primary focus of this exam is performance of the assigned repertoire that has been studied and prepared up to that time.
3. Juries/Final Exam (25%) The jury performance at the end of the semester is a requirement for receiving a passing grade. Your jury will be evaluated by the voice faculty, and the forms and grades will be shared with you after your performance. In semesters where a recital takes place and a jury is not required, or an opera role covers the half recital, the recital performance will comprise 25% of the grade.

Grading (in percentage):

A+	97-100	B+	87-89	C+	77-79	D+	67-69	F	Below 60
A	93-96	B	83-86	C	73-76	D	63-66		
A-	90-92	B-	80-82	C-	70-72	D-	60-62		

Attendance and Make Up Lessons:

Absences are excused only in case of serious illness or emergency. As long as you aren’t running a fever or contagious, you can still come to your lesson and we will work on items that won’t require typical use of the voice, i.e. diction, translations, presentation, etc. If you are unable to make a lesson, please let me know at least 24 hours ahead of time. If I am notified in a timely manner, I’ll do my best to make up the lesson. If, however, you just don’t show up, it will not be made up, and the absence will be unexcused. Contacting me through email or a verbal phone message are the preferred means of communication. Both would be a good idea. If you send a text, be sure to receive a response to be certain that your message has been received. It is possible that I will need to cancel a lesson, and I will reschedule the lesson as soon as possible. As each lesson receives a grade, an unexcused absence will result in a failing grade for that lesson.

Please make an effort to be on time. My lesson schedule is very tight and if you arrive late, your lesson will feel very short, as I am not able to run over into the next lesson time to make up the lost

time due to lateness. I recall one of my guitar teachers in high school telling me that if I wasn't 10 minutes early for my lesson, that I was late. While this isn't always practical with our tight academic schedules, it is a good guideline for any appointment that you have.

Studio Class:

Beginning in week 1, studio class will meet from 12:00-1:50 pm on Friday afternoons, unless a Voice Area Recital performance or other event is scheduled on Friday at 12:00 pm. On VAR days, studio class will meet from 1:00-1:50 pm. Location TBD. After the initial week of voice lessons, a master schedule will be made indicating when students will be singing in studio class. As with voice lessons, it is the responsibility of the student to provide an accompanist for this performance opportunity. This is an opportunity to sing for and to hear your peers and receive additional instruction and input to enhance your performing skills. Attendance is required with the same policy as listed above in "Attendance and Makeup Lessons."

Studio Documents and Files:

Vocalizes, songs, and other documents will be shared with the student on a OneDrive folder. This folder will be subdivided into specific categories, and it is the responsibility of the student to use this resource if a piece of music or document has been assigned for review.

Disability Services:

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, please contact the instructor of record as soon as possible. Ball State's Disability Services office coordinates services for students with disabilities; documentation of a disability needs to be on file in that office before any accommodations can be provided. Disability Services can be contacted at 765-285-5293 or dsd@bsu.edu.

Title IX: See the University Policy [here](#)

Inclusive Excellence:

Ball State University aspires to attract and retain a diverse faculty, staff, and student body. We are committed to ensuring that all members of the community are welcome, through valuing the various experiences and worldviews represented at Ball State and among those we serve. We promote a culture of respect and civil discourse as expressed in our Beneficence Pledge, <https://www.bsu.edu/about/beneficence>, and university resources, <https://www.bsu.edu/campuslife/multicultural-center/resources>.

Learning Center:

The Learning Center is part of University College, which offers student-centered programs and services that enhance students' success. The services provided by the center are free and available for Ball State students for general courses they are currently enrolled in at BSU and for courses they are preparing to take at BSU, as well as general study skills tutoring to aid in their overall success at BSU. Tutoring sessions are led by Ball State students who meet certain academic requirements and are available one-on-one or in small groups. To learn more about our services or sign up for tutoring, visit the Learning Center in North Quad, 350, call 765-285-1006 or Live Chat online at www.bsu.edu/learningcenter. We tutored over 16,000 sessions last year: there is no negative stigma to getting a tutor. We can help!

Writing Center:

One key to improving your writing is getting feedback and revision suggestions on your text during the writing process. The Writing Center at Ball State offers free writing feedback sessions (online or face-to-face) to all students. They work with students on essays, reports, reflections, research projects, web content, lesson plans, slideshows, poster presentations, resumes, and other digital or print texts. Students can make an appointment by going to <https://www.bsu.edu/academics/centersandinstitutes/writingcenter>, stopping by Robert Bell 295, or by calling 765-285-8370.

The Basic Needs Hub:

If you are having difficulty affording enough food, do not have a safe and reliable place to sleep, and/or experiencing an emergency or crisis, help is available through the [Basic Needs Hub](#). The Basic Needs Hub has information, resources, and provides individualized support to students. To talk with a supportive staff member about your experience, receive one on one assistance, or learn more about resources, you can submit a [Basic Needs Assistance Form](#).

Academic Honesty:

University policies regarding academic honesty are available in the Code of Students Rights and Responsibilities, available at the following website: <http://cms.bsu.edu/About/AdministrativeOffices/StudentRights/PoliciesandProcedures/StudentCode.aspx>

Counseling Center:

If you are experiencing a mental health crisis, please contact the new Crisis Line at 765-285-4673. If you are experiencing a life-threatening emergency, please contact University Police at 765-285-1111, call 911, or go to the nearest emergency room. <https://www.bsu.edu/campuslife/counseling-center>

Student Success Services:

<https://www.bsu.edu/campuslife/student-life/programs-services>

Important Dates:**STUDIO RECITALS**

Attendance at the recitals of students in my studio is required. Scheduled recitals will be shared with the studio by the end of week one of classes.

MAKE-UP JURIES - TBD, scheduled as needed

VOCAL AREA RECITALS (VAR) (Fridays at noon, Sursa Hall)

Dates for VAR performances in the spring semester are:

1/9, 1/23, 2/6, 2/20, 2/27, 3/20, 3/27, 4/3, 4/17

REQUIRED VOICE EVENTS

The listing of required voice events is shared on the Voice Area Canvas page

JURIES

April 29, 30, and May 1, 2026

Revised 01/04/2026