

Date: September 1, 2005

To: Committee on Instruction  
College of Arts and Sciences

From: Jackie Wiggins, Chair  
Department of Music, Theatre and Dance

Re: Revisions to Music Education Program to meet new MDE Standards

The Michigan Department of Education has created new standards for music teacher certification. As is evident in the letter on the page2 of this document, all schools in Michigan are required to make the necessary program revisions and resubmit their programs for new state approval in time to have the program up and running by Fall 06.

Meeting these new standards required a rather complex series of revisions to the music program in general because such a large percentage of music majors are music education majors. The problems we faced were rooted in the fact that the existing program is a 5-year program with 156-165 credits. The state is asking that we add requirements. In order to comply, we needed to reduce and reorganize some of the other requirements. The proposed plan actually enables us to add all the new requirements while reducing the number of required credits to 152-164.

The biggest change is one that affects universities all over Michigan. Almost all music programs in Michigan have been preparing music teachers to specialize in either choral/general music or instrumental music. Because the state certification is Music K-12, with no specified specializations, we are now required to prepare all teachers to have a basic knowledge of all areas (even though doing the job actually still requires specialization). We are required to add instrumental methods courses to the choral/general music program and choral/general music courses to the instrumental program. Doing this would have put the degrees at over 170 credits unless we made other alterations to the program.

Our process in solving these problems has been a good one. This charge from the state precipitated some highly productive conversations among the music faculty and we all feel that the resulting program is actually stronger in many ways than the existing program. Please note that this proposal enables us to be able to handle the additional course requirements without adding to the number of part-time faculty it takes to run the program.

In some cases, the changes required that we reduce the number of credits of certain courses, while maintaining the number of contact hours. This is explained in the context. Essentially, we are running the entire program with the same faculty while increasing the enrollment of some classes by running courses concurrently. These students will still be

paying for 152-164 credits for an undergraduate degree, so we feel that reducing their cost by 1 credit for a few courses is reasonable and fair.

Because of the complexity of the change, this proposal is long and complicated, and for that, we apologize to those who need to assess its worth.

Below is the letter from the Michigan Department of Education:



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING



THOMAS D. WATKINS, JR.  
SUPERINTENDENT OF  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

October 29, 2004

Dear Dean/Director:

The State Board of Education (SBE) approved teacher preparation standards for Music (JQ) programs at the May 11, 2004, board meeting. These standards, developed by a referent committee, are aligned with the Michigan Curriculum Framework standards and benchmarks. The committee began its work by reviewing and adapting the *Michigan Music Education Content Standards and Benchmarks* and consulting the standards developed by the National Association of Schools of Music.

The standards, which were disseminated to selected groups/organizations, all Michigan teacher preparation institutions, and a random sample of intermediate and local school districts for review and comment in January and February of 2003, represent broad consensus on that which music education teachers must know and be able to do to support student learning.

**Please provide copies of this letter to the individuals in your institution who have responsibility for programs that prepare music education teachers.**

Regarding the newly approved standards, all institutions seeking approval of *new* Music (JQ) education endorsements must submit a program application that demonstrates compliance. To facilitate this process, the standards are presented on a matrix, which is part of the *Application for Approval of Professional Preparation Program*. These documents have not been enclosed with this letter; electronic copies are available on the web at:

[http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,1607,7-140-5234\\_5683\\_6368---.00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,1607,7-140-5234_5683_6368---.00.html)

Because the new standards are significantly different from the previous Music (JX) standards used for Periodic Review/Program Evaluation (PR/PE) over the last several years, all institutions will need to submit a revised program application to show compliance with these new standards by summer 2006. The JX endorsement may not be offered to new candidates after the fall semester of the 2006-2007 academic year. The newly approved standards must be used for the initial approval of Music programs from this point forward.

The newly approved standards are for preparation of K-12 Music education specialists as a comprehensive group major. Please note that the minor has been eliminated. The referent committee is working on an additional new endorsement for an elementary music education generalist.

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