

ILLINOIS STATE  
UNIVERSITY



*Graduate School*

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October 18, 2017

TO: Susan Kalter, Chairperson, Academic Senate  
FROM: Denise Wilson, Chairperson, Graduate Curriculum Committee  
RE: Executive Summary – Proposal for the New Jazz Performance Sequence, M.M. in Music

The Graduate Curriculum Committee has approved and is forwarding for Academic Senate consideration the attached proposal to add a new Jazz Performance Sequence in the Master of Music, M.M.

The proposal states that the Jazz Performance Sequence is designed to prepare the student to work professionally as a jazz performer in a variety of jazz and commercial music idioms including ensembles of various sizes and styles. The School of Music provided the following rationale:

- Jazz is a unique style of music requiring significantly different, but equally challenging training when compared to traditional (classical) music. Even the most dedicated students often find they need more than the typical four years of undergraduate studies to begin approaching a professional performance level. This graduate program offers students additional time to hone their craft.
- In Illinois, master's level jazz programs are available at several other state and private universities. The School of Music believes an M.M. in jazz performance will help recruit new graduate students who would not otherwise consider coming to our school.
- The integration of graduate jazz performance majors into our ensembles would improve their quality and therefore improve our ability to recruit excellent students at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.

The Graduate Curriculum Committee supports the proposal to add this new sequence.

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Attachments