

STUDENT LEARNING DATA

OVERVIEW

Cornish's Music Department continued its focus on the balance between craft and imagination, grounding students in foundational music training while allowing space and time for experimentation. The 19/20 academic year, even in the midst of Covid-19, saw over 30 individual student recitals offered as part of our curriculum and the presentation of our student ensembles at the Seattle Center and around campus in our Scores of Sound Festival of student work. Our department Bandcamp site, linked on the Cornish website, showcases over 20 recordings made by students and ensembles. The Music Department undertook a substantive reimagining of our curriculum in 19/20, creating new pathways toward student success including a more robust inclusion of music technology and a deepening commitment to critical and contextual studies. In Fall 2020, recent alumni of our program entered graduate programs at Mills College, UCLA, and Western Washington University.

CLOSING EQUITY GAPS

Our approach to the audition process continues to be open to students of a variety of backgrounds, allowing us to focus on individuality and potential as opposed to pedigree and specific types of training. During the 19/20 academic year, we hosted monthly forums on issues of gender equality within music studies and several new courses have been created to address these issues, including Gender and Sexuality in Music. In our new curriculum, all of our courses have been rethought to reflect anti-racism, and we have made a commitment to use musical examples by BIPOC, women, and non-binary composers exclusively in our Musicianship curriculum. For the 20/21 academic year, we have also committed to guest artists who are 100% BIPOC, women, or non-binary.

CONTINUOUS PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT

Our focus continues to be on the implementation of our Program Learning Outcomes through our newly imagined curriculum. We plan continuous assessment of our new courses with attention to how they are scaffolding robust ways of engaging musicianship and creativity. Our data collection from previous years showed us the need for more course development with other Cornish departments for interdisciplinary work and connecting our students with more community-oriented projects. We plan to address this through our Music, Community, and Pedagogy course, as well as through developing new internships with Seattle-area arts organizations. We are listening closely to student input on the new curriculum pertaining to the inclusion of technology, types of ensembles we offer, and levels of professional development in the areas of music publishing and film composition.

HIGH IMPACT TEACHING AND LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Our reimagined curriculum puts a high premium on our Cornerstone (3rd year) and Capstone (4th year) Projects, which allow students a variety of creative opportunities to demonstrate their growth as artists. Students may offer a traditional recital, make recordings, plan research projects and field work, or a combination of these, which they do under the careful guidance of a mentor/teacher. Students also take part in our semesterly Scores of Sound Festival, a 3-day celebration of student work in which each and every student performs across the Cornish campus or in the community with an ensemble or solo. Throughout the year, we bring in guest artists through our Pivot Convocation series, which highlights career issues, and our relationship with local organizations such as Earshot Jazz, who regularly brings top level jazz artists to perform in our recital hall. Each Fall, the faculty holds a workshop on researching and preparing an application for graduate school, which has greatly increased our students' interests and success in this next level of their development.