

Grading Breakdown

Your percentage in class will be based on your scores on playing tests and written assignments, rehearsals, performances, and Learning Extension Activities (LEAs). You will start the term with 100% in all categories.

Grading Percentages:

Rehearsals 25%

Students will receive a rehearsal score for every two weeks. There will be 3 points available for every rehearsal.

Performances 25%

Concert and festival scores will reflect an assessment of both individual and the ensemble's progress towards the applicable standards and their achievements as performers. They will also reflect their learning as analytical listeners. As such students must stay for the entire concert.

LEA points 20%

Students must complete 6 Learning Extension Activities per semester. A wide range of activities are available.

The amount of LEA points received per activity depends on the nature of the activity. Please see the LEA record sheet for details.

Students that complete more than 6 activities in the first semester can choose to "roll" those points forward to the second semester.

Playing Tests and Written Assignments 30%

Individual skill assessments will be done both in class and recorded to be turned in. These assignments are done to evaluate student's technical abilities, foster performance confidence, teach performance practices and give immediate feedback about student's progress as a complete musician. If a student is not satisfied with their score, they are welcome to retake it as many times as they wish in the term it was assigned to achieve a higher score. Each student will have an assigned day for their in-class playing tests. Students must try on their assigned day to earn the right to retake the test. **Late playing tests may not be made up. If students have excused absences on the day of their test, they will be asked to play when they return to class.**

***Rehearsal Preparation**

Regarding home practice, a minimum of 2 hours per week is suggested for most students. Anything less and the student will not improve tone quality, technique or endurance. "Serious" music students should practice a minimum of 4-7 hours a week, due to the nature of some of the material covered in advanced ensembles, or in preparation for solo/ensemble festivals, auditions, etc.

Each student is issued a technique book which contains long tone and lip slur exercises, major and minor scales and arpeggios, and short etudes. Some very focused and quality time should be spent on this material at the beginning of each practice session. In addition, students are expected to have the music we are working on in class prepared ahead of time, as much as possible. This will make rehearsals a lot more efficient and certainly more fun.