



Handbook

for

Double-Degree
Students & Advisors

INTRODUCTION

The Double-Degree Handbook summarizes Double-Degree Program requirements and provides general guidance on navigating the program successfully. Additional information can be found on the Double-Degree website at <https://www.oberlin.edu/aarc/academic-policies-procedures/DDP>

DEGREE SYSTEMS

Double-Degree students should note that the requirements for the Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree are expressed mainly in terms of courses (full course or half course), while the Bachelor of Music (BM) degree requirements are described in credits. Double-Degree students should be mindful of both systems when reviewing their requirements and progress toward the degrees.

Double-Degree students should review their Degree Works' audit on a regular basis to monitor completion of program requirements.

DEFINITION OF TERMS

- ❖ **A&S** (or the College)—the Arts & Sciences division of Oberlin College; students in the College pursue a Bachelor of Arts degree.
- ❖ **Applied Study** (or Private Study, Private Lessons, or Principal Study)—the 6-8 credit hour lessons that Conservatory and Double-Degree students take on their principal instrument or voice; see the Conservatory major grids in the Course Catalog for specific requirements: <https://catalog.oberlin.edu/content.php?catoid=42&navoid=1750>
- ❖ **Committees**—Conservatory and Double-Degree students must pass a First and Second Committee at the end of each year of private study. These Committees are designed to measure progress on the principal instrument or major area. Each major has specific requirements for passing committees. An unsuccessful committee may lead to denial of continuation in the major.
- ❖ **Con**—the affectionate nickname for the Conservatory of Music. Students in the Con pursue a Bachelor of Music, Performance Diploma, Artist Diploma, or Master of Music degree.
- ❖ **DD**—Double Degree (not to be confused with Double Major, see below). Students are working toward both BM and BA degrees.
- ❖ **Double Major**—A student who is a double major will receive a *single* degree (BM or BA) with two majors (e.g. Piano Performance and Musicology, or Chemistry and English).
- ❖ **Double Degree Committee**—This committee was created to oversee the Double Degree Program and its students. It is charged with helping students achieve and cope with issues in both the College and Conservatory. The Co-Chairs of the committee are Trecia Pottinger, Associate Dean for Academic Advising and Registrar in the College and Catherine Sherman, Associate Dean for Advising and Retention in the Conservatory.

- ❖ **Music Major** (or Musical Studies major)—the Music major available to Arts & Sciences students; BM students do not pursue a Musical Studies major.
- ❖ **Non-Course Requirements** (recitals, proficiencies, committees, etc.) —the required proficiencies for which Conservatory and Double-Degree students do not register but must complete in order to graduate; see the Conservatory major grids for requirements.
- ❖ **Academic Advising Resource Center/Registrar**—Located in Carnegie 113, the Registrar coordinates course registration. Students may contact the AARC at aarc@oberlin.edu. The Registrar website is: <http://new.oberlin.edu/office/registrar/>.

SOME COMMON CONCERNS/QUESTIONS

One of the dominant themes of this Handbook, and indeed, in the Double Degree Program, is the challenge of combining the demands and requirements of a liberal arts program with those of a pre-professional music degree. By its very nature, the liberal arts value breadth as well as depth, and therefore, students are encouraged to explore widely. On the other hand, the music student is traditionally urged to commit, commit, commit, and practice, practice, practice. Time spent doing other things is sometimes considered to be at the expense of one’s music. Most students coming into the Double-Degree Program have experienced some of this tension already. In fact, the reason some students choose to pursue the Double-Degree Program is precisely because they enjoy the challenges inherent in both degrees. Double-Degree students, teachers, and advisors should be aware of this tension as they find their way through the challenges of the Double-Degree Program. Listed below are some of the questions and/or concerns students might hear as they work their way through the five-year program.

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Why Double Degree?

This is the most crucial question of all, and the answers to it are personal and individual. One of the greatest advantages is that the program keeps the widest variety of options open to the student upon graduation. For the many students who have not necessarily decided on a specific post-college plan or, for those who prefer not to limit their bachelor’s education, the acquisition of two different degrees can prove to be a very rewarding experience. Many Double-Degree students have deep intellectual and musical passions and can’t imagine not pursuing both areas.

Will there be pressure to drop either degree?

Maybe. It would not be unusual for either Conservatory or College advisors, at one time or another, to discuss the possibility of dropping one degree. Any Double-Degree student will feel spread thin at some point; balancing academic courses with practice time and rehearsals is a challenging, but certainly possible, task. Students who wish to drop one of their degrees will complete a Change of Divisional Status request form. Details are available online at <https://www.oberlin.edu/aarc/academic-policies-procedures/divisional-status>

Is it possible to finish in fewer than five years?

It is difficult to finish the Double-Degree Program in fewer than five years, but every year there are some who will complete both degrees in four and a half years or, rarely, even four. If a student chooses to spread the program over five years, even with no incoming AP or transfer credits, it is likely that both degrees can be finished with ample time to take additional courses of interest to the student, but not required for either major. Although putting together a five-year plan may seem daunting, it is often the case that without the pressure of an early graduation (less than five years), the requirements will fit into five years easily.

Does being a Double-Degree student mean that one is not going to be a professional musician?

The most direct answer to this question is that our graduates go on to careers that run the gamut from professional musicians to business professionals. The advantage is that they are well prepared for whatever profession they choose.

Do Double-Degree students have less of a commitment to music than Conservatory students?

Of course not. If one considers the amount of time per semester that can be devoted to practice, Double-Degree students may have less than their Conservatory counterparts. On the other hand, over the five-year period, Double-Degree students must meet the same graduation requirements that Conservatory students do so. In this sense, the only real difference is in how quickly the degree is obtained.

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DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Double-Degree Program requirements are stated in the Course Catalog under, “The Double-Degree Program.” *All references to the Course Catalog refer to the most current Catalog.* Each requirement is explained in more detail below.

All students—Arts & Sciences, Conservatory of Music, and Double Degree—are responsible for compliance with the institutional graduation requirements stated in the Oberlin College Course Catalog in effect when they first matriculate at Oberlin, unless action by an appropriate faculty body specifically directs otherwise. See the Catalog sections on Major Study for regulations concerning majors.

Please note: Arts & Sciences requirements are generally expressed in number of courses. A course in the Arts & Sciences may be a full course (4 credits) or a half course (2 credits). Conservatory requirements are expressed in credits.

The following summarizes the revised institutional requirements for the Double Degree (effective Fall 2013 and beyond):

1. 214 minimum total credits: *Each Double-Degree student must have a minimum of 214 combined Conservatory and Arts & Sciences credits in order to graduate. On occasion, a student will exceed the minimum due to the combination of majors.*
2. 110 minimum Conservatory credits
3. 88 minimum Arts & Sciences credits

These 88 credits must include completion of 22 full courses or the equivalent, of which at least 20 must be full academic courses (two half academic courses^[1] will count as the equivalent of one full course). Up to 2 of the 22 courses may be fulfilled by a combination of co-curricular^[2] credits.

^[1] *Some labs, modules courses, and private readings will be half courses.*

^[2] *Co-curricular courses include ExCo, Athletics, ENTR, and some others as appropriate.*

4. 7 semesters in residence: *Students must be enrolled at Oberlin or in Oberlin College programs for a minimum of seven semesters.*
5. 3 Winter Term projects: *This requirement is the same for both Double-Degree and single-degree students.*
6. Completion of a major in each degree program: *Double-Degree students must fulfill all requirements for their declared majors in both divisions.*
7. 40 Arts & Sciences credits (10 full academic courses or the equivalent) by the end of the fifth semester

In order to progress satisfactorily toward the BA degree, it is strongly recommended that Double-Degree students will have earned at least 16 Arts and Sciences credits by the end of the first year and 32 credits by the end of the second year. By the end of the fifth semester a Double-Degree student must have earned 40 Arts and Sciences credits. The student will be asked to drop one portion of the Double-Degree Program if the 40-credit rule has not been met. Up to four credits of pre-matriculation transfer credit may count each year toward the satisfactory progress toward the 16-32-40 rule.

Transfer credits earned at the end of the first year will be credited to the second year. Students should consult the major grid for the recommended course distribution for each Conservatory major.

Note: This rule may mean that Double-Degree students will have to postpone some “typical” or “core” first-year music courses until later in their curriculum. It is important to keep in mind that Double-Degree students have FIVE years to complete their degree programs so there is some flexibility in scheduling. Double-Degree students who enter with Advanced Placement (AP) or other pre-matriculation transfer credits are at a somewhat greater advantage in scheduling.

8. Curriculum Exploration requirement in Arts & Sciences.

Double-Degree students are required to complete two full academic courses or the equivalent (8 credits) in each of the three divisions of the College, Arts and Humanities, Social Sciences, Natural Sciences and Mathematics, with courses in two different departments or programs within each division, as determined by the course prefix. One full academic course or the equivalent must be completed in each division by the end of six semesters.

Students are also required to complete two additional full academic courses or the equivalent outside their maximal division (the division in which the greatest number of courses is completed).

Courses taken to meet the Cultural Diversity requirement, the Quantitative and Formal Reasoning requirement, and the Writing requirement may be counted simultaneously toward the Curriculum Exploration requirement.

Note: Double-degree students may count one Conservatory course toward the Arts and Humanities portion of this requirement. This course must be a 200- or 300-level Musicology course (MHST, ETHN), a 300- or 400-level Music Theory course (MUTH), or a Historical Performance course (HPRF) beyond the introductory level. These courses are designated as DDHU in the Catalog. These Conservatory courses do not count toward the 88-credit Arts and Sciences requirement.

9. Cultural Diversity requirement in Arts & Sciences.

Students must complete at least three full academic courses with the CD (Cultural Diversity) designation. The three courses must be earned in at least two different departments or programs, as indicated by the course prefix. Students who study away in a full-semester, credit-bearing international program will receive CD credit equal to one course. Students who study away in a full-semester, credit-bearing U.S. program that directly addresses diversity may petition the Diversity Studies Committee to receive CD credit equal to one course.

10. Quantitative and Formal Reasoning (QFR) requirement in Arts & Sciences.

Students are required to complete two QFR courses, at least one of which must be completed by the end of the 6th semester for Double-Degree students. The QFR

requirement can only be satisfied with courses completed at Oberlin College, with the exception that transfer students may petition to count one transferred course with a comparable focus on quantitative and formal reasoning.

11. Writing requirement in Arts & Sciences and in the Conservatory.

Students are required to complete two Writing courses, either W-Intensive (W-Int) or W-Advanced (W-Adv) by the end of the second year of study if at all possible. A third writing course, W-Adv, is strongly recommended. These courses must be completed at Oberlin College, with the exception that transfer students may petition to count one transferred course with a comparable focus on writing.

All entering Conservatory and Double-Degree students must complete a Writing assessment, administered by the Conservatory Writing Committee. Details about the requirement are available online:

https://catalog.oberlin.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=42&pooid=6254 Students may contact the Conservatory Office of the Associate Deans with questions.

12. A minimum GPA of 1.67.

Double-Degree students may take 26 credits in any semester without special permission. A student requesting approval of a schedule in excess of 26 credits must have demonstrated the ability to successfully manage a heavy course load.

DOUBLE-DEGREE PROGRAM STANDING

The academic standing of Double-Degree students is determined jointly by the College of Arts and Sciences and the Conservatory of Music Academic Standing Committees. Double-Degree students are expected to register in courses in both divisions and progress toward timely completion of all majors and degree requirements in ten semesters/five years.

To remain in good standing in the Double-Degree Program, Double Degree students are required to declare a College major and successfully complete their Conservatory Sophomore Committee by the end of the fifth semester of enrollment. Students who are accepted into the program after entering Oberlin must meet these requirements by the end of the sixth semester. Students who do not meet these expectations will be issued an Alert and will have one semester to complete them. Failure to meet requirements after a semester on Alert will result in disenrollment from the degree in which progress is insufficient and, therefore, disenrollment from the Double-Degree Program.

ADVISING QUESTIONS

Double-Degree students submitted these questions.

Q: HOW MANY CREDITS SHOULD I TAKE MY FIRST SEMESTER?

A: Since 214 credits are needed in order to graduate, Double-Degree students must average 21.4 credits per semester without AP or transfer credit. The maximum number

of credits a Double-Degree student may take is 26; additional credits may be taken with special permission from the Associate Dean of the Conservatory for an additional charge. First-year students should aim for 22 or 24 credits.

Q: WHICH CONSERVATORY COURSE SHOULD I/MAY I DELAY?

A: A typical first-year Conservatory schedule looks like this:

| | |
|---------------------|------------|
| Private Study | 6 credits |
| Music Theory | 4 credits |
| Music History 101 | 4 credits |
| Secondary Piano | 2 credits |
| Ensemble | 2 credits |
| <u>Aural Skills</u> | 2 credits |
| Total | 20 credits |

This is not an ideal Double-Degree schedule as there are no liberal arts course(s) (remember the 16-32-40 credit rule!).

Together, with one's advisors, the student should ask the following questions to help determine which Conservatory courses to postpone:

- What were Theory and Aural Skills placement results?
- How are one's piano skills? Would it be possible to delay or place out of one semester of class piano or piano lessons?
- Does one have AP credit or other transfer credit that will count toward A&S requirements?

Some advisors may encourage students not to delay any Conservatory courses. Students will want to make sure their advisors know they are enrolled in the Double-Degree Program. The College and Conservatory have mandated expected progress toward the A&S portion of the Double Degree. Double-Degree students are expected to have 16 A&S credits by the end of the first year and 32 by the end of the second. Double-Degree students have delayed MHST101 until the second year.

Q: SHOULD I CONCENTRATE ONE SEMESTER IN THE COLLEGE AND ONE IN THE CONSERVATORY OR KEEP THE CREDITS EVEN?

A: It is best to take courses in both programs as one progresses toward graduation. There may be some semesters in which the credit load will be heavier in one division than in the other. Principal private study in most Conservatory majors is required for eight of the ten semesters, so it is nearly impossible to have a semester in which you concentrate all your credits in the A&S division.

Q: WHAT HAPPENS IF I DROP ONE PORTION OF MY DOUBLE DEGREE?

A: A decision to change degree programs is called Change of Divisional Status. A general guideline is to make the change as early as possible since that provides the most flexibility in charting a new course.

Students may learn more about Divisional Status changes, including changing from a single-degree student to Double-Degree by visiting <https://www.oberlin.edu/aarc/academic-policies-procedures/divisional-status>

Deadline to change status: Changes to a student's degree status (from Single Degree to Double Degree or transferring from one division to another) must normally occur no later than the end of the third year for single degree students or fourth year for Double-Degree students. Changes must occur earlier when required by the Conservatory Associate Dean's Office or the Academic Advising Resource Center due to lack of progress toward a degree (i.e. completing the 16-32-40 rule, following the academic standing policies for a degree, etc.). Normally, students who change their status after the second year must demonstrate the ability to complete the degree(s) without additional semesters in residence required for that degree. The number of semesters of remaining financial aid will be determined by the normal length of the degree to which the student is changing.

Q: WHAT ABOUT FINANCIAL AID?

A: Double Degree Program students, who receive financial aid, are entitled to ten (10) semesters of aid, if qualifying for all semesters. Changing to a single degree program will alter eligibility to eight (8) semesters of financial aid, if qualifying for all eight semesters. A change of status may alter merit scholarship from either or both divisions. Students should contact the Office of Financial Aid to discuss change of status, eligibility, and aid.

Q: WHERE DO I GO FOR HELP?

A: Double-Degree assistance is available for academic planning. Students are encouraged to work closely with their Conservatory and A&S academic advisors. Students may contact the Academic Advising Resource Center/Registrar at aarc@oberlin.edu or Conservatory Office of the Associate Deans at condeans@oberlin.edu for additional guidance and support.

The Co-Chairs of the Double-Degree Committee are:

- Trecia Pottinger, Associate Dean for Academic Advising and Registrar, Carnegie 113 x5-8450
- Catherine Sherman, Associate Dean for Academic Advising and Retention, Conservatory, Bibbins 113, x5-8200

REPRESENTATIVE FIRST-YEAR SCHEDULES

The following schedules are **examples** of first-semester Double-Degree student course schedules for incoming students. **PLEASE NOTE THAT SINCE SOME OF THESE ARE ACTUAL SCHEDULES FROM PRIOR YEARS, THERE MAY BE DIFFERENCES FROM THE CURRENT COURSE CATALOG.** Each student, in consultation with his/her advisors, should design a semester course schedule that takes into account the following:

Advanced Placement Credits
 Theory Proficiency
 Music History Background
 Possible A&S Major and Con Major Requirements
 Distribution Requirements

Individual student interests and needs should be taken into account. The schedules below should be considered templates rather than strict guidelines. These samples illustrate some of the challenges faced by Double-Degree students when scheduling their courses. None of the samples indicated below are "light" schedules and, although there may be an occasional "light" semester, most semesters will be similar to these examples.

* denote courses that earn Liberal Arts (A&S) credits and therefore count towards the 16-32-40 credit rule

Sample FLUTE and RELIGION Major

| <u>Credits</u> | |
|----------------|-------------------------------|
| 4 | First Year Seminar * |
| 4 | Religion 1xx* |
| 4 | Music Theory 131 |
| 2 | Aural Skills 1 |
| 2 | Oberlin Orchestra |
| 6 | Principal Private Study Flute |
| <u>2</u> | Piano Class |
| 24 | |

Comments: This student opted not to take Music History 101 in the first year and has enrolled in the Music Theory sequence instead. She chose two A&S courses in order to work toward the recommended 16 credit A&S guideline for the first year.

Sample PIANO and MATHEMATICS Major

| <u>Credits</u> | |
|----------------|-------------------------------|
| 4 | Math 133: Calculus I * |
| 4 | First-Year Seminar * |
| 6 | Principal Private Study Piano |
| 4 | Music Theory 131 |
| 2 | Aural Skills 1 |
| <u>2</u> | Musical Union |
| 22 | |

Comments: This example also shows a situation in which a student might delay taking Music History 101.

Sample VIOLIN and Undeclared A&S Major

Credits

| | |
|----------|--|
| 4 | First Year Seminar or recommend A&S first-year course* |
| 4 | Music History 101 |
| 4 | Music Theory 131 |
| 2 | Aural Skills 1 |
| 2 | Oberlin Orchestra |
| 2 | Chamber Music |
| <u>6</u> | Principal Private Study Violin |
| 24 | |

Comments: The student placed out of Piano class and has several Advanced Placement credits, which will count toward his A&S requirement.

Sample JAZZ and Undeclared A&S Major

Credits

| | |
|----------|---|
| 4 | First Year Seminar* |
| 4 | MHST 101: Intro to History & Lit of Music |
| 4 | Jazz Theory |
| 4 | Music Theory 131 |
| 2 | Aural Skills 1 |
| 2 | Small Jazz Ensemble |
| <u>6</u> | Principal Private Study Jazz Guitar |
| 26 | |

Comments: Only JAZZ majors can double-count AAST 171/JAZZ 290 as both an A&S course and a JAZZ major requirement.

Sample VOICE and Undeclared A&S Major

Credits

| | |
|----------|-------------------------------|
| 6 | Principal Private Study Voice |
| 2 | Secondary Piano |
| 2 | College Choir |
| 1 | English Diction |
| 1 | Vocal Health and Function |
| 4 | Music Theory 131 |
| 2 | Aural Skills I |
| <u>4</u> | Italian* |
| 22 | |

Comments: The schedule concentrates initially on foundational music skills.