

UO School of Music and Dance Policies and Procedures regarding individualized instruction during COVID-19, Fall 2020

Hazard: Potential spreading of COVID-19

Issue:

Paramount to the success of any institution of musical education is the capacity and ability of that institute to provide in-person individualized instruction for all of the families of instruments and solo voice. Individualized musical instruction is a one-on-one model of educational delivery between student and an expert of a particular instrument or voice type. Currently, the University of Oregon- School of Music and Dance, has some 36 faculty members who could offer individualized musical instruction based on the instrument of their particular expertise. This instruction includes a wide range of lessons including brass, woodwinds, strings, percussion, piano, and voice.

The capacity of the School of Music to offer in-person individualized musical instruction for the wind, brass, and voice areas is at odds with the current [UO Face Covering Regulation](#). The families of wind and brass instruments, along with solo voice, rely extensively if not exclusively on breath and the mouth, lips, tongue, and teeth in order to produce and manipulate sound. This ability to produce and manipulate sound via the breath and mouth is impeded if not outright impossible while wearing a mask or face converging of some kind. Making adjustments or alterations to a mask or face covering only compromises the integrity of the mask.

The instruments that are subject to the following policies and procedures are:

Brass

Trumpet; Jazz and Classical
French Horn
Trombone; Jazz and classical
Tuba/Euphonium

Woodwinds

Flute; Jazz and Classical
Oboe
Clarinet; Jazz and classical
Bassoon
Saxophone; Jazz and Classical

Voice

All solo voice types. The UOSOMD currently has four fulltime voice faculty.

Procedures:

- Review all of these procedures with affected Faculty, Staff, Students and Accompanists.
- Reschedule and move individualized lessons for the above outlined families of instruments and voices from applied faculty offices to larger spaces within the FMB complex, or other spaces on campus as available.
- That upon entering and moving through a UO space, both teacher and student be in compliance with the current UO Face Covering Policy.
- Once in a larger space (see above) the student proceeds to a previously designated playing area, no less than 12ft and offset by two feet (consistent with OR-OSHA Draft temporary standard), away from a previously designated instructor's teaching area. Meanwhile, the instructor proceeds to said teaching area and situates themselves behind a plexiglass guard of some kind-presuming availability of materials.
- Once both parties are situated, the student may move their face covering in order to play or sing and thus the lesson commences.
- As the lesson progresses, the instructor may wish to demonstrate a concept. At this point, the student must first replace their face covering over their mouth and nose, and then the instructor may move their face covering and may begin to demonstrate. Once the instructor has completed the demonstration, their face covering must be replaced, and the student may once again move their face covering from their mouth and continue with the lesson. For the duration of instruction, only one person at a time may have their face covering not over their mouth and nose.
- If an accompanist is required, all parties (teacher, student, and pianist) must wear a face covering as the pianist enters. The piano and accompanist must also be, as best possible, 12ft away from the student and the instructor. Once the pianist is situated at the keyboard the student may remove their face covering and continue the lesson.
- Lessons should last for no more than an hour (60 minutes) and at least one-half hour of inactivity should be observed in the room before any other or subsequent lesson, instruction, or activity commences.