

SIMPSON COLLEGE
Department of Music

Policy on Academic Advising

Adopted: 11/29/2016

We expect that all full-time faculty members within the Department of Music will serve as a high-quality academic advisor to students majoring in music. It is further expected that full-time faculty members will strive to gain understanding and engage in faculty development activities that allow them to be effective academic advisors.

Rationale:

As the institution mandates, we wish to more evenly distribute the advising load within our department and provide all full-time faculty members (excluding first-year and one-year visiting faculty) an opportunity to share in the duties of academic advising. We acknowledge as a department that there is a difference between mentoring and serving as the academic advisor. We believe that students can (and should) be successfully mentored by a number of faculty members. To that end, we acknowledge that departmental culture is not to encourage pairings of students with their major applied faculty always. It is not possible for this to happen with equity among faculty and causes majors who have teachers who are not full-time faculty to feel as though they are not receiving the same perceived excellence as other music majors.

While we wish to maintain an element of student choice in our process, we agree to communicate as a faculty and agree that some faculty will decline to serve students because of excessive numbers and direct them to faculty with room for additional advisees.

Our commitment to work together:

- We agree that all full-time faculty members should serve as academic advisor to a minimum of 5 music students.
- We agree that full-time faculty should not take advisees in excess of 15 (except in the case when teaching an SC101 will cause the temporary overage). We further agree that we should begin to be judicious about accepting additional students to advise when we reach 10 if there are members of the faculty who do not yet have 5 advisees.
- We agree to discuss advising loads at faculty meetings.
 - Faculty who do not yet have 5 advisees will let the rest of the faculty know they have room to take advisees so that the rest of the department can steer students toward them.
 - Faculty who are over 10 (and certainly those over 15) will ask who has room available to take more advisees and refrain from adding advisees to their rosters.
- We acknowledge that this change will take a few semesters in order for everyone to reach their minimum and/or fall below the maximum.