

**SCHWOB SCHOOL OF MUSIC
COLUMBUS STATE UNIVERSITY**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY FOR THE DEGREE
BACHELOR OF MUSIC IN MUSIC EDUCATION**

Major Findings of the Program's Quality and Productivity

The unit-level self-study relied extensively on a document prepared by the CSU Schwob School of Music in 2012 for the National Association of Schools of Music (NASM): *Self-Study for Baccalaureate and Graduate Degree-Granting Institutions presented for consideration by the NASM Commission on Accreditation*. Following an external site visit by accreditation team members and review by the commission, all degree programs including the Bachelor of Music in Music Education achieved reaccreditation for ten years on July 3, 2013.

The NASM Visitors' Report (p. 13) stated:

The school and its faculty used the Self-Study to reflect on strengths and opportunities for growth and as a primary tool for strategic planning. The institution is commended for its comprehensive and thorough review.

Columbus State University has long been engaged in the training of music education professionals, dating from the founding of the Department of Music in 1969. Music education is, alongside performance, a second core area of excellence at the undergraduate level. In part this is due to the integration of the two degree plans and the assumption that music educators will also be strong performers. This philosophy has been encouraged by music education faculty.

The BM Music Education degree was rated **Very Strong** in all but three categories through all three levels of review. In the remaining two categories, *III. B. Degrees Awarded Over the Past 5 Years*, and *III.C. Comparison with CSU and USG Programs*, it was rated **Above Average** by the CPR Committee.

*In summary, the Bachelor of Music in Music Education degree is identified as **Very Strong**.*

List of Recommendations for Improving Program Quality

For section II.G *The Quality of Facilities and Equipment*, all three levels of review indicated "Above Average." The self study noted concerns, echoed in the NASM report and summarized by the CPR committee as: *Music library could use additional resources to expand its collection.*

Since the report the music library has expanded its subscription services to both print and audio materials, which helps address the concern. The Naxos classical music subscription has been expanded to include recordings from Telarc and Chandos, and the JSTOR subscription has been expanded to include Collections 6-13. We are exploring a stronger connection between the performing ensembles libraries and the music library as a mean of expanding cataloged

collections. We will seek additional targeted donations of scores and digital recordings to supplement existing special collections donations.

The expansion of our student teaching placements into high-quality programs in the metro Atlanta area has improved the quality of the student teaching experience for our students. We will seek to expand these placement options.

List of Recommendations for Improving Program Productivity

As mentioned above, the areas highlighted for review in program productivity were around enrollment stabilization and number of degrees awarded as mentioned above. The CPR Committee noted that these areas are less than optimal, but did not express significant concern.

The director of the school will share this information with our new, incoming faculty members in music education, Dr. Keith Matthews and Dr. Bradley Olesen, when they arrive in the fall. Together we will review enrollment numbers and discuss strategies for keeping them stable going forward. We see new efforts toward enhancing music education in the Muscogee County School District as an area of enormous potential, as we partner with the district to help realize its goals.

Conclusion about the Program's Viability at CSU

The program is a viable, respected, and by most measures thriving degree that prepares students to be employed as music educators. Students graduating from this program enjoy nearly 100% job placement. Further engagement with local and regional music educators will only enhance the already strong reputation of the program.

Program Improvement Plan

Summary Recommendation and Supporting Rationale

Given the program's rating of "very strong" or "above average" in all categories with the preponderance of ratings being "very strong," this program should be **Maintained at the Current Level**. Current resource allocation is sufficient to so.

As for the observations noted in the review, the College of the Arts is working in collaboration with the Dean of the Schwob Library to create a College of the Arts Library and Archives at the RiverPark Campus funded as part of the University's comprehensive campaign. This would allow for additional resources to be allocated to the music library collection. Secondly, the Dean in conjunction with the chairs/director as part of the implementation of the College's Strategic Plan are implementing a comprehensive fiscal plan to reduce the College's dependence on private support to meet operational costs. That plan is now in its second year.

The reviewers also observed that enrollment was, "...very good, but declining," and that, "The number of degrees awarded annually fluctuated." Enrollment and RPG initiatives are part of the College and Departmental Strategic Plans. The College created an RPG task force to develop minimum standards for advising and enhanced intervention strategies in an effort to increase enrollment and RPG rates.