

Sophomore Conference

Procedures

The Sophomore Conference is being instituted this year to provide an opportunity for assessment at a critical juncture for music majors. Each student meets privately with the entire full-time music faculty in order to assess his or her progress to date, and to discuss plans for the future. The student's applied instructor (if he or she is not a full-time faculty member) is also invited to the conference, pending the instructor's availability. The Conference is an important and constructive milestone in a music major's career at North Park. All music majors of sophomore standing (as determined by Student Services) must complete the Sophomore Conference. Transfer students higher than sophomore standing may be requested to participate. Music education students must successfully complete the Sophomore Conference before the School of Music will recommend them for the teacher education program. The Sophomore Conferences are held in early spring semester. Formal notification, a self-evaluation sheet, a musical activity record, and more detailed instructions will be provided to those eligible during the autumn semester. The Bachelor of Music in Performance degree approval jury will be incorporated into this process.

At each Conference, the faculty will consider the student's self-evaluation and musical activity record, a writing sample, an evaluation form submitted by the student's principal applied music instructor, the student's academic transcript, and other appropriate materials. The student will perform a brief and representative musical selection. The remainder of the Conference will consist of constructive dialogue between the student and the faculty about educational progress and career plans.

Outcomes

After the Conference, each student will receive a communication from the Dean summarizing the substance of the Conference, and indicating one of the following outcomes:

- 1) Continuation as a music major in the degree program chosen.
- 2) Provisional continuation as a music major in the degree program chosen, noting certain deficiencies that must be remedied in a timely fashion. Another Conference may be required.
- 3) Provisional continuation as a music major but with a *change of degree program* or curricular emphasis. Certain deficiencies as may be noted must be remedied in a timely fashion. Another Conference may be required.
- 4) Non-continuation as a music major. In this case, the student should consult immediately with his or her faculty advisor and the Dean in order to discuss alternative educational plans.

Graduation

A formal Undergraduate Graduation Application can be obtained online or from the Office of Student Administrative Services. The deadline for submitting a graduation application is **April 30th** for graduation in the following academic year (December, May or August).