School of Music Mission

The reputation of The School of Music rests upon the exceptional quality of its faculty and the achievements of its diverse students. Our mission to our students is to provide a rich, diverse, stimulating environment in which both undergraduate and graduate music majors can develop as music professionals in a culture of intellectual, educational and artistic excellence. We recognize and embrace the unique duality of our educational mission alongside our responsibility as the principal provider of musical cultural activities in the region.

School of Music Vision

The School of Music of The University of Southern Mississippi has a responsibility to the citizens of the state and nation to serve as a leader both in world-class music performance and teacher training. We believe that strong performers become even better through the profound understanding gained through teaching, and that the best teachers are informed by their own dedication to artistic excellence. We will impact the state, region and nation through our dedication to becoming a leader in the synthesis of artistic and teacher training at all levels.

School of Music Tenets

Superior Artistic Training, Exceptional Teacher Training, Innovative Research and Creative Activities, Comprehensive Programs, World-class Faculty, Educational and Community Outreach

School of Music Strategic Plan 2012-2017

Goal #1: Align local and statewide support for the funding of an appropriately spaced and equipped music facility that equals or exceeds facilities at peer music schools

Strategy #1: Through a Strategic Marketing Plan raise awareness of our programs and accomplishments of our students and faculty.
  a. Explore additional opportunities for public performances targeting high profile events for legislators, IHL Board, and administration
  b. Expand the PRISM Concert formula to represent the entire School of Music
  c. Increase student participation and results in state and regional competitions
  d. Increase SoM faculty participation in campus-wide activities, meetings, councils, committees, workshops, etc. – the SoM geographic location is a threat to our ability to interact with colleagues across campus. We need to be more visible to our colleagues and administration.

Strategy #2: Raise awareness of our dedication to Exceptional Teacher Training
  a. Create a Center for Excellence in Teacher Preparedness
  b. Apply to be a site for the National String Project Consortium.
  c. Host workshops and conferences dedicated to pedagogy and teacher development
  d. Create a marketing and publicity plan to extoll the virtues of a – c.

Strategy #3: Raise awareness of our Educational and Community Outreach Programs
  a. Increase awareness of existing educational outreach programs such as the Suzuki Program, the Southern Miss Piano Institute, and the Youth Orchestra
  b. Expand Brown Bag Series to a greater variety of venues
  c. Explore additional opportunities for public concerts specifically targeting administration, IHL Board members and legislators
  d. Explore expanding the PRISM concert formula to the entire School of Music
  e. Become a site for the National String Project Consortium
  f. Initiate an afternoon concert series designed for elderly and retired patrons
  g. Continue to support FestivalSouth with in-kind and talent contributions.
  h. Create a marketing and publicity plan to extoll the virtues of a – g.
Strategy #4: Formulate a plan to influence legislators, IHL Board members, city and county officials, and the new President as to the value of a new music facility
   a. Contact supporters in various legislative districts to influence state legislators
   b. Contact supporters around the state to influence IHL Board members
   c. Contact local supporters to influence local city and county officials
   d. Secure support of Alumni Association and Development office
   e. Make presence and value of the School of Music evident to new President

Goal #2: Become the leading teacher preparation program in the Gulf South
Strategy #1: Create a Center for Excellence in Teacher Preparedness
Strategy #2: Pursue offering Certificates of Teaching and Pedagogy
Strategy #3: Apply to be a site for the National String Project Consortium
Strategy #5: Host workshops and conferences on pedagogy and teacher development.
Strategy #6: Infuse pedagogical theory and teaching opportunities into graduate programs
Strategy #7: Address the teaching loads of those involved in research activities.

Goal #3: Raise undergraduate performance standards
Strategy #1: Create entrance standards for the BM in Performance degree
Strategy #2: Institute a comprehensive chamber music program for instrumentalists
Strategy #3: Continue emphasis on Recruitment and Retention in Annual Reviews
Strategy #4: Pursuing a living-learning communities initiative for music majors
Strategy #5: Clarify and simplify the process of recruiting international students
Strategy #6: Establish scholarship funding for BM Performance majors
Strategy #7: Hire a composer with expertise in contemporary music

Goal #4: Support capacity with appropriate resources - The School of Music is at or near capacity in most of its programs. As capacity has been obtained resources for support of some programs has not kept pace. In support of programs at capacity the School of Music seeks to:
Strategy #1: Hire a musicologist to support graduate enrollment growth - the graduate program growth has stretched the resources in the Musicology area beyond its capabilities. Both musicologists are now teaching overloads on a regular basis, which is severely impacting their ability to continue their research agenda.
Strategy #2: Identify permanent funding for Professor of Practice in Music Education - enrollment in the BME program is at capacity at 206 students. This position covers all the student teacher responsibilities which allows our tenure track faculty to focus on research and the graduate programs instead of spending their valuable time on the road observing student teachers.
Strategy #3: Pursue a DMA in Collaborative Piano and update the MM in Piano Performance – Piano Accompanying to an MM in Collaborative Piano in support of all performance degrees - the growth in both the undergraduate and graduate programs has stretched our piano accompanying resources beyond their capacity. We have created two staff accompanying positions, but that has not completely solved the problem. This would allow us to recruit quality pianists into what has become the degree of choice for pianists, and provide additional accompanying resources for all our music majors.
Strategy #4: Hire a string education line in support of our application to be a NSPC site - String education in the state of Mississippi is extremely weak due to the fact that no college music program in the state focuses on this area. In order to improve the quality of string players we can recruit at home we must improve the quality of string education in the state.

Goal #5: Focus educational and community outreach activities in support of goal #1
Strategy #1: Continue our support of current outreach programs
Strategy #2: Initiate an afternoon concert series designed for elderly and retired patrons.
Strategy #3: Apply to be a site for the National String Project Consortium.
Strategy #4: Continue to support FestivalSouth with in-kind and talent contributions.
Strategy #5: Continue to develop videos for major concerts providing audiences insight into the performers and music-making process.