

## Bachelor of Musical Arts Degree/Individually-Designed Area of Competence

The individually-designed area of competence, which consists of at least 19 credit hours of approved courses outside of music, must be constructed around a coherent academic purpose and may draw together the academic resources of a number of departments and schools. The student should consult with advisers and the Blair Associate Dean while preparing the written rationale and course plan for the area of competence.

The signed course plan form, written proposal of the rationale, and the Course Change Request form must be submitted to the Blair Office of Academic Services.

A student who wishes to make changes to an approved individually-designed area of competence must complete the *Request for Change in Individually-Designed Area of Competence*, with adviser's signature, and submit the changes for approval by the Blair Associate Dean.

### Guidelines:

1. Develop a proposal, which includes:
  - Written rationale for the area of competence, which should include:
    - A description of the area you wish to pursue and why it is a valid area of competence
    - An explanation of the relevance of particular courses
    - A discussion of how the proposed courses cohere
    - A discussion of how this area of competence prepares you for graduate study or long-term goals
    - The title of the area of competence must be short and illustrative of the content of the area
  - List of proposed courses
2. Identify and consult with an adviser for the area of competence
3. Consult with Blair Associate Dean
4. Submit the following to the Blair Office of Academic Services:
  - Individually Designed Area Course Plan Form, signed by adviser of the area
  - Written Proposal of the Rationale
  - Change of Course Request Form
5. The Blair Musical Arts Committee will review the proposal and notify the student of its decision (approval, approval with changes, or resubmission with revisions). If you are asked to resubmit you must meet with the adviser and Associate Dean to discuss strategies for revising and strengthening your proposal.

## INDIVIDUALLY DESIGNED AREA OF COMPETENCE for B.MUS.ARTS

(Must be accompanied by a Change of Course Request Form and a written proposal of the rationale)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Commodore ID \_\_\_\_\_

Expected graduation term: Fall \_\_\_\_\_ Spring \_\_\_\_\_ Summer \_\_\_\_\_ Expected graduation year: \_\_\_\_\_

*This plan must include a minimum of **19** hours of course work. After approval from the faculty adviser and the Musical Arts Committee, it is deemed to be a statement of required courses. Any subsequent changes to the plan must be made in writing, in advance of the beginning of the student's graduating semester, and approved by the area adviser and the Blair Associate Dean.*

Title of Area: \_\_\_\_\_

DEPT.	COURSE NO.	COURSE TITLE	HOURS
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
9.			
10.			
11.			
12.			
13.			
14.			
15.			
16.			
17.			
18.		TOTAL HOURS:	

Student's signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Adviser (of area) signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Associate Dean's signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*Return completed form to:  
Vanderbilt University – Blair School of Music – Office of Academic Services – Room 1133*