PHILOSOPHY

Welcome to the Millikin University Percussion Program. Our percussion studio and ensembles represent one of the finest undergraduate programs of its kind. Through a diverse selection of degree programs and course offerings, we are committed to providing students with the facilities and training necessary to achieve success in the professional world. Percussion studies at Millikin University are designed to develop the whole musician – artistically, intellectually, technically – through the integration of theory and practice. Our goal is to develop the highest possible level of musicianship and an appropriate proficiency in performance, teaching, technology, or program administration depending on the curriculum of study chosen by the student. The percussion curriculum is designed to present a sequential study of all percussion instruments relevant to one's program of study. Conceptual knowledge and skills will be acquired through the:

- development of technical facility to meet the needs of artistic expression.
- performance of a cross-section of literature commensurate to one's program of study.
- development of the ability to sight-read proficiently on all percussion instruments.
- experience of solo and ensemble performance.
- attendance and participation in master classes and recitals.
- observation of teaching methodologies and rehearsal techniques in lessons, master classes, and ensemble rehearsals.

POLICIES

- Hearing protection (i.e. earplugs) must be worn for all performance activities!
- All percussion majors are required to enroll in a two-credit lesson each semester.
- Participation in one of the chamber percussion ensembles is required of all students enrolled in percussion lessons.
- All percussion students will be responsible for supplying appropriate sticks, mallets, and music for their lessons and ensembles. No photocopies are allowed in place of original music required for lessons.
- Membership in the Percussive Arts Society is required of all percussionists enrolled in lessons. See pas.org for details.
- Only students enrolled in percussion lessons are allowed access to the facility.
- ALWAYS keep rooms locked when not in use.
- All rooms are to be returned to the specified floor plan before leaving the room.
- Do not adjust air conditioners or thermostat without notifying percussion faculty.
- No equipment may leave the facility without pre-approval from the percussion faculty. Any abuse of this policy will result in your equipment loan privileges being revoked.
- All students are responsible for damage to instruments or equipment due to misuse. This includes all concert equipment and drum sets.
- All lessons and rehearsals taking place in the percussion facility must be scheduled with the percussion faculty.
- No smoking, food, or drinks are allowed in the facility at any time.

KEY RESTRICTIONS

All students enrolled in private lessons through the Registrar will be able to check out a house key from Millikin Security at the start of each academic year. This key will open the practice rooms and all storage cabinets. No percussion student will lend his/her key to any non-percussion student for any reason. Keys must be returned to the Security Desk at the conclusion of each term.
HOUSE HOURS

The house alarm system is turned off each day at 7:00 a.m. and turned on at 12:00 a.m. when classes are in session. Please see percussion faculty for special house hours over spring break, fall break, etc. Students are not allowed access to the rooms between 12 a.m. and 7 a.m.

LESSONS

All music majors with percussion as their principal instrument are required to enroll in a two-credit lesson. Percussion students are evaluated each semester on their lesson performance. Lesson grades are determined as follows:

40%
Weekly lesson performance
Master class attendance
Required event attendance

40%
Practice surveys

10%
Recital Attendance

• Music majors enrolled in lessons must attend 14 recitals each semester between the first and last days of class. Any event on the SOM events calendar may qualify; other events may apply if consent is given by the percussion faculty previous to its occurrence. Percussion faculty will determine which required percussion studio events may apply toward the requirement (see Percussion Events Calendar).
• In general, events on which you are performing will not apply; Thursday recitals are one possible exception. Consult percussion faculty previous to any event for further clarification

• Music minors must attend 7 recitals each semester between the first and last days of class. Any event on the SOM events calendar may qualify; other events may apply if consent is given by the percussion faculty previous to its occurrence. Percussion faculty will determine which required percussion studio events may apply toward the requirement (see Percussion Events Calendar).
• In general, events on which you are performing will not apply; Thursday recitals are one possible exception. Consult percussion faculty previous to any event for further clarification

10%
Jury/Barrier, Recital or Performance Class participation

In terms of grading, participation in master class and attendance of required events is the equivalent of a weekly lesson grade. Failure to attend a lesson master class or a required percussion event will result in issuance of an F for each unexcused absence. A Percussion Events Calendar will be submitted to every student each semester. Record all pertinent events in your calendar and monitor your e-mail and the percussion bulletin board on a daily basis for any additional information. Schedule conflicts are inevitable. It is your responsibility to inform faculty of potential schedule conflicts immediately. Your extra-curricular events (i.e. employment, family events, concert attendance) generally do not constitute an excused absence from lessons, master class, required events, or ensemble rehearsals/concerts. Percussion is a large part of what you are here to do. This policy cannot be negotiable. Furthermore, it is your responsibility to stay healthy. If you become ill, you must contact your applied teacher before the lesson. A letter from MU Health Services or your family doctor stating the extent of your illness is required.

Opportunities to engage in experiences outside the weekly lesson are also part of the applied percussion curriculum. Campus and regional activities such as master classes are one of the most common of these types of activities. Additionally, attending an international conference such as PASIC (Percussive Arts Society International Convention) or traveling abroad to study percussion with an acknowledged expert is
another. As with all experiences in the applied area, the validity of these activities is determined on a per case basis by the supervising faculty member. In most cases, reflection assignments are used to assess the efficacy of these types of assignments.

ENSEMBLES

The Percussion Ensembles represent the core of our percussion program. Hence, participation in one of the chamber percussion ensembles is required of all students enrolled in applied lessons. These ensembles will present to you some of the most significant and challenging music of your undergraduate career. Placement into these ensembles is through an annual audition. Attendance at all ensemble rehearsals is required. The ensemble grade is based on attendance and on the continued preparation of the assigned music. Failure to attend a rehearsal will result in the lowering of your grade by one full letter grade for each unexcused absence. Failure to attend a concert will result in a failing grade. If you become ill, you must contact your director before the rehearsal. A letter from MU Health Services or your family doctor stating the extent of your illness is required.

Students are responsible for all music in their folder. Lost music will be charged to your account at replacement value. Members are expected to have prepared their part for each rehearsal; continued lack of preparation will result in your part being reassigned and your grade lowered. ALL students will participate in set-up and tear-down for EVERY rehearsal and concert. Failure to do so will result in the lowering of your grade by one full letter. All rooms are to be returned to the specified floor plan at the conclusion of each rehearsal.

EQUIPMENT

We possess some the finest instruments available with an estimated value of over $300,000. Following a few simple rules will help us maintain this equipment in top condition for you to use.

- All timpani and keyboards are to be covered after use. Do not place the covers on the floor when using the instruments.
- Never move a marimba or vibraphone by yourself. It is simply too much stress on the frame of the instrument.
- Always lift keyboard instruments over changes in elevation (i.e. door thresholds, changes in flooring, etc.)
- Never set anything on a percussion keyboard.
- Never lift a music stand over a keyboard instrument or timpani.
- All marimba blocks are to be stored in the block cabinet after each use. Never try to block the DeMorrow marimba.
- Please refrain from touching the bars of keyboard instruments with your hands.
- Never use a mallet that is harder than the material from which the instrument is constructed.
- Never use a stick or mallet that leaves noticeable marks or dents on the instrument.
- No WOOD mallets allowed on timpani.
- Return all drums, cymbals, stands, and accessories to appropriate closet after each use.
- Play at a sensible volume on drum sets.
- Do not use concert percussion equipment on the drum sets.
- De-tune all hand drums after use.
- Report all repairs to the student percussion technician or the percussion faculty.
- No equipment or instrument is to leave the house without pre-approval from the percussion faculty. Equipment must then be checked out and returned through the percussion faculty. Any abuse of this policy will result in your equipment loan privileges being revoked.
- Turn off the stereo when finished.
- Students who steal or abuse instruments will be removed from the program immediately.

Percussion students are required to purchase the mallets and music documented in the audition music mailing disseminated each year. Additionally, two black bath towels should be purchased for use in concerts and rehearsals. Concert attire for percussion ensemble concerts is black pants and black shirt (no t-shirts) or a black dress.
ALCOHOL & CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE POLICY

Unmitigated digressions of various sorts are an inevitable part of college life. However, these should never be allowed to affect the overall quality of one’s work and/or the work of others in a collaborative scenario. Thus, showing up to a lesson, rehearsal or concert under the influence of alcohol or any controlled substance is strictly forbidden. Furthermore, the word “influence” should be understood to include hangovers or any other negative effects resulting these forms of irresponsible behavior.

In simple terms, no partying 24 hrs previous to any significant event in the percussion area.

Have a great year!