

**University of Colorado**  
**College of Music**  
**Brass**  
**Sophomore Proficiency Policy**

As part of applied study, each brass major pursuing an undergraduate degree in music will be required to pass the Sophomore Proficiency (MUSC 2997 – pass/fail). Students will be eligible to take this performance exam after successfully completing four semesters of applied study on their major instrument, normally at the end of the sophomore year. Any deviation from this timetable will be handled by student petition to the Brass Faculty. Transfer students will be advised individually.

The Sophomore Proficiency for brass students is a two part playing exam:

Part I: Solo Material (BM, BME - 12 minutes; BA - 7 minutes)

Part II: Scales, Excerpts, Sight-Reading (BM, BME 18 minutes; BA - 13 minutes).  
Specific requirements for Part II will be at the discretion of each studio teacher.

A rubric will be used for consistent evaluation of Parts I and II. A separate letter grade for Part I will be figured into the semester applied music grade.

The Sophomore Proficiency will be passed or failed determined by the overall average of numeric scores assigned by each faculty member. Successfully passing the Sophomore Proficiency completes the applied music requirement for students in the Bachelor of Arts degree. Students in the Bachelor of Music and Bachelor of Music Education degrees will be eligible to present required recitals only after the Sophomore Proficiency is passed.

If a student fails the first attempt at the Sophomore Proficiency, he/she will be required to attempt the examination for a second time early in the following semester. The brass faculty will determine the specific parts of the exam to be played again, and the specific date for the second attempt. It will be the student's responsibility to secure an accompanist should Part I need to be repeated. If the second attempt is failed, the student will be required to retake the examination, for the third time, at the end of that same semester during regularly scheduled jury/proficiency exam times. Non-appearance to retake a failed Sophomore Proficiency according to the above schedule will result in an automatic attempt failure. Three attempt failures of the Sophomore Proficiency will disqualify the student for any degree in music.

revised 8/15/19 – effective for the fall 2019 class and after