The Bachelor of Music degree in Performance, with special areas of interest in instrumental, vocal, and piano, prepares the student to begin a professional career in music. All Bachelor of Music degrees in performance provide thorough preparation for further study in music at the graduate level.

Students graduating from the UNLV Department of Music with a Bachelor of Music degree will:

1. perform in one primary performance medium, at a level appropriate for the area of specialization, with sufficient technical and musical skills requisite for artistic self-expression;

2. demonstrate broad working knowledge of the solo repertoire for their primary performance medium, at a level appropriate for the area of specialization, and display essential skills to interpret a range of styles within that repertoire;

3. perform in solo and ensemble (large and small) settings at a level appropriate for the area of specialization, with sufficient technical and musical skills requisite for artistic self-expression;

4. read solo and ensemble (large and small) literature at sight with fluency demonstrating both general musicianship and, in the primary performance medium, a skill level relevant to professional standards appropriate for the area of concentration;

5. demonstrate in written, verbal, aural, and visual methods knowledge of styles, composers, genres, forms and processes of Western European art music through present time,
including contributions to this tradition made by composers of both genders and multicultural societies;

6. demonstrate knowledge of the principles of harmony, musical form, and compositional process, and the ability to use this knowledge in written, verbal, aural, and visual analyses;

7. demonstrate fluency in written fundamentals and aural comprehension of music theory (including aural dictation);

8. utilize the piano for personal music study and instruction;

9. synthesize performance, historical, stylistic, analytical, and technological information to solve artistic problems and form musical interpretations, and convincingly communicate these solutions and interpretations in written, verbal, aural, and visual methods.

• Which learning outcomes were assessed?

3. demonstrate knowledge of the principles of harmony, musical form, and compositional process, and the ability to use this knowledge in written, verbal, aural, and visual analyses;

4. demonstrate fluency in written fundamentals and aural comprehension of music theory (including aural dictation);

Students entering the degree in Music must take and pass a theory placement exam that allows them to enter the introductory course in Basic Musicianship MUS 201 E and MUS 201 F.

Students that do not pass the exam enroll in MUS 102 E and F, Beginning Music Theory, a review course designed for music majors whose background in music theory is not sufficient for admittance into MUS 201. Course content is elementary harmony, notation, note reading, scales, intervals, chords, part writing with S/F grading only. MUS 201 E is the basic study of diatonic harmony that includes four-part writing.

MUS 201 F concentrates on ear training and sight-singing as related to the harmonic materials of MUS 201 F. MUS 202 E is the Basic study of elementary harmonic practices including secondary dominant chords and common-chord modulation in rudimentary forms. MUS 202 F is the sight-singing and ear training as related to the materials in MUS 202 E.

The MUS 303 E and F follow this approach but is the advanced study of harmonic practices, continuing modulation study and chromaticism and rudimentary forms are expanded. The culminating courses, MUS 304 E and F includes the study of harmonic practices and late 19th and 20th century techniques.

All of the courses include written notation exams, aural dictation exams and sight-singing aural exams. Students must be able to show understanding in both written and aural assessments, measured by the instructor and the theory coordinator. Students must pass all of these courses with a C- or better as is the requirement for all music majors in all degree required courses.
Many students struggle with the aural dictation and sight-singing courses, sometimes passing the written MUS E courses, but failing the MUS F courses. Music Theory faculty have in the past been consisted of part-time instructors as well as PhD credentialed faculty. With the addition of two visiting instructors Fall 2014, both with PhD credentials, and with a focus on more active attention on the aural skills required, more examples in class and supervision of the area coordinator in theory, students are doing slightly better.

Conversation about providing incoming freshman with an on-line course, preparing them for the skills required to begin the musicianship courses, is being considered.

Fall 2015 will also make available to course instructors on a rotating basis, the use of a keyboard lab in order to give students the additional keyboard harmony skills to reinforce their aural and written skills.