

Wells College Music Department
Mission Statement
Goals, Objectives, and Assessment

Music, as one of the original seven liberal arts, is essential to a liberal arts education. In the words of Plato, “I would teach children music, physics, and philosophy; but most importantly music, for the patterns in music and all the arts are the keys to learning.” The Wells College Mission Statement further supports the importance of music by this quote, “Through Wells' academic program, residential atmosphere, and community activities, students learn and practice the ideals of the liberal arts.”

The Music Department affirms these ideals by:

- providing a variety of musical performance opportunities for all students
- promoting creativity and independent thinking
- encouraging collaboration among students and across disciplines
- promoting lifelong participation and appreciation of music and the arts
- embracing diversity in performances and participation
- providing challenging, high quality music education that connects to the liberal arts foundations
- facilitating the discipline of developing musical skills, listening skills, and knowledge of the art
- promoting self-expression individually and with others
- providing a supportive atmosphere for students
- serving the community by sharing performances with the public
- preparing students for rich and rewarding lives by promoting enlightenment and edification through musical experiences.

Program Goals

Students will:

- Gain musical skills and facility on their respective instruments or voices by participating in performance ensembles.
- Learn to read music, understand musical notation, and develop listening skills, as well as demonstrate their facility in the subject matter in Class Piano, Intro to Music Theory, and Class Guitar.

- Gain an appreciation of a wide range of music literature, genres, and styles.
- Develop collaborative skills required when performing music with individuals with a wide range of skills and experiences.
- Develop a life long interest, appreciation, and participation in music.

Learning Objectives

Goal 1.

Students from across many disciplines will participate in the several performing ensembles that are available, namely: Choir, Chamber Orchestra, Jazz Band, Dixieland Band, and any other chamber music groups that may be formed.

Goal 2.

Students will work together to collaborate on performances, learn to listen and express themselves musically, and will participate in the end of the semester concerts.

Goal 3.

Students will enroll in introductory courses to gain further knowledge of musical notation, music history, keyboard skills, guitar skills, musical expression, and music appreciation.

Means of Assessing Goals

1. The performing ensembles will present an end of the semester concert to the public. There is a separate concert for the Choir and one for the Chamber Orchestra, Jazz Band, and Dixieland Band.
2. Students will demonstrate a level of performance preparedness for the concerts and will be expected to perform musically on the concert.
3. Students enrolled in non-performance classes will demonstrate their knowledge of the specific coursework by practical and written examinations.