

Secondary Harp Lessons

MUAS 1522-702 (1 Credit Hour)

1522-703 (2 Credit Hours)

Spring 2026

MU274 (Harp Studio)

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Office Hours	By appointment

Course Objectives

This course aims to develop harp technique and skill alongside the incorporation of music theory, professionalism, self-confidence, and general harp knowledge. Playing activities will include rhythm and note identification, warm-ups, practice strategies and methods, and solo repertoire and etudes. Students are also encouraged to explore the harp world further by attending and reflecting on UNT concerts featuring harpists.

By the end of the course, students will be able to use foundational harp techniques and strategies to:

- Be fluent in note and rhythm identification
- Create and maintain practice schedules
- Identify and work to maintain proper hand, posture, and sitting technique at the harp
- Regularly warm up at the harp using a variety of scales and arpeggios
- Complete and perform (memory optional) 1-2 pieces by the end-of-semester performance
- Be familiar and comfortable with both practice and performance etiquette

Prerequisites

Secondary lesson paperwork must be filed.

Required Materials

- Harp Tuning Key
- Notebook for lessons
- Binder for any loose papers (organized neatly for each lesson)
- Any current repertoire (including any technique handouts)
- Recommended materials:
 - *Bochsa Revisited: 40 Easy Etudes, Op. 318, Vol 1* by Carl Swanson (for Pedal Harp, or Lever Harp, depending on harp used for lessons)

Grading Criteria

- 60% Attendance and preparedness for each lesson
Accomplishment of assignments given.
You must attend a minimum of 8 lessons to receive a passing grade, per College of Music guidelines.
- 25% Attendance and performance in end-of-semester studio/jury class
- 15% Attendance and reflection essays for a minimum of 2 UNT performances featuring harp (programs/photos/essays to be submitted by end of semester)

Letter Grades:

- A 90-100%
- B 80-89%
- C 70-79%
- D 60-69%
- F Below 60%

Submitted student work, particularly jury feedback, will be returned in a timely manner after submission and deadlines for assignments.

Attendance Policy

You must attend a minimum of 8 lessons to receive a passing grade, per College of Music guidelines.

The semester consists of 13 half-hour weekly lessons. In order to benefit the most from these lessons, it is critical that you practice throughout the week. **If you have a scheduling conflict with your lesson, please notify the instructor at least 24 hours in advance in order to get it rescheduled.** Lessons not rescheduled 24 hours in advance will be made up at the instructor's discretion and will otherwise count as an absence.

Attending a lesson without the appropriate shoes, lesson repertoire, or lesson notebook will result in an absence.

Each lesson is worth 5 points towards your final grade and will be graded on accomplishment of the assignments given from the previous lesson.

A lesson absence will automatically receive a 0.

Arriving on time for your lesson maximizes what is accomplished in each lesson. **Please arrive at the harp practice rooms 15-30 minutes prior to your lesson to warm-up and prepare for your lesson.**

Practice Expectations

It is not easy or helpful to “cram” the night before your lesson. Daily, consistent practice is much more effective.

Structure practice like a class. Even if it is only 10-15 minutes, set time aside each day to practice. Practicing in smaller increments of time is easier both on your body and your mind, and allows for more efficient practice. Practice strategies will be covered in lessons.

At the beginning of each practice session, please tune your harp (with pedals in flat) and have a plan of what you aim to accomplish. At the end of each session, make a plan for next time and ensure all pedals are in the flat position before leaving the practice room.

Make sure to wear appropriate harp shoes (shows with backs and flexible soles) and remove any jewelry or clothing that could scratch the harp.

You will have access to Gus via the Copy Room. You are allowed to request up to 2 hours of scheduled practice time per day. Please email the instructor to reserve times at the beginning of the semester. Any other times will be first come, first serve.

Harp Maintenance and Care

Before leaving the practice room, always check to **make sure all of the harp pedals are in the “flat” position**. This means the strings have the least amount of tension on them and helps them last longer.

Though daily tuning may seem tedious, it is important for both the care of the harp and for the development of your sound. When tuning, **make sure all of the pedals are in the flat position** and tune the entire harp to 441Hz.

If you are using the lever harp to practice, **tune with all levers down** and make sure E, A, and B are tuned to flat, while C, D, F, and G are tuned to natural. Please make sure to **return levers to the flat position before leaving**.

If a string breaks, please inform the instructor as soon as possible to replace the string.

Concert Attendance

In order to familiarize yourself with harp repertoire and support your fellow musicians, you are required to attend at least 2 UNT spring concerts that feature harp.

There will be a list near the bulletin board by the harp studio door with upcoming concerts featuring harp. You can also view upcoming concerts on the UNT HarpBeats social media pages.

Take a selfie at the concert and complete reflection essays on Canvas in order to receive credit.

Statement on the use of Generative AI:

In this course, I want you to engage deeply with the materials and develop your own critical thinking and writing skills. For this reason, the use of Generative AI (GenAI) tools like Claude, ChatGPT, and Gemini is not permitted.

While these tools can be helpful in some contexts, they do not align with our goal of fostering the development of your independent thinking. Using GenAI to complete any part of an assignment, exam, or coursework will be considered a violation of academic integrity, as it prevents the development of your own skills, and will be addressed according to the Student Academic Integrity policy.

Additionally, tools like Grammarly, predictive text, speech-to-text, and translation tools are not allowed as they blur authorship and misrepresent your independent work. All work must be your own.

End of Semester Performance (Jury)

At the culmination of the semester, there will be a studio class in which all secondary harp students will perform for each other. You should not schedule your end-of-semester jury during a regularly scheduled class.

These performances will be 1-2 pieces, memory optional, as arranged with the instructor.

Defibrillators in the College of Music

- Music Building: Across from the west side of the Music Commons, directly across from the elevator
- Music Building: Third floor hallway, across from the staircase that comes up from the Copy Room. Next to Room 322
- Music Building: Across from the Copy Room next to Room 293
- Music Building: Voertman Lobby by the big double set of doors that lead out to the courtyard
- Music Building: Main Office (247) under the student worker's desk
- Music Annex: Next to room MA117, near the triple set of doors on the east side of the building
- Music Practice Building North: First floor on the Avenue C side
- Music Practice Building South: First floor on the Avenue C side
- Bain Hall: First floor by the restrooms
- Murchison Performing Arts Center: Located off the main lobby, beyond the grand staircase, across from the single occupancy restroom (next to the public water fountains)

Academic Integrity

Students caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive a "0" for that particular assignment or exam [or specify alternative sanction, such as course failure]. Additionally, the incident will be reported to the Dean of Students (Office of Academic Integrity), who may impose further penalty.

According to the UNT catalog, the term "cheating" includes, but is not limited to: a. use of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, or examinations; b. dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments; c. the acquisition, without permission, of tests or other academic material belonging to a faculty or staff member of the university; d. dual submission of a paper or project, or resubmission of a paper or project to a different class without express permission from the instructor(s); or e. any other act designed to give a student an unfair advantage. The term "plagiarism" includes, but is not limited to: a. the knowing or negligent use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment; and b. the knowing or negligent unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials.

LINK: <https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-003>

Student Behavior

Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The university's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

Link: <https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct>

Access to Information – EAGLE CONNECT

Your access point for business and academic services at UNT occurs at my.unt.edu. All official communication from the university will be delivered to your Eagle Connect account. For more information, please visit the website that explains Eagle Connect.

LINK: eagleconnect.unt.edu/

ODA Statement

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with an accommodation letter. You can now request your Letters of Accommodation ONLINE and ODA will mail your Letters of Accommodation to your instructors. You may wish to begin a private discussion with your professors regarding your specific needs in a course. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester. For additional information see the Office of Disability Access.

LINK: disability.unt.edu. (Phone: (940) 565-4323)

Health and Safety Information

Students can access information about health and safety at:
<https://music.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness>

Registration Information for Students

See: Registration Information Link:
<https://registrar.unt.edu/registration/spring-academic-calendar.html>

Academic Calendar, Spring 2026

See: Spring 2026 Registration Information Link:

<https://registrar.unt.edu/sites/default/files/spring-2026-academic-calendar.pdf>

Final Exam Schedule, Spring 2026

See above

Financial Aid and Satisfactory Academic Progress

Undergraduates

A student must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) to continue to receive financial aid. Students must maintain a minimum 2.0 cumulative GPA in addition to successfully completing a required number of credit hours based on total hours registered. Students cannot exceed attempted credit hours above 150% of their required degree plan. If a student does not maintain the required standards, the student may lose their financial aid eligibility.

Students holding music scholarships must maintain a minimum 2.5 overall cumulative GPA and 3.0 cumulative GPA in music courses.

If at any point you consider dropping this or any other course, please be advised that the decision to do so may have the potential to affect your current and future financial aid eligibility. It is recommended that you schedule a meeting with an academic advisor in your college or visit the Student Financial Aid and Scholarships office to discuss dropping a course before doing so.

LINK: <http://financialaid.unt.edu/sap>

Graduates

A student must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) to continue to receive financial aid. Students must maintain a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA in addition to successfully completing a required number of credit hours based on total registered hours per term. Music scholarships require a 3.5 cumulative GPA. Students cannot exceed maximum timeframes established based on the published length of the graduate program. If a student does not maintain the required standards, the student may lose their financial aid eligibility.

If at any point you consider dropping this or any other course, please be advised that the decision to do so may have the potential to affect your current and future financial aid eligibility. It is recommended you schedule a meeting with an academic advisor in your college, an advisor in UNT-International or visit the Student Financial Aid and Scholarships office to discuss dropping a course.

LINK: <http://financialaid.unt.edu/sap>

Retention of Student Records

Student records pertaining to this course are maintained in a secure location by the instructor of record. All records such as exams, answer sheets (with keys), and written papers submitted during the duration of the course are kept for at least one calendar year after course completion. Course work completed via the Canvas online system, including grading information and comments, is also stored in a safe electronic environment for one year. You have a right to view your individual record; however, information about your records will not be divulged to other individuals without the proper written consent. You are encouraged to review the Public Information Policy and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) laws and the university's policy in accordance with those mandates.

Link: <http://ferpa.unt.edu/>

Counseling and Testing

UNT's Center for Counseling and Testing has an available counselor for students in need. Please visit the Center's website for further information:

Link: <http://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services>.

Add/Drop Policy

Please be reminded that dropping classes or failing to complete and pass registered hours may make you ineligible for financial aid. In addition, if you drop below half-time enrollment you may be required to begin paying back your student loans. See Academic Calendar (listed above) for additional add/drop information.

Drop Information: <https://registrar.unt.edu/registration/fall-academic-calendar.html>

Student Resources

The University of North Texas has many resources available to students. For a complete list, go to:

Link: <https://success.unt.edu/aa-sa-resources>

Care Team

The Care Team is a collaborative interdisciplinary committee of university officials that meets regularly to provide a response to student, staff, and faculty whose behavior could be harmful to themselves or others.

Link: <https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care-team>