

Tuba and Euphonium Studio
Applied Tuba Lessons Syllabus
MUAP X153
Spring 2026

Instructor: Professor Blake Lile
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Office Hours: Available by appointment

Course Objectives:

Students will gain a deeper understanding of tuba literature along with the technical skills necessary to become successful musicians. Applied Lessons on an instrument create a connection between music theory, music history, aural skills, and more. Future success in any music-related field strongly correlates with achieving a high level of performance on your instrument. This will be accomplished through various means, including lessons, studio classes, individual practice, and more. Each student will receive one regularly scheduled weekly lesson lasting 30 minutes, along with a grade and feedback after every lesson.

Expectations

- Students will arrive on time, warmed up, and be prepared for their scheduled lesson time and studio class
- Practice Journal and Listening Assignments will be turned in via Canvas before each lesson
- Method books, etudes, and assigned solos will be obtained in a timely manner.
- Students will attend all tuba and euphonium-related performances (student, faculty, and guest artists)
- Students are responsible for communicating clearly with accompanists and scheduling coaching sessions with the applied instructor
- Students will develop sight reading and scales within this course
- Students will develop their fundamental skills within this course
- Students will be asked to sing and/or hum and buzz during lessons and studio class

Required materials

All necessary and assigned materials listed below must be available for each lesson. Professor Lile will individually assign method books, etudes, solos, excerpts, etc. Students may be asked to purchase materials for their musical growth and development.

- Instrument and mouthpiece
- Metronome and tuner
- Method books, etudes, solos, and excerpts as assigned
- Practice Journal

- Daily Routines for Tuba by Phillip Sinder
 - a. Bb Tuba Version: <https://www.mountainpeakmusic.com/daily-routines-for-bb-flat-tuba-pdf-download-version/?showHidden=true>
 - b. C Tuba Version: <https://www.mountainpeakmusic.com/daily-routines-for-cc-tuba-pdf-download-version/?showHidden=true>

Performance Requirements

- Perform a jury at the end of each semester with piano accompaniment
- Perform on additional announced studio engagements that will be given with two weeks' notice

Studio Events

- Low Brass Day, February TBD
- Evening of Brass Concert, Monday, April 6th, 2026

Attendance Policy

Attendance is mandatory for your applied lessons and studio class. Students must inform Professor Lile at least 24 hours in advance if they need to miss their applied lesson and/or studio class, except in cases of an emergency or sudden illness. Absences due to illness, emergencies, certain University events, or other reasonable, unavoidable circumstances with proper documentation will be excused and rescheduled based on Professor Liles's schedule.

An unexcused absence will not be rescheduled, resulting in a 0 for your lesson that day. Vacations, regularly scheduled doctor appointments, and work schedules are not considered exceptional reasons and will be marked unexcused. Each unexcused absence will result in a one-letter grade deduction from your final grade. Three or more unexcused absences will result in an automatic F in the course.

Evaluation and Grading:

60% Lesson Preparation

- Quality and consistency of preparation
- Consistency in progress
- Completion of weekly assignments
- Sight reading and scale assignments
- Attitude during the lesson
- Organization of required materials

15% Jury performance

- Jury will consist of a solo performance with piano accompaniment

15% Scale Exam

- The Scale Exam will consist of the required scales for your section

10% Practice Journal and Listening Assignments

- Completion of weekly Practice Journal and Listening Assignments

- A** 90%-100%
- B** 80%-89%
- C** 70%-79%
- D** 60%-69%
- F** Less than 60%

Scale Requirements

MUAP 1153

- Fall Semester
 - All Major Scales
- Spring Semester
 - All Major and Natural Minor Scales

MUAP 2153

- Fall Semester
 - All Major, Natural Minor, and Harmonic Minor Scales
- Spring Semester
 - All Major, Natural Minor, Harmonic Minor, and Melodic Minor

MUAP 3153

- Fall Semester
 - All Major, Natural Minor, Harmonic Minor, Melodic Minor, and Chromatic Scales
- Spring Semester
 - All Major, Natural Minor, Harmonic Minor, Melodic Minor, Chromatic, and Whole Tone Scales

MUAP 4153

- Fall Semester
 - All Major, Natural Minor, Harmonic Minor, Melodic Minor, Chromatic, Whole Tone, and Major Scales in 3rds
- Spring Semester
 - All Major, Natural Minor, Harmonic Minor, Melodic Minor, Whole Tone, Major Scales in 3rds, and Major Scales in 4ths

Scale Exam

For the Scale Exam, students will be asked to play their assigned scales randomly, as determined by Professor Lile. Students must play all scales by memory. Each scale will be evaluated based on sound quality, rhythmic consistency, and accuracy of pitches. The Scale Exam will occur in your lesson one week before Finals Week.

Studio Class

Attendance is optional for Studio Class if you are registered for Minor Applied Lessons. Studio Class will include performances, lectures, guest artist masterclasses, tuba euphonium ensemble rehearsals, and more.

Practice Journal

Students will maintain a Practice Journal and submit via Canvas before each lesson as part of their grade. The purpose of the Practice Journal is to help each student practice efficiently and consistently. Professor Lile will collect your Practice Journal at the start of each lesson and provide feedback on it to help improve your practice techniques.

Listening Assignments

Each week, students are expected to listen to a piece selected by Professor Lile and submit a discussion of the work via Canvas before each lesson. The quality of your response will determine your grade. The goal of the listening assignments is to introduce you to various classical tuba literature, as well as other classical instrumental, orchestral, and band literature.

Listening Assignment List

1. Piano Concerto in A Minor by Edvard Grieg
 2. Symphony No. 10 in E Minor by Dmitri Shostakovich
 3. Apex Predators for Brass Quintet by Catherine Likhuta
 4. Dope by Katahji Copley
 5. Sonatina for Tuba by James Naigus
 6. Flute Sonata by Francis Poulenc
 7. Blue Cathedral by Jennifer Higdon
 8. Wind Quintet, Op. 43 by Carl Nielsen
 9. Hammersmith by Gustav Holst
 10. Concerto for Euphonium by Vladimir Cosma
 11. Ignition for Tuba Euphonium Ensemble by Kevin Day
- (No Listening Assignment during the week of Spring Break)

Student Recourses

All student resources can be found on the course canvas page [here](#) and all university policies and information can be found [here](#).