

Priorities for Student Success

Off the Horn

- Be a good human being. Without this, nothing else matters.
- Listen to as much music as you can. Be broad. You will learn much more about becoming an artist by immersing yourself in an active listening life than you will in the practice room.
- Set goals. The most meaningful growth occurs when we are aiming for something. Always have a carrot in front of you (an audition, a competition, a recital).
- Be curious in your interests outside of the music building. Use your academic courses as a catalyst for growth.
- Sleep, eat well, and get some exercise.
- Have pride in your effort and your product. Remember, YOU are the product—always represent yourself, the School of Music, Theatre and Dance, and the University of Michigan as well as you can.
- Take chances by allowing yourself to fail. Hardly anyone wins their first audition or competition. Put yourself out there.
- Do everything that you can to strengthen a strong and harmonious studio vibe. You are family.

On the Horn

- Develop a world-class sound, in every register. We are aiming for a four octave mid-register.
- Cultivate a rock solid sense of pulse and rhythmic execution. Every rhythmic figure is to be calculated, never approximated.
- Build the ability to make your Tonal Energy guy smile for a good long time. Know your instrument and its pitch tendencies like the back of your hand.
- Through your listening experience, develop a heightened sense of style and context. No one ever lost an audition for making too much sense.
- Communicate. Every note that comes from your instrument must have meaning and a communicative purpose.
- Be secure in your knowledge of all scales, modes, and arpeggios. This is the language of music.
- Sight read a lot. I've never met a great musician who couldn't read. Check out etudes and solos of other instruments a fistful at a time and end each practice session with some reading.
- Be tenacious. Sometimes we can't always tell if our work is improving. It is... stick with it. If a problem persists, build off of what you CAN do.
- Improvise for a few minutes every day. Jazz or otherwise. This will help the connection between your ears and your fingers.
- Always be prepared for your rehearsals and performances. Never let anyone tell you that it's not cool to practice your ensemble music or your chamber music parts. Be the person that everyone is happy to see at the gig.