

Changing Private Instructors

Your relationship with your private teacher is one of the most important professional relationships you will have. The study of music is unique in having one-on-one mentorship at the core of the curriculum, and faculty cherish time in their studios engaging in this special pedagogical relationship.

Students are assigned to private instructors based on faculty assessment at their auditions. Students are expected to study with their assigned teacher for at least two semesters, and most often choose to study with that teacher for several years or, often, for their entire undergraduate experience.

If at any point a student wishes to change to a different instructor, s/he should first speak with his/her current instructor. Describe the reason for wanting the change, and get input from that teacher. Sometimes there are reasons for difficulties that your instructor would benefit from knowing in relation to their own teaching, and sometimes there are reasons for difficulties for which instructors can provide important insights to students. Students should also speak with their advisor or the department chair about this decision. The department chair will check with other faculty in that area to see if there is room in his/her studio for the following semester.

If the student decides to make a change, it is most courteous to inform the instructor in person by the end of the semester **BEFORE** making a change, so that instructors may plan accordingly. Faculty recognize how difficult these conversations may be, and strive to treat all students with respect and support. For students, learning to have these conversations is considered an important part of the educational process.