

Office of the Provost 66 West 12th Street New York, NY 10011

June 9, 2011

Dear new BAFA student,

As a student who will be working toward both a BA and a BFA, you are a member of an exciting group of students looking to make the most of their education at The New School. As you may already know, the shortened term we use for this dual-degree program is "BAFA," and you will hear that a lot once you arrive in August. Each of the eight schools that make up The New School is called a "division". You therefore will be enrolled in two divisions simultaneously.

You will receive correspondences over the summer from advisors and administrators from both divisions in which you will be enrolled in the fall. Some of the information in those letters will be a little confusing because it pertains to students working toward a single degree only. In this letter, I will clarify the BAFA program structure and what will happen over this summer, prior to your arrival.

First, let me tell you how the basic structure works for students who are only receiving their BA at Eugene Lang College the New School for Liberal Arts or their BFA degree from either Parsons the New School for Design or The New School for Jazz and Contemporary Music. These descriptions should provide you with a better understanding of how your BAFA program differs from other students. Please note that there are many variables in each division's policies that I will not cover in this letter.

To graduate with a **BA degree at Eugene Lang College the New School for Liberal Arts**, students normally must complete 120 credits. Since the degree is awarded in liberal arts, a limited number of credits can be non-liberal arts, which includes studio courses where you are creating something, as well as internships and practice-based classes (versus participating in a classroom discussion which would be considered liberal arts coursework). Lang BA students are allowed to take a maximum of 19 credits each semester and are academically advised by assigned faculty advisors, with additional assistance provided by designated class advisors (freshmen through seniors). The Lang curriculum is flexible, allowing its students to clarify their own interests as they progress through their studies. Therefore, there are relatively few general education requirements. In the first year, Lang students are required to take a First Year Workshop, two semesters of First Year Writing, and a special course entitled Reading NYC. In addition, all undergraduate students are required to take two University Lecture courses some time during their educational tenure at the university. There are almost no other academic requirements until the end of their sophomore year when Lang BA students declare their major. Lang has numerous majors and other academic programs from which to choose. Each major has its own set of requirements, which usually entails 12 courses and a senior capstone requirement (such as a written thesis or senior seminar).

To graduate with a **BFA degree from Parsons the New School for Design**, students must complete 134 total credits; 42 of these credits are liberal arts (including art history). The remaining 92 credits are studio-based. Parsons BFA students are allowed to take a maximum of 19 credits each semester and are academically advised by academic advisors and faculty based within the programs of study. Parsons has a more structured curriculum than Lang, where students will follow specific tracks based on their program and their interest within that discipline. Most first-year students enter Parsons through the Foundation program, and choose a major prior to sophomore year. Those students interested in Design & Technology or Photography enter those programs directly as first-year students. Each program has specific requirements throughout the following three years that combine studio work, critique, and the study of history and theory pertinent to their disciplines. In addition, all undergraduate students

are required to take two University Lecture courses some time during their educational tenure at the university. In the senior year, Parsons students are required to complete a Senior Exhibition of their work.

To graduate with a **BFA degree from The New School for Jazz and Contemporary Music**, students must complete 128 credits; a portion of these credits are liberal arts (including music history) but the majority of credits are studio-based. Jazz BFA students are allowed to take a maximum of 18 credits each semester and they are academically advised by faculty members or staff from the Office of Academic Affairs. The required courses for all students include the two ULEC courses, six music history courses, jazz theory, improvisation (sometimes referred to as "Theory & Performance"), rhythmic analysis, ear training, sight reading, arranging, piano, and instrumental proficiency on your instrument. During orientation week, Jazz students will be tested for placement in these areas (you will receive specific dates for these tests, if you haven't already, from the school over the summer). Students' abilities will be evaluated throughout their coursework. Like most conservatory programs, there are also two juries required for graduation. Students must pass the Sophomore Jury (usually at the end of the sophomore year) in order to proceed toward graduation, and seniors must prepare a minimum one-hour Senior Recital.

Now that you understand what each of the divisions asks of its students, I can give you an overview of the BAFA program's requirements. The structure of the program is changing slightly to make the BAFA student experience more integrated, with better alignment of class schedules that allow for easier registration and fewer complications. For now though, the structure is a bit less flexible, but with guidance and enthusiasm, BAFA students flourish.

To graduate with a **BA/BFA degree** students must complete 180 total credits. Of these, 90 credits are liberal arts (including any art and/or music history), and 90 credits are studio-based. BAFA students are allowed to take a maximum of 21 credits each semester. The BAFA degrees require five years to complete, which averages to approximately 18 credits per semester. Instead of talking about BAFA students as freshmen, sophomores, juniors, etc., they are described as first year, second year...fifth year. BAFA students continue to be academically advised by advisors, faculty and chairs in each of the two divisions in which they are enrolled, but have additional support from point people in each division:

Leah Weich, Director of Academic Advising at Eugene Lang College the New School for Liberal Arts:

212.229.5100 x2279, weichl@newschool.edu

Juli Parker, Assistant Dean of Advising at Parsons the New School for Design:

212. 229-5855 x4037, parkerj@newschool.edu

Dan Greenblatt, Director of Academic Affairs at The New School for Jazz and Contemporary Music:

212-229-5896, x4577, greenbld@newschool.edu

Because of the curricular structures of Parsons and Jazz in comparison with Lang, BAFA students normally spend their first three semesters primarily in their studio division. The only requirement at Lang is that they take one seminar course each semester, which should be writing in the first year. The only liberal arts requirements that BAFA students must take at Parsons are four courses (12 credits) of art history. The Jazz School does not have a similar requirement in music history, though many BAFA students avail themselves of these courses. Any other liberal art requirement that is part of a major at Parsons or focus at Jazz is not required for BAFA students. Instead, liberal arts credits should be earned through Lang and, where appropriate, at New School for General Studies or University Curriculum. Please note: students who spend at least four semesters in the BAFA Program are exempt from the University Lecture requirement.

First Year BAFA students are only expected to take the First Year Writing in the fall semester at Lang. Specific faculty members teach these sections of the writing course for BAFA students. Since much of the work you do at Lang will require strong writing skills, it is highly recommended that you take these writing courses on schedule during your first year. And while the First Year Workshop is optional for BAFA students, you are encouraged to register for an available section if your schedule allows.

Registration for students admitted to the BAFA Program with Parsons: All Parsons BA/BFA students will be eligible for advising and registration beginning June 20<sup>th</sup>. Students will receive an email with the name of their

Parsons academic advisor and instructions on scheduling an advising appointment. During the advising appointment, your advisor will guide you through first semester Parsons and Lang courses. Additional information is available at <a href="http://www.newschool.edu/incoming-students-academic-advising/">http://www.newschool.edu/incoming-students-academic-advising/</a>.

Registration for students admitted to the BAFA Program with Jazz: Due to administration of placement exams during Orientation (Monday August 22 - Wednesday August 24, 2011), summer registration procedures are not applicable to BAFA students in the Jazz program. Since students cannot register into a liberal arts course until they have first confirmed their studio/private lesson schedule, BAFA students should register with a Lang advisor after their placement exams in late August. Since placement examinations conducted during orientation occupy most of the week, Jazz BAFA students will complete a second mandatory orientation with Lang College at another time during their first year. The Academic Advising Office for Lang will provide details about this session.

The **BAFA Orientation Meeting is on Monday, August 22, 2011, 9:00-10:00am** at 66 West 12th Street, Room 510 (fifth floor). There will be discussion of the BAFA program in more detail. At that meeting, there will be a review of important and required orientation week events for BAFA students in each of their divisions.

Before the end of the summer, BAFA students will receive one more BAFA-specific mailing detailing the logistics of orientation and academic advising for each division. In the meantime, any questions can be directed to Leah, Juli, or Dan. You should also make sure that you have activated your University email account, which is easily accessed through your MyNewSchool student portal (*mynewschool.edu*). This email account is the one that will be used by both of your divisions, as well as the university, to communicate with you about important information you will need to know.

I look forward to meeting you on August 22<sup>nd</sup>! Until then, have a wonderful rest of your summer. If you should have any questions or concerns that the point people in the schools cannot answer, feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Adrienne Marcus

Director of the University Curriculum and Learning

Office of the Provost 212-229-8947 ext. 2281

adrienie Marcus

marcusa@newschool.edu