



# Curriculum, One-year Programme in Opera (*Årsstudium i opera*)

60 ECTS credits

Adopted by the Academy Board (23 April 2013)

Amended by the dean (6 June 2014; 30 January 2018; 5 November 2020)

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# PART 1

## 1.1. Brief Programme Outline

Programme name	One-year Programme in Opera ( <i>Årsstudium i opera</i> )
Programme code	AROP
Duration	1 year – full-time study
ECTS credits	60
Medium of instruction	Norwegian

## 1.2. Brief Programme Description

The One-year Programme in Opera is a one-year full-time programme for opera singers. The programme provides 60 ECTS credits and may be included in a Bachelor's degree.

The one-year programme focuses on basic actor training and stage performance. The programme includes instruction in singing, basic actor training, stage performance, physical and mental training and language. Integrating the musical and theatrical aspects, as enhanced by work on methodology, is regarded as critical to achieving the competence that students need in order to qualify for the Master of Opera programme.

## 1.3. Admission Requirements

Admission takes place on the basis of formal education and admission tests. The programme requires the completion of a musical higher education programme lasting at least two years (120 ECTS credits). Students who are admitted to the programme must demonstrate an outstanding talent for the art of musical drama. Applicants are ranked according to the results of the admission tests.

In exceptional cases, the Academy may approve other documented qualifications that are either completely or partially equivalent to the educations mentioned above.

## 1.4. Learning Outcomes

Upon completing the One-year Programme in Opera, students shall

- show artistic competence in their singing and acting skills
- have knowledge of opera as an art form and of opera's place in society
- be able to carry out opera-related assignments and projects that demonstrate creativity, intelligibility and innovation
- demonstrate good collaboration and communication skills in opera-related work processes
- demonstrate the ability to engage in analytical and critical reflection on relevant opera-related problems
- be able to reflect on ethical issues regarding the discipline and the profession and reflect on the occupational demands and expectations that professional opera singers face

## 1.5. Structure and Progression

All the courses in the curriculum support and develop the professional skills the students will need later on during their careers and that are described above in *Learning Outcomes*.

Opera is a complex art form, and the courses will overlap one another. The stage productions represent an overarching course that draws on the skills from the other areas. As a result, the content of the course curricula is largely learned during, and integrated into, the production work.

ECTS credits are used to describe the scope of the studies/ work required to take the programme's various courses. 60 ECTS credits correspond to a year of full-time study. One ECTS credit corresponds to 25 to 30 hours of work by the student. The actual hours of work include educator-led teaching, lectures, written assignments, seminars, independent work and exam work. Some courses may rely heavily on educator-led teaching, while other courses mainly emphasise the student's independent work.

## 1.5.1. Course Structure

Overview of all the courses, with ECTS credits:

Year	Code	Course name	ECTS credits
1	OP401	Vocal Training	10
1	OP402	Coaching	10
1	OP403	Physical and Mental Training for Stage Performers	10
1	OP404	Acting	10
1	OP405	Stage Work and Productions	15
1	OP406	Language	5
<b>Total ECTS credits, year 1</b>			<b>60</b>

## 1.5.2. Exchange

Students at the Oslo National Academy of the Arts have the opportunity to participate in an exchange programme at another institution of higher education during their studies. At the One-year Programme in Opera, the opportunities for such an exchange may be limited. Any participation in an exchange programme must accommodate the stage production plans and be agreed upon with the supervisor and approved by the dean.

Updated information on the Academy's exchange programme agreements is available at [www.khio.no](http://www.khio.no).

## 1.6. Teaching and Learning Methods

The opera education is based on knowledge from artistic practice, research and experience and is taught through a mix of educator-led teaching, supervision and independent work.

The programme requires a large degree of independent work. Many of the courses are process-oriented and are predicated on student attendance, so that all instruction is mandatory. Students are not allowed to undertake extracurricular obligations in fields concerning their studies unless they have agreed otherwise with the dean.

The instruction takes place in groups and individually. The programme requires students to take responsibility for, and reflect on, their own learning. Emphasis is placed on the individual student's responsibility for the group's progression and for understanding opera as a collective art form. Demonstrations and performances are instrumental to the programme.

The programme's general coursework requirements are

- mandatory attendance, minimum 80%, unless otherwise agreed upon with the dean
- active participation in the instruction
- ongoing completion of the mandatory assignments

Further information on coursework requirements are stated in the individual course descriptions.

The medium of instruction is primarily Norwegian, but the instruction, supervision and assigned literature may also be in English.

Students are themselves responsible for both familiarising themselves with and following the provisions and rules that apply to the programme. Provisions on absence and leave have been laid down in the regulations concerning studies at the Oslo National Academy of the Arts (*Forskrift om studiene ved Kunsthøgskolen i Oslo*).

## **1.7. Assessment**

The coursework requirements must be approved in order for students to receive their final course assessment.

Supervision and assessment represent a continuous process related to the programme's goals and content. The programme's ongoing assessment is based on teacher assessments and the students' active participation in the instruction, their reflection on their own development and the completion of the coursework requirements in each course.

In addition to the ongoing assessment, a course may conclude with a written exam, an assessment of the artistic result of a showing or a practical demonstration related to the course's learning outcomes.

The assessment takes place in a dialogue between each student and the course coordinator(s). Further information on the assessment forms is provided in the individual course descriptions.

All the courses must be passed in order for an exam to be approved. The programme uses a pass/fail grading system.

Further provisions on assessment and exams have been laid down in the regulations concerning studies at the Oslo National Academy of the Arts.

At the end of the course, students write an assessment of their own development and competence, while the teacher will provide each student with a written assessment.

## **1.8. Quality Assurance**

The Oslo National Academy of the Arts has systems for assuring and enhancing the quality of all parts of the education. Students are important contributors to this work, for example by participating in student evaluations and the annual learning environment survey.

## PART 2

### 2.1. Course Descriptions

#### 2.1.1. Vocal Training

*Sang*

#### Brief Course Outline

ECTS credits	10
Course code	OP401
Level	BA
Course delivery	Over 2 semesters
Prerequisites	Admission to the One-year Programme in Opera
Assessment	Pass/fail
Programme	One-year Programme in Opera

#### Brief Course Description

The Vocal Training course covers vocal technique, rehearsing, textual work, interpretation and development of a personal expression. Students work mainly on a repertoire that they are to perform during the school's productions, concerts and seminars. The repertoire is adapted both to the individual student and the group as a whole. In addition to the opera repertoire, the course may also feature other vocal literature.

Along with the Coaching course, the Vocal Training course provides the musical and vocal foundation for the students' careers as opera singers.

#### The Course's Learning Outcomes

Upon completing the course, students shall

- be able to use their voice deliberately in order to convey the work in a stylish and personal manner
- master a basic repertoire within their vocal category
- be able to carry out assignments within musical drama

#### Teaching and Learning Methods

The course's learning methods include educator-led teaching, supervision and independent work. The instruction is primarily individual. The course includes masterclasses / vocal training seminars with internal and external teachers, as well as audition training and performance improvement.

Coursework requirements:

- mandatory attendance, minimum 80%
- active participation in the instruction
- ongoing completion of the mandatory assignments

#### Assessment

All coursework requirements must be approved in order for a student to receive a final course assessment.

The student's coursework is assessed on an ongoing basis. This assessment is based on supervision, teacher assessments and the students' own reflection on their development in relation to the course's learning outcomes.

In addition to the ongoing assessment, each student shall carry out practical demonstrations on stages and in showings. The educator will carry out the ongoing assessment and the assessment of the showings/presentations.

The course uses a pass/fail grading system.

## 2.1.2. Coaching

*Musikalsk innstudering*

### Brief Course Outline

ECTS credits	10
Course code	OP402
Level	BA
Course delivery	Over 2 semesters
Prerequisites	Admission to the One-year Programme in Opera
Assessment	Pass/fail
Programme	One-year Programme in Opera

### Brief Course Description

The Coaching course focuses on the individual student's repertoire area within the different styles. A key component in the course is the rehearsal of the repertoire used for the Academy of Opera's productions, seminars and masterclasses. Students may also work musically on ensembles and on a concert repertoire. Students choose their repertoire in consultation with the school's team of educators.

### The Course's Learning Outcomes

Upon completing the course, students shall

- master a basic repertoire within their vocal discipline
- show an understanding of musical style and performance practice
- have gained proficiency in singing in an ensemble

### Teaching and Learning Methods

The course's learning methods include educator-led teaching, supervision and independent work. The instruction takes place partly individually and partly in groups. The choice of repertoire is made by the team of educators together. Before each semester, a plan is made for going through and rehearsing the repertoire.

Coursework requirements:

- mandatory attendance, minimum 80%
- active participation in the instruction
- ongoing completion of the mandatory assignments

### Assessment

All coursework requirements must be approved in order for a student to receive a final course assessment.

The student's coursework is assessed on an ongoing basis. This assessment is based on supervision, teacher assessments and the students' own reflection on their development in relation to the course's goals. In addition to the ongoing assessment, each student shall carry out practical demonstrations on stages and in showings.

The course uses a pass/fail grading system.

## 2.1.3. Physical and Mental Training for Stage Performers

*Fysisk og mental træning for scenekunstnere*

### Brief Course Outline

ECTS credits	10
Course code	OP403
Level	BA
Course delivery	Over 2 semesters
Prerequisites	Admission to the One-year Programme in Opera
Assessment	Pass/fail
Programme	One-year Programme in Opera

### Brief Course Description

The Physical and Mental Training for Stage Performers course aims to develop the students' competence in using their body in a deliberate and functionally correct way. This involves becoming aware of the correct posture, breathing, balance, coordination and regulation of tension, as well as being able to use this know-how independently and actively in stage performances.

The course includes coordination training, dance, improvisation, audition training, mental training and performance improvement.

### The Course's Learning Outcomes

Upon completing the course, students shall

- be deliberate in their use of corporeal expression on stage
- use their fantasy and power of imagination and be able to participate actively in creative processes
- have knowledge of various methods within mental training and performance improvement

### Teaching and Learning Methods

The course's learning methods include educator-led teaching, supervision and independent work. The instruction is group-based.

Coursework requirements:

- mandatory attendance, minimum 80%
- active participation in the instruction
- ongoing completion of the mandatory assignments

### Assessment

All coursework requirements must be approved in order for a student to receive a final course assessment.

The student's coursework is assessed on an ongoing basis. This assessment is based on supervision, teacher assessments and the students' own reflection on their development in relation to the course's goals.

The course uses a pass/fail grading system.

## 2.1.4. Acting

*Grunnleggende skuespillerteknikk*

### Brief Course Outline

ECTS credits	10
Course code	OP404
Level	Bachelor
Course delivery	over 2 semesters
Prerequisites	Admission to the One-year Programme in Opera
Assessment	Pass/fail
Programme	One-year Programme in Opera

### Brief Course Description

The Acting course aims to provide students with basic acting tools to use in musical drama. The course covers acting techniques and character development.

### The Course's Learning Outcomes

Upon completing the course, students shall

- be familiar with and be able to employ various acting techniques in stage performance
- be able to act out a role in a musical context
- be able to interact with their fellow performers on stage

### Teaching and Learning Methods

The course's learning methods include a combination of analysis, reflection and practical acting exercises. The instruction is group-based.

Coursework requirements:

- mandatory attendance, minimum 80%
- active participation in the instruction
- ongoing completion of the mandatory assignments

### Assessment

The coursework requirements must be approved in order for a student to receive a final course assessment.

The students' work in the Acting course will be continuously assessed on the basis of the course's goals and content.

At the end of the course, students write an assessment of their own development and competence, while the teacher will provide each student with a written assessment.

The course uses a pass/fail grading system.



## 2.1.5. Stage Work and Productions

*Scenisk arbeid og produksjoner*

### Brief Course Outline

ECTS credits	15
Course code	OP405
Level	BA
Course delivery	Over 2 semesters
Prerequisites	Admission to the One-year Programme in Opera
Assessment	Pass/fail
Programme	One-year Programme in Opera

### Brief Course Description

The course shall give the students experience with practical on-stage work. Much of the instruction will concern the staging of a production, where works of opera are staged at different levels, whether in their entirety or as excerpts. This might range from full productions with orchestra, stage sets, lighting and costumes, to simpler productions with a piano. Students also work with a director and coach on shorter excerpts /scenes that are not performed on stage.

The Stage Work and Productions course integrates all the other courses, so that the productions are entirely central to the programme as a whole. The productions shall cover various eras and evince a certain stylistic breadth in regard to the music, singing and acting. The choice of repertoire is tailored to the given students. The productions are led by a team consisting of the theatrical and musical coordinators.

### The Course's Learning Outcomes

Upon completing the course, students shall

- be able to analyse characters on the basis of texts and music
- be able to use the stage area in a deliberate manner during their performance
- be receptive and show initiative during the creative process on stage

### Teaching and Learning Methods

The course's learning methods include educator-led teaching, supervision and independent work. The instruction is group-based, with a focus on the individual student's development.

The productions are either separate projects solely for the students at the One-year Programme in Opera or projects carried out with other students at the Academy of Opera.

Coursework requirements:

- mandatory attendance, minimum 80%
- active participation in the instruction
- ongoing completion of the mandatory assignments

### Assessment

The coursework requirements must be approved in order for a student to receive a final course assessment.

The student's coursework is assessed on an ongoing basis. This assessment is based on supervision, teacher assessments and the students' own reflection on their development in relation to the course's learning outcomes.

The course uses a pass/fail grading system.

## 2.1.6. Language

*Språk*

### Brief Course Outline

ECTS credits	5
Course code	OP406
Level	BA
Course delivery	Over 2 semesters
Prerequisites	Admission to the One-year Programme in Opera
Assessment	Pass/fail
Programme	One-year Programme in Opera

### Brief Course Description

The course shall provide basic knowledge of the international alphabet. The course shall also provide a foundation for understanding and performing texts in Italian, which is a seminal language within opera. In the event that productions are staged in another language during the programme, some of the teaching may focus on the phonetic challenges of that language.

### The Course's Learning Outcomes

Upon completing the course, students shall

- be able to rehearse and perform an Italian repertoire in the original language
- use and recognise grammatical forms so that they may use a dictionary and their knowledge of grammar to translate and understand the lyrics
- be able to use the international alphabet

### Teaching and Learning Methods

The course's learning methods include group teaching, exercises and independent work.

Coursework requirements:

- mandatory attendance, minimum 80%
- active participation in the instruction
- ongoing completion of the mandatory assignments

### Assessment

All coursework requirements must be approved in order for a student to receive a final course assessment. Students are assessed in relation to the course's goals.

The course uses a pass/fail grading system, and the final assessment takes place on the basis of a written and an oral exam.