

## **BOSTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MUSIC**

### **PROCEDURE FOR REQUESTING CHANGE OF APPLIED TEACHER**

*Approved as of Spring 2024 by Chairs of all Applied Departments*

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At Boston University's College of Fine Arts School of Music, we believe that the relationship between applied studio teacher and student is critical to student success. With that in mind, we work carefully to provide an appropriate studio assignment at the start of the student's matriculation. Both students and faculty are asked to make every possible effort to create and maintain a productive and beneficial studio relationship characterized by effective communication.

Students requesting a studio change are asking to leave an assigned teacher for specific reasons which must be articulated. Students may not request another teacher for the sole purpose of studying with someone else. Students receiving reasonable instruction are expected to make every effort to adjust to their assigned teacher's pedagogical techniques.

It is not always possible to make a change in the studio assignment during a student's degree program due to limited studio space. In instances where a teacher change is warranted, the department chair, in consultation with the Director, will make a new studio assignment based on all available information and space in teaching loads.

**Studio changes will go into effect only at the start of new academic semesters.**

For those students who believe there is a compelling reason to request a different teacher, the following process should be followed:

1. The student should first meet with the Chair of their applied department. If the student's teacher is also Chair of that department, the student may meet with the Director of the School of Music. The Chair (or Director) will listen to the student's history and determine whether the change is in the student's best interest. The Chair (or Director) will choose from the following recommendations:
  - a) Ask the student to talk to the assigned teacher to try to resolve issues. The Chair (or Director) may also offer to attend a meeting between teacher and student.
  - b) Give the student advice on how to better communicate during lessons.
  - c) Counsel the student against leaving the studio and/or ask the student to remain with the current teacher for a specified length of time.
  - d) Offer to approach the assigned teacher to resolve the issues on a faculty-to-faculty basis.
2. If, despite any combination of the above efforts, a decision for a studio change is made, the department chair will try to find a place for that student in the studio of another teacher. If space is available in any other teaching studio, the student will be expected to accept the open teaching space in whatever studio the department chair offers. Requests for study with specific teachers may not be able to be honored. The Chair (or Director) will then make the appropriate change in the student's registration and communicate this change to the originally assigned applied teacher.