

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS OF MUSIC**

11250 ROGER BACON DRIVE, SUITE 21

**RESTON, VIRGINIA 20190-5248**

TELEPHONE: (703) 437-0700 FAX: (703) 437-6312

EMAIL: [INFO@ARTS-ACCREDIT.ORG](mailto:INFO@ARTS-ACCREDIT.ORG) WEBSITE: [NASM.ARTS-ACCREDIT.ORG](http://NASM.ARTS-ACCREDIT.ORG)

December 19, 2025

Jennifer Cunningham  
Dean, Department of Arts and Humanities  
Kirkwood Community College  
6301 Kirkwood Boulevard, Southwest  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52404

Dear Dean Cunningham:

Thank you for submitting your application for review by the NASM Commission on Community College Accreditation. The Commission, at its November 2025 meetings, took action on the institution's application.

Please find enclosed a Commission Action Report describing this action in detail. This Report contains information of note and, if applicable, any requests for further information from the Commission. Please note the Association's policy regarding *Disclosure and Confidentiality*, a copy of which has been enclosed.

This action is taken based upon a review of Kirkwood Community College according to the NASM accreditation standards in effect in November 2025.

As an accredited institutional member of NASM, the institution is reminded of its responsibility to participate in reviews and revisions to the NASM *Handbook*, and to maintain its operations and programs current with NASM standards as these are developed and approved.

The Commission on Community College Accreditation and the Association appreciate the institution's efforts with regard to its application, and its careful consideration of and attention to NASM accreditation standards and guidelines. Further, the Commission and Association appreciate the work accomplished by the institution on behalf of music and higher education.

Please contact the NASM National Office staff if you have questions or need assistance with regard to this action or any other aspect of the work of the Association.

We offer congratulations on your achievements and best wishes for the continuing success of the institution.

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,



Karen P. Moynahan  
Executive Director

KPM:jrk

Enclosure

cc: Kristie Fisher, President  
Kirkwood Community College

National Association of Schools of Music

11250 Roger Bacon Drive, Suite 21

Reston, Virginia 20190-5248

**COMMISSION ACTION REPORT**

This document provides the official action of the Commission as indicated in the cover letter of the same date.

**December 19, 2025**

**KIRKWOOD COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
**Department of Arts and Humanities**

**Actions:**

**Action 1 of 2: Application for Membership – Original**

The Commission voted to grant Membership with the degree listing indicated below.

The Commission requests a Progress Report addressing the issues cited below.

**NASM Degree Listing:**

Associate of Arts in Music.

Associate of Applied Arts in Music (Instrumental, Jazz, Vocal Music).

**Next Full Review:**

2029-2030 Academic Year

**Items for Progress Report:**

1. The Commission requests an update on the efficacy of quarterly meetings now in place that include advising services and the music unit. In addition, the institution is asked to discuss the effectiveness of the newly implemented degree checklists intended to make advising clearer and more effective for the institution's music students (see Visitors' Report, p. 10; Optional Response, p. 6; NASM *Handbook 2024-25*, Standards for Accreditation II.H.1.j.).
2. The institution is requested to provide an update on the status of its piano replacement plan, including information on the number and type of pianos to be replaced, and a timeline for funding and replacement (see Visitors' Report, pp. 7-8; Optional Response, p. 5; NASM *Handbook 2024-25*, Standards for Accreditation II.F.1.e.).

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**Department of Arts and Humanities**

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**Action 2 of 2: Application for Final Approval for Listing – Original**

The Commission voted to grant Final Approval for Listing for the following degree:

Associate of Applied Arts in Music (Instrumental, Jazz, Vocal Music).

**Notes:**

1. Given that the Instrumental, Jazz, and Vocal concentrations within the Associate of Arts in Music degree and the Associate of Applied Arts (Transfer) degree were not addressed in the Self-Study and cannot be found on the institution's website, it appears that these degree programs are not offered by the institution at this time. NASM will update its records and the institution's degree and program information found in the NASM Directory List. Should the institution wish to reactivate these degree programs in the future, applications for Plan Approval will be required. If needed, instructions for submitting Plan Approval applications may be found in the NASM documents *Policies and Procedures for Reviews of New Curricula* and *Instructions for Preparing Curricular Tables in the NASM Format*, which may be downloaded from the NASM website at <https://nasm.arts-accredit.org> (see "Accreditation," beneath that "Accreditation Materials," beneath that "Procedures," and beneath that "New Curricula").
2. Should the institution offer curricular programs which fall under the purview of NASM that are delivered through distance learning means, the institution is asked to note that NASM's standards pertaining to distance learning were amended recently (see *NASM Handbook 2024-25*, Standards for Accreditation III.H.). The institution is asked to review current standards with regard to the delivery of coursework through distance learning means, ensuring that compliance with standards is maintained by the institution. Although the entirety of III.H. should be reviewed, the institution is asked to note in particular that a) all programs of study falling under the purview of NASM delivered entirely or partially away from regular face-to-face interactions must be submitted for review by NASM; and b) institutions must provide, in institutional publications as appropriate, a listing, or designation, or indication of all music programs offered either entirely or partially through distance learning means. Further, the institution must designate in publications whether required courses are offered through distance learning and/or on ground in-person means. The institution is asked to refer to the *NASM Handbook 2024-25*, Standards for Accreditation III.H. (and Addenda to the *NASM Handbook* approved in November of 2022, 2023, and 2024). Should questions arise, the institution is asked to contact the staff in the National Office.

**Commendation:**

The Commission commends the institution for its continuing attention to the accreditation process and

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compliance with NASM standards.

Karen P. Moynahan

Karen P. Moynahan  
Executive Director

KPM:jrk

## NASM *Handbook 2024-25*

### RULES OF PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE, PART II

#### ARTICLE XIII DISCLOSURE AND CONFIDENTIALITY

**Section 1.** NASM provides numerous services that include the publication of policy statements, reports, and surveys. These are available to the public, some for a fee. Upon request, NASM will provide the academic and professional qualifications of the members of its policy and decision-making bodies and its administrative personnel.

**Section 2.** Upon request, NASM will make publicly available all information about an institution that is published in NASM literature (see Rules of Practice and Procedure, Part II, Article XI., Section 3.). NASM will also indicate whether or not an institution holds or has held accredited Membership.

**Section 3.** NASM will not make publicly available any information supplied by the institution or by representatives of NASM in the course of the accreditation process. This includes Self-Study Reports, Visitors' Reports, and correspondence. While NASM encourages institutions to make publicly available information about their accredited status and to share accreditation materials with individuals and agencies having legitimate claim to information beyond that available to the general public, the Association regards all accreditation materials as the property of the institution. Therefore, release of these materials is either through the institution or by its permission.

**Section 4.** NASM will not make publicly available any information provided in third-party comment or an institution's response to third-party comment or any correspondence related to third-party comment (see Rules of Practice and Procedure, Part II, Article IV., Section 1.).

**Section 5.** If an institution releases information that misrepresents or distorts any action by NASM with respect to any aspect of the accreditation process, or the status of affiliation with NASM, the chief executive officer of the institution and the program director, where applicable, will be notified by the NASM Executive Director and informed that corrective action must be taken. If the misrepresentation or distortion is not promptly corrected, NASM, at its discretion, may release a public statement in such a form and content as it deems necessary to provide the correct information.

The same rule and sequence are applied to individuals and organizations misrepresenting or distorting accreditation actions of NASM.

NASM reserves the right to correct false or misleading information at any time.

**Section 6.** Certain relationships yield information which legally cannot be disclosed without the consent of the person who provides it—for example, the relationship between physician and patient, between attorney and client, between clergy and penitent, etc. Should such information, or other information that is protected under law by a comparable privilege or safeguard, come into the hands of NASM or an NASM evaluation team, its disclosure to persons other than the immediate recipients is forbidden.