

Are You A Good Student?

The private study of trombone will be one of the most important factors in your musical education here at Blair. Use the following questions as a partial list of criteria to judge your own development. (Portions borrowed from Douglas Yeo and Dr. Steve Wolfenbarger)

- Do you have the desire and will to improve? Do you go the extra mile to prepare material?
- Are you self-motivated? Do you practice 2-4 hours *daily* at least six days a week?
- Do you arrive punctually for lessons?
- Are you warmed up and ready to play for lessons?
- Do you view each lesson as a *performance*?
- Do you listen to recordings or review piano or conductor's scores for assigned music?
- Do you treat your applied professor with respect? Do you accept suggestions and criticism gracefully and non-defensively?
- Do you question what your teachers tell you in a respectful way, or do you just accept it as the truth without question? Do you ask for further explanation of things you don't understand?
- Do you make excuses when you play poorly or simply say that you're unprepared?
- Do you inspire your peers to be better players?
- Do you take every aspect of your career at Vanderbilt seriously?
- Do you realize that you have lots to learn from ALL your peers, regardless of where you sit in the section?
- Do you attend both area recitals and your peer's recitals?

- Do you carry a duet book in your music bag for musical interaction with others?
- Do you listen only to pieces with 'good' trombone parts?
- When you listen to music, do you listen actively or 'veg out'?
- Do you keep your instrument in good working order?
- Do you seek out opportunities to play trombone in a variety of musical ensembles?
- Do you make an effort to hear live professional performances?
- Do you feel as if you've been *cheated* when, in ensemble auditions, your professor places you lower than you feel you deserve or do you simply say that you must not have played as well as some others?
- Do you demonstrate a cooperative, cheerful attitude when working with peers in ensembles?
- Do you seek out competition opportunities based on the potential for financial reward or on their educational benefit?
- Are you willing to delay present pleasures in order to secure future rewards?
- Do you use technology in your daily practice routine? Do you record yourself?
- Do you immediately purchase mutes and music when needed or borrow materials from others?
- Do you compare your progress to others, or do you focus on your own development?
- Are you organized? Dependable? Trustworthy?
- Do you have defined goals? Have you implemented a plan to achieve them?
- Do you go into your practice time with a plan?
- Do you take responsibility for your own education, or do you wait for your professors to do everything for you?