Composition

Degrees Offered

- Master of Music in Composition
- Doctor of Musical Arts in Composition

Graduate instruction in composition at the masters level is generally in contemporary art music styles but also includes work in various electronic mediums (fixed playback pieces, instrument(s) and electronics, interactive electronics, etc.) with studies available in jazz, world music, and other vernacular musical styles. At least one submitted work must be in the style of art (concert) music for traditional acoustic instruments.

The primary objective of the Doctor of Musical Arts degree is the recognition of the highest achievement in music performance and teaching, preparing artist-pedagogues for careers in higher education and in the professional world. The degree may be taken in performance and literature (with specialization in piano, collaborative piano, voice, vocal pedagogy, percussion, flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, saxophone, horn, trumpet, trombone, tuba, low brass, violin, viola, cello, double bass, conducting) or in composition. Historical and theoretical knowledge sufficient to support individualized interpretations for performers and original creative work for composers is expected, as are writing and speaking skills needed to communicate clearly and effectively. To assist the student in achieving these objectives, the course of study includes requirements in performance or composition, academic coursework, and research.

Applicants must demonstrate a piano proficiency (level four); evaluation of previously completed compositions is required.

Applicants for entrance to the MM in Composition should send a portfolio of compositions that include a major work (a work of at least a ten-minute duration and/or a work for large ensemble with or w/o voice) and two or three other works in various genres. Scores may be submitted as Finale or Sibelius files or as pdf’s. Recordings and/or MIDI realizations of application compositions are strongly encouraged but not mandatory. Electronic submission of both score and audio files is highly recommended.

Applicants for entrance to the DMA in Composition should send a portfolio of compositions that include a major work (master’s thesis or equivalent) and two or three other works in various genres. Scores may be submitted as Finale or Sibelius files or as pdf’s. Recordings and/or MIDI realizations of application compositions are strongly encouraged but not mandatory. Electronic submission of both score and audio files is highly recommended.

Degree Requirements

Overall GPA of 3.0 or higher required.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Composition</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUSC 660 Composition (Repeated) **</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUSC 670 Perspectives of Musicology and Ethnomusicology (or other as approved)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUSC 771 Music Research and Bibliography</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUSC 764 Compositional Techniques in Contemporary Music or MUSC 464 Analysis of Twentieth Century Art Music</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music Theory Electives: **</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUSC 463 or MUSC 763 Analysis of Eighteenth and Nineteenth Century Music</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUSC 761 Theory Topics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUSC 762 Pedagogy of Theory</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUSC 765 Transcription and Arranging</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music Electives **</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUSC 698 Thesis or Dissertation</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Composition/Thesis</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ensemble (two semesters)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comprehensive Oral Examination</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Hours</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

- Composition majors must submit a composition in a large form as a thesis.
- All candidates for the master of music degree are required to participate for credit for two semesters (or summer sessions) in a performing group which meets at least two clock-hours per week and which is selected with the advisor’s approval.
- A general comprehensive oral examination must be passed by all candidates for the master of music degree.
One semester of electronic music and 2 of counterpoint or equivalent, if not taken in previous study.

**Composition**

- MUSC 660-002 is a separate class and can be used as a music theory elective
- MUSC 660-002 is also a suitable elective.
- Music electives must be selected from available offerings above MUSC 400.

**Degree Requirements**

One semester of electronic music and 2 of counterpoint or equivalent, if not taken in previous study.

- **Composition** 18
  - MUSC 660 Composition (Repeated; at least 3 credits must be in electronic music)

- **Music History and Literature** 9
  - Including at least one doctoral level seminar.

- **Music Theory** 12
  - MUSC 762 Pedagogy of Theory
  - MUSC 764 Compositional Techniques in Contemporary Music
  - MUSC 690 Teaching Practicum
  - One additional course selected from the following:
    - MUSC 463 Analysis of Eighteenth and Nineteenth Century Music
    - MUSC 761 Theory Topics
    - MUSC 763 Analytical Techniques
    - MUSC 765 Transcription and Arranging
    - MUSC 771 Music Research and Bibliography

- **Research/Recitals** 20
  - MUSC 788 Doctoral Recital (May be repeated -- 8-12 hours)
  - MUSC 797 Research (major composition project -- 4-8 hours)
  - MUSC 797 Research (research document -- 2-6 hours)

- Qualifying Examination, which includes both written and oral components
- Final Oral Examination

**Total Hours** 62

**Major Learning Outcomes**

**COMPOSITION**

Students who earn graduate degrees in Composition will develop:

- Advanced competencies in composition.
- Knowledge and skills in one or more fields of music outside the major such as history and literature, theory and analysis, musicology and ethnomusicology, performance, and pedagogy.