

Doctor of Philosophy: Composition Program Guidelines

Revised July 1, 2023

Required Courses		Credit Hours
Bibliography		
MUSC 6010	Music Bibliography (if not taken for requisite Master's degree)	(2)
Musicology	Choose two from the following,	6
	no more than one of which may be at the 6xxx-level:	
MUSC 6610	Renaissance Music Grad	
MUSC 6620	Baroque Music Grad	
MUSC 6630	Classical Music Grad	
MUSC 6640	19th-Century Music Grad	
MUSC 6650	20 th - and 21 st -Century Music Grad	
MUSC 6660	Music of the United States Grad	
MUSC 6890	Seminar on a Special Topic	
MUSC 7670	Orchestral Studies Seminar Doctoral	
MUSC 7680	Opera Studies Seminar Doctoral	
	or Research Seminars with permission of instructor (MUSC 7800, 7801, 7802, 7803, 7804, 7890)	
Music Theory		
MUSC 6520	20 th /21 st Century Analysis I	3
MUSC 6550	Advanced Formal Procedures of the 18 th /19 th Centuries I	3
MUSC 7510	Theory Pedagogy	3
	Choose three from the following:	9
MUSC 6521	20 th /21 st Century Analysis II	
MUSC 6536	History of Western Music Theory	
MUSC 6551	Advanced Formal Procedures of the 18th/19th Centuries II	
MUSC 6580	Special Topics in Music Theory (may be taken twice)	
MUSC 7875	Special Topics Seminar in Composition Doctoral	
Area of Specialization		
MUSC 7530	Composition: PhD (4 semesters)	12
MUSC 6540	Stylistic Studies in Orchestration I	3
MUSC 6541	Stylistic Studies in Orchestration II	3
MUSC 6360	Advanced Electro-Acoustic Music Composition I	3
MUSC 6361	Advanced Electro-Acoustic Music Composition II	3
MUSC 7970	Thesis Research: PhD	total of 14
	Composition	(7)
	Research Essay	(7)
	Total Credit Hours	62-64

Program Purpose

Recipients of the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Composition are well versed in the subject matter and techniques of composition and music theory. A breadth of interest and originality of outlook that indicate real promise of success in composition is expected of all PhD candidates; the demonstrated potential for on-going research, as well as competency in teaching composition and music theory are also expectations for successful graduates. All work leading to the degree is subject to the regulations and standards for scholarly work established by the Graduate School of the University of Utah.

Acceptance into the Doctor of Philosophy in Composition

To be considered for admission to the PhD in Composition, applicants must meet the following minimum requirements:

- 1. Hold Bachelor's and Master's degrees in music from accredited institutions.
- 2. Have a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 in all previous collegiate work.
- 3. Score an 85 or higher on the TOEFL iBT or a 6.5 or higher on the IELTS (international applicants only).

Submit the following as part of the online Graduate Admissions application:

- 1. Transcripts of course work from all schools attended.
- 2. Three letters of recommendation from professors, employers, and/or other professionals qualified to judge the applicant's ability to successfully complete doctoral studies.
- 3. Statement of Purpose, including future goals.
- 4. Two to four scores in different genres.
- 5. TOEFL or IELTS score, if applicable.

Note: Applicant's application will be reviewed by a committee of faculty members within the composition area.

Graduate Placement Exams

Placement examinations in Music History and Music Theory are taken after the student has been accepted by Graduate Admissions. Preparation materials are available on the School of Music website. Placement examinations must be taken prior to registering for Music History and Music Theory courses.

Results of graduate placement exams determine placement in graduate courses and identify areas in which remedial work may be necessary. Students are encouraged to study diligently for these examinations. Poor performance could result in the student being required to take a considerable number of remedial courses. Students recommended for remedial courses must earn a B- or better in recommended courses before advancing to a higher-level course.

Music History: The graduate Music History diagnostic examination covers the breadth of Western art music from the medieval period to the present through a variety of questions evaluating the student's knowledge of important composers, works, terms, and concepts.

Music Theory: The graduate Music Theory placement examination assesses the student's competence in harmony, voice leading, counterpoint, form, and instrumentation. Composition students will complete an orchestration exam in addition to the theory exam.

Language Requirement

Before the commencement of the thesis, students must demonstrate "Standard proficiency" in any of the modern languages offered by the Department of World Languages and Cultures at the University of Utah. The language must be chosen in consultation with the advisory committee and utilized in the research. Standard Proficiency assumes a reading-comprehension level expected of a student who has completed one year of college foreign-language instruction (1020) or the equivalent. Students may verify standard Proficiency through language Classes or a language test. The Graduate Language Requirement is waived if a student speaks English as a second language. For detailed information on how to fulfill the Ph.D. language requirement, visit: https://languages.utah.edu/language-requirements/graduate-language-requirements.php.

Appointment of Supervisory Committee

Members of the Supervisory Committee consult with the student in planning their degree program, research, and thesis; they also administer the qualifying exams and the thesis defense. It is the responsibility of the student to approach faculty to request that they serve on the Supervisory Committee. Students should submit the *Request for Supervisory Committee* form to the Academic Coordinator. The Graduate Studies Committee votes on and approves Supervisory Committees.

The student's thesis supervisor serves as the Chair of the Supervisory Committee. PhD Supervisory Committees consist of five faculty members, the majority of whom must be tenure-line faculty in the School of Music. One member of the Supervisory Committee must be from another department. The Supervisory Committee must be chosen by the end of the second year of study.

Residency Requirement

At least two consecutive semesters (Fall-Spring or Spring-Fall) must be spent in full-time academic work at the University of Utah. Summer semester does not count for this purpose.

Qualifying Examinations

Written qualifying examinations are required of each PhD student. An examination, or parts of an examination, may be repeated only once and only at the discretion of the Supervisory Committee. The qualifying exam must be passed before a student can register for the Thesis.

Prior to taking the qualifying examination the student must have completed all course work in the subject area of the exam and no incompletes may be outstanding. The student must be enrolled in at least one credit hour during the semester of the examination. Summer administration of the examinations is allowed if approved through an Exception to Policy.

The PhD in Composition qualifying examination will consist of examinations in music theory and music history. The examinations will be compiled by the Music Theory and Musicology Area Heads.

Thesis

The thesis consists of 1) a compositional work of major scope, and 2) a research essay that makes an original contribution to theoretical/analytical fields of music research. The candidate may not begin the thesis until all other requirements for the degree have been met and the Supervisory Committee has given approval for work to begin on the composition and the essay. There are rare instances when the Supervisory Committee will consider approving the commencement of the thesis in limited advance of the completion of some non-course related requirements. This exception is subject to the approval of the Graduate Studies Committee.

Thesis Defense

Upon completion of the thesis, each student must successfully complete an oral defense before the Supervisory Committee. A copy of the thesis must be distributed to the Supervisory Committee at least a month prior to the defense; the thesis advisor must approve the thesis prior to distribution. Thesis defenses must be held in a neutral location and are open to the public.

All defenses must be held before the last day of classes in the Fall and Spring semesters. Defenses are not to be held during Final Exam or Reading Days or during Summer semester.