Master of Music: Theory

Required Courses (All courses MUSIC)  

Academic Core:  
6010  Music Bibliography  2

Music History & Literature – choose two period courses from:  6
6610  Music Literature: Renaissance
6620  Music Literature: Baroque
6630  Music Literature: Classical
6640  Music Literature: Romantic
6650  Music Literature: 1900-Present
6660  Music Literature: American Music
6670  Symphonic Literature (Requires instructor permission, open to matriculated students only.)
6680  Opera Literature (Requires instructor permission, open to matriculated students only.)  
or  Research Seminars with permission of instructor. Music 6800, 6801, 6802, 6803, 6804.

Music Theory –  
6550  Advanced Formal Procedures of 18th and 19th Centuries I  3
6551  Advanced Formal Procedures of 18th and 19th Centuries II  3
6520  20th/21st Century Analysis I  3
6521  20th/21st Century Analysis II  3

Major Emphasis:  
6536  History of Theory  3
6580  Special Topics in Music Theory  3
6970  Thesis Research: Master's  6

Total Semester Credit Hours  32

Acceptance into Theory Emphasis
A candidate seeking acceptance into the Master of Music program in music theory must submit:

1. Evidence of a Bachelor's degree in Music from an accredited university or the equivalent.
2. Samples of past written work such as term papers or the results of independent research in subjects of a music theoretical nature.

Following evaluation of the above materials by the composition faculty, the Director of Graduate Studies will inform the candidate, in writing, of his/her acceptance or rejection as a theory candidate.
Placement Examinations
All students who received baccalaureate degrees from institutions other than the University of Utah and all University of Utah graduates returning for graduate study after an absence of one academic year or more must take Graduate Placement Exams in (1) Theory and (2) Music History and Literature. Students entering graduate programs in Music Education must also take the Graduate Placement Exam in Music Education. Placement Exams cannot be taken until the University has accepted the student. Preparation material is available upon request from the Graduate Studies Secretary and is automatically sent to accepted students. Placement Examinations must be taken prior to registering for courses. Examinations are given during the last week of classes prior to the start of any term except for Fall Semester. Placement Examinations for Fall Semester will normally be given one week prior to the start of the term.

An individual entering as a non-matriculated student must take the placement exams in history and/or theory before taking courses in these areas.

The results of the Graduate Placement Exams are to help determine placement in graduate courses and to identify areas where 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.

Music History Diagnostic Examination. The Music History Diagnostic Examination covers the breadth of Western art music from the Medieval period through the Twentieth Century. The student will be asked to discuss the styles and contributions of important composers, define important terms, identify representative musical scores, and write essays on topics of historical importance.

Music Theory Diagnostic Examination. The Music Theory Diagnostic Examination consists of a number of items, which determines the student's competence in harmony, voice leading, counterpoint and form. Composition students are tested on orchestration and instrumentation.

Thesis
Before the student is allowed to register for Thesis research, he/she must have completed-all course work and any outstanding incompletes. The thesis is an analytical paper suitable for publication, the details of which must be approved, in writing (see departmental secretary for appropriate form), by the supervisory committee before the candidate begins work on it.

Thesis Defense
After completing the thesis and having obtained approval of it from the Chairperson of the supervisory committee, the candidate will submit his/her thesis to the other members of the supervisory committee at least 6 weeks prior to the defense. All substantive changes requested by the committee must be made by the candidate two (2) weeks prior to the defense.

Appointment of Supervisory Committee
Selection and appointment of the members of the supervisory committee should be made by the middle of the first term of study. It is the responsibility of the student to approach prospective committee members and request that they serve on the committee. Committees will be approved or denied at the last Graduate Committee Meeting of the first term of study. Consult the Procedural Guidelines, the Director of Graduate Studies or the Graduate Secretary for details.