

Graduate Program Requirements

Music Theory

Master of Arts

Objectives

The theory division has four basic areas of study reflecting the expertise of our faculty members: Western Art Music (1700-1900); Western Art Music (Post 1900); Popular Music; and Jazz. Prospective students are encouraged to [contact the individual theory professor](#) whose areas of research align with their own for a consultative conversation about the program and the student's goals and interests.

Admission Requirements

Applicants must meet the academic standards and general requirements of the Graduate School (grad.umn.edu/admissions) and the School of Music (see cla.umn.edu/music/graduate/apply). Admission is limited to those who exhibit extraordinary potential as scholars and teachers. It is expected that students applying to this program will have completed basic professional preparation, defined as the equivalent of three years of theory and analysis (tonal and post-tonal) and one semester of counterpoint. In addition, applicants are required to submit two analytical papers: one dealing with tonal music and one with post-tonal music. Upon entrance, the student must take a range of placement examinations. Any identified deficiencies must be remedied during the first year of study.

Program Requirements

Minimum of 30 Credits

1. Emphasis: 24 Credits
 - Mus 8xxx, Courses in Music Theory and/or Analysis: 18 Credits
 - Mus 8xxx, Course(s) in Musicology/Ethnomusicology: 3 Credits
 - Mus 5xxx/8xxx or Musa 5xxx/8xxx, Course(s) in Music Composition, Musicology, Ethnomusicology, or Performance: 3 Credits
2. Supporting Non-Music Program: 6 Credits
 - 5xxx/8xxx, Courses outside of music, may include Music Education/Therapy: 6 Credits
3. Language
 - Reading knowledge in French, German, or Italian (certification form required)
4. Plan B Project(s)
 - For two Plan B papers (more common): two article-length (ca. 7,000–9,000 words of text not including footnotes, musical examples, etc. would be considered typical) from two different areas of music theory and/or analytic study. The Plan B papers may be—and normally are—revisions of papers initially prepared for 8xxx-level theory courses. The papers should exhibit professional (publishable) quality and format.
 - For one Plan B paper (less common): one longer paper (ca. 15,000–17,000 words) representing an extended foray into a single topic. This would go far beyond a simple revision of a seminar paper.
 - In either case, papers should be submitted to each member of the Examining Committee after the paper adviser (may be different from the degree adviser) is satisfied that the papers are in a near-finished state. The paper or papers must be approved by all three members of the Examining Committee in advance of the oral exam.
5. Final Oral Examination

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Forms and Examinations

Students are required to submit the GPAS Planner (onestop.umn.edu/academics/gpas) to the School of Music and the Graduate School after 15 credits have been completed. Other requirements include Final Oral Exam Committee Assignment and Final Oral Examination form. For further details on these requirements consult the School of Music Graduate Student-Faculty Handbook at z.umn.edu/musicgradhandbook.

Degree Tracking Form

Name: _____ Major Instrument: _____

ID Number: _____ Adviser: _____

Theory Remediation Requirements	Exam P/F	Sem. Remedied	Course Code	Course Name	Gr
Tonal Theory					
Ear Training					
Post-Tonal Theory					

Musical Skills

Ear Training	Sight Singing	Figured Bass	Score Reading	Sight Reading	Score ID	Listening ID	Counterpoint

Language Requirement (German/Italian/French)

Foreign Language	Exam P/F	Sem/Yr	Course Code	Course Name	Gr

Include Course Names with Course Number and Transfer Course Work (Minimum 30 Cr)

Music Theory/Analysis (18 Cr)

Course code	Course Name	Cr	Sem/Yr	Gr
MUS 85				
MUS 85				
MUS 85				
MUS 85				
MUS 85				
MUS 85				

Supporting Non-Music (6 Cr)

Course code	Course Name	Cr	Sem/Yr	Gr

Plan B Paper(s) Submission

Musicology/Ethnomusicology (3 Cr)

Course code	Course Name	Cr	Sem/Yr	Gr
MUS 8____				

Final Oral Exam Date and Completion

Music Electives (3 Cr)

Course code	Course Name	Cr	Sem/Yr	Gr