Music History & Literature and Music Theory Entrance Proficiencies

All new students are required to show proficiency in Music History & Literature and Music Theory. The proficiencies may be satisfied in any of the following ways:

Students may begin enrolling in review courses from which they are not exempted by examination as soon as possible; otherwise completion of the degree may be delayed as T508 and M501 serve as prerequisites to the master’s music history and literature requirement. The review courses are not offered every semester.

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The DM in Composition requires a High Pass in T508 and T511.

Keyboard Proficiency Examination

All music graduate students must pass a keyboard proficiency examination. This exam is designed to ensure the student’s ability to use the keyboard as a tool within the framework of professional activities, and the requirements vary according to level and area of music study. This exam may be repeated as many times as necessary to show proficiency. The exam is offered at the end of each term. The keyboard proficiency requirement may be satisfied by passing the examination at any of the times it is offered or by receiving a grade of B or higher in P715 Keyboard Review for Graduate Students (1 cr). This requirement must be completed before a student may begin qualifying exams.

Performance Proficiency

Must demonstrate a minimum level of music performance ability equivalent to the end of the second year for elective undergraduate students in that area. Students who successfully completed a senior or graduate recital as part of a Bachelor of Music or Master of Music degree in a performance area as defined in the JSoM Bulletin no more than three years prior to the date of matriculation will be considered to have met this requirement. For other students, proficiency may be demonstrated in any of three ways: 1) in person before a faculty auditioning committee, one voting member of which shall at the student's request be a faculty member in the student’s major area; 2) by completion of performance study as a graduate outside area or minor; or 3) by two semesters of performance study as a graduate elective. The grade in each semester of performance study must be B or higher. Option no. 1 (auditioning before a faculty committee) may be used only during the first two semesters of enrollment. Students should consult the appropriate performance department chair for detailed information on the required level.

Styles Examination

All Doctoral students must take the Styles exam in their first spring semester of enrollment. Students who pass the exam must meet the requirement. Students who do not pass the exam may retake the exam once with permission of the director of graduate studies, if their score is within a range recommended by the Doctoral Styles Committee. Students who do not pass the exam must earn a grade of B or higher in T545 Introductory Analysis of Music Literature. This course may fall anywhere in the student’s curriculum. This requirement must be completed before a student may begin qualifying exams.

Qualifying Examinations

Students in a doctoral degree program are not considered candidates for the degree until they have passed the qualifying examinations (styles, major field, first minor field, second minor field [if applicable], and orals). Qualifying examinations are taken after all coursework and proficiencies have been completed.

Minor Field Requirement (12 credits)

The Doctor of Music degree requires the first minor field to be selected from Music Education, Music History & Literature, or Music Theory.

Other Required Credits (12 credits)

12 credit hours, inside or outside the Jacobs School of Music. Courses must be at 500 level or higher, except that up to 6 credit hours outside the Jacobs School of Music may be at the 300 or 400 levels, with the approval of the director of graduate studies. Any performance lessons must be at 800 level. Credits may not be used for MUS-X courses, recitals, or proficiency courses. Credits may be used for courses meeting Tool Subject requirements if the courses are at the 500 level or higher. Composition majors cannot use capstone courses (e.g., dissertation). If all credits are taken in a single field outside the student’s department, a formal minor must be declared. This requires the approval of the offering department. A maximum of 9 credits may be taken in a single department unless a minor is declared.

Tool Subjects

Music Theory

- T551 Analytical Techniques for Tonal Music (3 cr)
- T556 Analysis of Music Since 1900 (3 cr)

The theory tool subject courses will not be included in the total credit hours required for the major, but may count toward a minor in music theory or Other Required Credits.

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Student’s Responsibility: Students have a threefold responsibility: 1) to know and satisfy the graduation requirements stated in the Jacobs School of Music Bulletin; 2) to know their academic standing based on the academic standards stated in the JSoM Bulletin; and 3) to know and observe all regulations and academic calendar deadlines as stated in the Schedule of Classes, the JSoM Bulletin, and the student handbooks. Faculty and staff advisors assist students in planning a program of study to meet degree requirements, but students are responsible for meeting all requirements for their respective degrees and all announced deadlines.