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 take and pass the graduate entrance exams. Students must take the exams at the beginning of their first semester of enrollment; they may take them for a second time in their second semester. They may not take them again, nor may they take them after their second semester of enrollment. (Note that this includes summer sessions in which students are enrolled. Exams are ordinarily given in the week before classes begin each semester.)

Students may enroll in and pass the graduate review courses listed below:

M541 Music History Review for Graduate Students I—3 cr
M542 Music History Review for Graduate Students II—3 cr
T508 Written Theory Review for Graduate Students—3 cr
T509 Sight Singing Review for Graduate Students—3 cr
T511 Aural Theory Review for Graduate Students—3 cr

Students should 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 M541-M542 serve as prerequisites to the master’s music history and literature requirement. The review courses are not offered every semester.

The MM in Instrumental Conducting 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. Students may enroll in secondary piano lessons as preparation for the exam.

Performance Proficiency

Demonstrate a minimum level of music performance ability equivalent to the end of the fourth year for concentration undergraduate students in that area. Proficiency may be demonstrated in any of three ways: (1) in person before a faculty auditioning committee, one voting member of which shall 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 better.

Outside Area (6 credits)

The Outside Area comprises six credit hours in one field, which can be satisfied in any of three ways: 1) six credit hours in one department of the Jacobs School of Music other than your major, with approval of the appropriate department chairperson and the Director of Graduate Studies; 2) six credit hours in one field outside of the JSoM, with approval of the graduate advisor in that department and the Director of Graduate Studies in the JSoM; or 3) six credit hours within or outside the JSoM, with approval of the Director of Graduate Studies in accordance with departmental guidelines. For this option, called an "individualized outside area," the courses must fit a specific theme or emphasis; a written proposal is required. To declare an Outside Area, students must complete an Outside Area Approval Form, acquire the appropriate signature, and submit the form to the Graduate Office.

Comprehensive Review

Prior to graduation, all master's degree students must pass an oral or written examination. It is the responsibility of the student to consult with the major field department to ascertain the procedures established within that department. This consultation should be accomplished within the first year of residency.

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.