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 1—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. The review courses are not offered every semester.

The PhD in Music Theory 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

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 should consult the appropriate performance department chair for detailed information on the required level. 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.

Styles Examination

All Doctoral students must take the Styles exam in their first spring semester of enrollment. Students who pass the exam 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 examinations.

Major Field Requirements (36-66 Credits)

Foundation Courses1
- T551 Analytical Techniques for Tonal Music (3 cr)
- T555 Schenkerian Analysis (3 cr)
- T556 Analysis of Music Since 1900 (3 cr)
- T565 Stylistic Counterpoint: Variable Topics (3 cr)
- T591 Teaching of Music Theory I (3 cr)

Advanced Courses
- T623 History of Music Theory I (3 cr)
- T624 History of Music Theory II (3 cr)
- T658 Seminar in Music Theory: Variable Topics (3 cr x 4 enrollments)
- T550 Readings in Music Theory (3 cr) 2

One course (3 credits) chosen from the following options:
- T658 Seminar in Music Theory: Variable Topics (3 cr)
- T561 Music Theory: Variable Topics (3 cr)
- T619 Projects and Problems in Music Theory (3 cr)
- T?? another graduate course approved by the Music Theory department

Public Lecture3
- T659 Public Lecture (0 cr)

Dissertation
- T700 Dissertation in Music Theory (var. cr)

24 credits

1Foundation courses may be validated based on previous coursework.
2Students who have already fulfilled the requirement for T550 prior to the start of the PhD must substitute (in place of T550) 3 credits of T658, T561, T619 or another approved graduate course.
3The public lecture must be completed before the oral qualifying examinations.

Minor Field Requirements (2 minors, 12 credits each)

The student must elect two minor fields, usually for 12 credit hours each. The first minor must be either music history and literature or musicology. The second minor may be inside or outside of the Jacobs School of Music. For the second minor, the student may also select guided electives not in the major field, approved by the advisory committee and the director of graduate studies.

Tool Subjects

Bibliography
- M539 Introduction to Music Bibliography (2 cr)

Languages
- Reading knowledge of two non-English languages as demonstrated by examination or by grades of B or higher in two semesters of reading courses at the graduate level in each, or reading knowledge of one language and demonstration of proficiency in one research skill, approved by the Music Theory department and the director of graduate studies of the Jacobs School of Music.

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.

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.