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.

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.

Major Field Requirements (minimum of 18 Credits)

Applied Lessons1
W9_0 [Primary Instrument] Graduate Major (variable credit—total of 9)
W7_0 [Secondary Instruments] Graduate Elective (2 credits per semester until proficiency is reached on each of the four other instruments)
I500 Performance and Composition Masterclass (0 cr—concurrent with enrollment in lessons for each instrument, if applicable)

Chamber Music
F550 Chamber Music (1 cr)

Recital
I711 Master’s Recital (0 cr)

1Proficiency in two secondary instruments at the undergraduate concentration freshman jury level and in the other two secondary instruments at the elective freshman jury level.

Major Ensemble

X40 University Instrumental Ensemble (2 credits x each semester of enrollment)

Music History and Literature Requirement (6 Credits)

Choose two courses from the following list:

M525 Survey of Operatic Literature (3 cr)
M527 Symphonic Literature (3 cr)
M528 Chamber Music Literature (3 cr)
M650 Music in the United States (3 cr)
M651 Medieval Music (3 cr)
M652 Renaissance Music (3 cr)
M653 Baroque Music (3 cr)
M654 Classic Music (3 cr)
M655 Romantic Music (3 cr)
M656 Music Since 1900 (3 cr)
M502 Composers: Variable Topics (3 cr)1
M510 Topics in Music Literature (3 cr)1

1Course topics may not be repeated.

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.