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 who completed their undergraduate degree at IU in the current calendar year or three preceding calendar years can be exempt from the graduate entrance exams with minimum grades in specific courses. See the JSoM Bulletin for details.

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 Orchestral 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

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.

Major Field Requirements (18 Credits)

- Conducting: G571 Master’s Advanced Orchestral Conducting (3 credits + 4 enrollments)
- Literature: M571 Master’s Seminar in Symphonic Literature I (3 cr), M572 Master’s Seminar in Symphonic Literature II (3 cr)
- Performance: G603 Master’s Orchestral Conducting Performance (0 cr)

Major Ensemble

Enrollment in a major ensemble (X??) is required each fall and spring 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 Modern Music (3 cr)
- M657 Music Since 1900 (3 cr)
- M502 Composers: Variable Topics (3 cr)
- M510 Topics in Music Literature (3 cr)

*Course topics may not be repeated.

Other Required Credits (6 credits)

6 credit hours, inside or outside the Jacobs School of Music. Courses must be at 500 level or higher, except that courses 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 major ensemble, capstone courses (e.g., thesis, document), recitals, proficiency courses, or tool subjects. 6 credits taken within a single department outside the student’s major department may become an Outside Area, subject to the approval of the appropriate department and the director of graduate studies. An Outside Area may become a minor if 12 credit hours are taken in that field.

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.