

MM in Composition Thesis Track

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School of Music, Dance and Theatre Degree check sheet and guide

This program requires 32 credit hours and a written comprehensive exam. In addition to the written comprehensive exam, you may need to complete an oral comprehensive (at the advisement of the committee). A final culminating experience is also required. Students may elect either the thesis-track (MTC599) or the applied project track (MTC 593) and should consult the composition faculty regarding which track is best.

This degree check sheet is designed for the thesis-track student. If you choose to do the Applied Project track, then refer to that check sheet. Use this document to assist with filing your Plan of Study (required by the university) and to track your progress in your degree.

Composition (9 credit hours)

Prefix	#	Title	Hours Needed	Hours Taken	Semester/Year	Notes
MTC	523	Advanced Composition	3			
MTC	523	Advanced Composition	3			
MTC	523	Advanced Composition	3			

Culminating Experience (6)

Prefix	#	Title	Hours Needed	Hours Taken	Semester/Year	Notes
MTC	599	Thesis	6			
MTC	599	Thesis				
MTC	599	Thesis				

Music Theory and Musicology (9 credit hours)

Prefix	#	Title	Hours Needed	Hours Taken	Semester/Year	Notes
MHL			3			
MHL			3			
MTC			3			

Electives (8 credit hours)

Prefix	#	Title	Hours Needed	Hours Taken	Semester/Year	Notes

Student Handbook

The student handbook should be used in conjunction with this degree check sheet. The current version of the handbook can be found on the Music SharePoint site: <https://arizonastateu.sharepoint.com/sites/HIDAstudent/SOM/Pages/handbooks.aspx>.

Degree Requirements

- Consult with your faculty on whether you should pursue the thesis track or the applied project track.
- Take and pass all of the coursework required for your degree.

- File a Plan of Study (mid-point of your studies, by the third semester of coursework) via the interactive iPOS system located on your My ASU page. You should also have an approved supervisory committee.
- Successfully pass written exam in the early part of your final semester and before your thesis defense.
- An oral comprehensive exam may be required after your written comprehensive exam. Consult with your committee.
- Successfully complete a thesis culminating in an oral defense (in your final semester of study)

Degree Timeline:

All work toward a master's degree must be completed within six consecutive years from the semester of entry.

Graduate Coursework

Every course taken for a master's degree must have a graduate course number (500+). You will not receive graduate credit for courses at the 400-level or below. You may take courses at the 400-level or below, but the courses will not count toward your degree. When courses are double listed under both 400-level and 500-level numbers, always take the 500-level section. Courses at the 600- or 700-level are usually for doctoral students and require permission from your faculty advisor and the instructor of the course. You may take 600-level courses, but check first with the instructor or your faculty advisor.

Studies in Major Area (15 credits)

MTC 523 Advanced Composition (9 credits over three semesters)

MTC 599 Thesis (6 credits over four semesters)

Other Studies in Music (9 credits)

Two courses must be in musicology and one course in music theory. If you plan to complete a doctoral degree at some point, you may wish to fulfill one of your musicology course requirements with MHL 532 Bibliography. You must complete at least two of your three [MHL/MTC requirements](#) before you are eligible to take your written comprehensive exam.

Electives (8 credits)

The elective area of the check sheet allows you to customize the degree to meet your specific career interests and needs. Additional lessons or ensembles may count here. You may also take courses elsewhere on campus, as approved by your advisor, but must be at the graduate level to count towards your degree.

Degree Checklist

File Plan of Study	FILED ON	APPROVED ON
Work on composition	An original composition that demonstrates master of composing for the selected performance medium and the coherent organization of musical materials	
Finalize committee	CHAIR, COMMITTEE MEMBERS	
Schedule Comprehensive Exams	WRITTEN DATE	ORAL DATE / PASSED ON
Apply for Graduation		

PROPOSED PLAN OF STUDY FOR TWO YEARS OF COURSEWORK

Most students take two years (not including summers) to finish the degree. Here is a typical full-time plan.

Coursework	Priority Tasks
SEMESTER 1	

MTC 532 Advanced Composition (3) MHL or MTC Course (3) Elective coursework (3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Results from your graduate diagnostic exam in theory and musicology should be reviewed by your faculty advisor. Check your ASU ID Sun Card for access to the practice rooms. Students on F-1/J-1 visa should discuss Curricular Practicum Training option with advisor and Julie Krause in the School of Music, Dance and Theatre Office of Academic Affairs. Consider what electives might interest you both in the school and in other academic units. Join a student group, chamber ensemble, etc. If wishing to do a DMA, consider taking MHL 532 Bibliography (required for a DMA degree)
SEMESTER 2	
MTC 532 Advanced Composition (3) MHL or MTC Course (3) Elective coursework (3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet with Julie Krause to fill out your Plan of Study and ensure that you are on track to degree completion.
SEMESTER 3	
MTC 532 Advanced Composition (3) MHL or MTC Course (3) Elective coursework (3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify faculty members (see Student Handbook) to serve on your graduate committee. Update your Plan of Study with the names of your committee and any course changes by the end of the semester.
SEMESTER 4	
MTC 599 (6)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend the Steps to Graduation Workshop with the School of Music, Dance and Theatre Office of Academic Affairs. Confirm that you have an approved full committee in your Plan of Study before the graduation deadline. Schedule and complete defense Apply for graduation through MyASU by October 1 (fall graduation) or February 15 (spring graduation). Register for the master's written comprehensive exam at least 3 weeks prior to the exam date. See the Master's Comprehensive Exams website for exam dates and registration details. RSVP to Graduation ceremonies through your My ASU. Order Graduation regalia.

Thesis Graduation Defense Checklist

Attend Steps to Graduation Workshop	PLANNED ATTENDANCE SEMESTER/YEAR		ATTENDED ON
Submit Z-Y Spreadsheet	Due Feb.15 or Oct. 1 during graduation term		COMPLETED ON
Check POS Committee	Committee changes are not permitted after defense scheduled		COMPLETED ON
Defense Date	LAST DAY TO DEFEND See Defenses	YOUR DEFENSE DATE	COMPLETED ON
Chair submits Defense Request Form	DEADLINE 15 working days (3 weeks) before defense	YOUR DUE DATE	COMPLETED ON
Student Schedules Defense on My ASU	DEADLINE 10 working days (2 weeks) before defense	YOUR DUE DATE	COMPLETED ON
Submit Document for Format Approval	DEADLINE 10 calendar days before defense	YOUR DUE DATE	COMPLETED ON
Submit Final Format Approval Revisions	DEADLINE See Defenses	YOUR DUE DATE	COMPLETED ON
Final Pass/Fail Form	DEADLINE See Defenses	YOUR DUE DATE	COMPLETED ON
Upload Document to Plan of Study	DEADLINE See Defenses	YOUR DUE DATE	COMPLETED ON

