

MM in Composition Applied Project Track

Area Coordinator: Jody Rockmaker

Office Academic Affairs Contact: Julie Krause (Julie.A.Krause@asu).

School of Music, Dance and Theatre
program of study 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). Students on the applied project path must complete a final culminating experience (MTC 593). Student on the thesis path (MTC599) will complete a thesis culminating in a defense. Students should consult the composition faculty regarding which path is best.

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	593 or 599	Applied Project or Thesis	6			An original composition that demonstrates master of composing for the selected performance medium and the coherent organization of musical materials. Taken in final semester.

Music Theory and Musicology (9 credit hours)

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.

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
						500 or above. Ensembles or lessons may count here. Consult your faculty advisor with coursework selection. May not include more than 4 hours of ensemble or studio. May include additional MHL/MTC coursework.

Academic Advising

Your composition professor will serve as your faculty advisor and can assist you with coursework selection. Additionally, the School of Music, Dance and Theatre Office of Academic Affairs will assist you with filing your plan of study and can be reached by contacting Julie Krause (Julie.A.Krause@asu.edu)

Student Handbook

The student handbook should be used in conjunction with this degree check sheet. The current handbook can be found on the student canvas site. Students should also review the [ASU Graduate Policies and Procedures](#) handbook.

Degree Requirements and Timeline

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

- Consult with your faculty on whether you should pursue the thesis path or the applied project path.
- Take and pass all of the coursework required for your degree.
- File a Plan of Study (second semester) via the interactive iPOS system located on your My ASU page. You should also have an approved supervisory committee.
- Successfully pass the written comprehensive exam in your final semester of coursework.
- An oral comprehensive exam may be required after your written comprehensive exam. Consult with your committee.
- Applied project students: successfully complete your applied project by presenting in front of your committee in the final semester. A grade of "B" or better is required for the project.
- Thesis students: successfully complete a thesis defense in the final semester.
- Apply for Graduation in your final semester of study.

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. The MM degree in Music Composition is accredited through the National Association for Schools of Music (NASM) and meets the curricular requirements as indicated below.

Studies in Major Area (15 credits)

MTC 523 Advanced Composition (three semesters) (9)

MTC 599 Thesis or MTC 593 Applied Project (6)

Other Studies in Music (9 credits)

MHL Electives (6)

MTC Electives (3)

Music Electives (8)

Electives (0 credits)

Coursework to allow students to customize the degree to meet specific career interests and needs.

Thesis Student 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	DEADLINE 10 working days (2 weeks) before defense	YOUR DUE DATE	COMPLETED ON
Submit Document for Format Approval	DEADLINE 10 working days before defense	YOUR DUE DATE	COMPLETED ON
Submit Final Format Approval Revi-	DEADLINE See Defenses	YOUR DUE DATE	COMPLETED ON
Upload Document to Plan of Study	DEADLINE See Defenses	YOUR DUE DATE	COMPLETED ON

Sample Plan of study for two years of coursework

Most students take two years (not including summers) to finish the degree. Some students may take up to three years with a thesis defense. 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 Curriculum 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 593 Applied Project (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. 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.