

Master of Arts in Music (musicology)

Area Coordinator: Christi Jay Wells

School of Music, Dance and Theatre program of study check sheet and guide

This requires 30 credit hours, a written and oral comprehensive exam, foreign language exam and a thesis. Use this degree check sheet to assist with filing your Plan of Study (required by the university) and to track your progress in your degree.

Required Core (9 credit hours)

Prefix	#	Title	Hours Needed	Hours Taken	Semester/Year	Notes
MHL	532	Music Bibliography	3			
MHL	691	Musicology Seminar	3			
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Required Core - Music Theory Electives (5 credit hours)

One theory course (3 credits) must be an analytical course (MTC prefix). The second theory course (2-3 credits) may be a non-analytical course. MTC 520 Analytical Techniques is recommended, especially if you plan to complete a PhD.

Prefix	#	Title	Hours Needed	Hours Taken	Semester/Year	Notes
MTC	5**		3			Must be an analytical course
MTC	5**		2			

Electives in Music (5-8 credit hours)

Prefix	#	Title	Hours Needed	Hours Taken	Semester/Year	Notes	
			5-8			Ethnomusicology or related fields (outside of musicology). Selected in consultation with the committee.	
			0-3			Open electives. Additional ensembles or lessons 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.	

Other Requirement - Performance Ensembles (2 credit hours)

Prefix	#	Title	Hours Needed	Hours Taken	Semester/Year	Notes
MUP	5**		1			
MUP	5**		1			

Culminating Experience (6 credit hours)

A culminating demonstration of professional capability in the major field, the student must submit a final project that demonstrates advanced competence in research and writing in musicology or ethnomusicology. The final project may be a thesis, a series of special papers, or a written work of equivalent scope.

Prefix	#	Title	Hours Needed	Hours Taken	Semester/Year	Notes
MHL	599	Thesis	2			
MHL	599	Thesis	2			
MHL	599	Thesis	2			

Your Degree Guide, Timeline and Best Practices

Academic Advising

Consult with the area coordinator for your faculty advisor assignment and they will assist you with coursework selection. 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).

MDT Graduate Student Resource Site

Enroll in the [MDT Graduate Student Resources site](#). The site is where you can find your handbooks, academic forms, and other important information related to your studies.

Student Handbooks

There are student handbooks that you should reference throughout your degree. Your handbooks are meant to help you understand various policies and procedures required for your studies.

- The Graduate Music Handbook
- The [ASU Graduate Policies and Procedures Handbook](#)
- Students with a TA should also review the [TA/RA Policies and Procedures Handbook](#) through the ASU Graduate College

Tips on Selecting Coursework

Each semester, the courses offered in musicology (MHL) and music theory (MTC) are listed on the student canvas site. Courses are offered on a rotational basis and are not necessarily offered every semester. The MTC courses are identified as either an analytical or non-analytical course. Refer to the MDT Graduate Student Resources Canvas site for the most current list of course offerings.

Degree Timeline and Check list

- All work toward a master's degree must be completed within six consecutive years of the semester of entry.
- You must remain enrolled in each fall and spring semester until the degree is completed.

Task/Milestone	Timeline
Complete diagnostic exams in musicology and music theory	Before your first semester (Jun. 15 for fall admission)
Select a foreign language	During the first semester.
File a plan of study	Beginning of your third semester. Schedule an appointment with the Office of Academic Affairs.
Complete the foreign language requirement	The language exam or course should be completed by the end of the third semester and must be completed before scheduling the written comprehensive exam.
Finalize your committee	Must be finalized on your plan of study before you take your written comprehensive exam.
Written Comprehensive Exam	After completion of coursework, typically in your fourth semester of a six semester program.
Oral Comprehensive Exam	Scheduled after written exam is complete. Can be scheduled in same semester as the written exam or in a later semester as approved by the committee.
Identify a Thesis Topic	Can be done as early as the first semester and should be decided by beginning of the third semester.
Complete IRB training, if required	Must be done before any human subject research is conducted.

Thesis Defense Timeline - Completed in your final semester

Task/Milestone	Timeline
Review thesis defense timeline	By the end of the first week of class.
Final review of your Plan of Study	By second month of your final semester. Fix any course issues/committee updates.
Apply for Graduation	Oct. 1 for fall/Feb. 15 for spring/Jun. 15 for summer.
Submit final thesis draft to committee	At least three weeks before your thesis defense.
Pick a thesis defense date	Determine thesis defense date with committee (at least three weeks before defense date).

Chair submits the Defense request form	A minimum of three weeks before the defense date.
Schedule your defense in MyASU and upload document to your Plan of Study for format review	After receiving approval from the Office of Academic Affairs, schedule your defense at least 10 business days before your date.
Submit final format revisions to ASU Graduate College	For current semester deadlines and more detailed information, go to the MDT Graduate Student Resources canvas site for defense information.
Upload document to ETD/ProQuest	

Graduate Coursework Curriculum Breakdown

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

Studies in Major Area (15 credit hours)

MHL 532 Music Bibliography (3)
MHL 691 Musicology Seminar (6)
MHL 599 Thesis (6)

Other Studies in Music (15 credit hours)

MTC XXX: Music Theory Electives (5)
MUP XXX: Performance Ensembles (2)
Electives in Musicology or related fields (8)

Sample Plan of Study

Most students take two years (not including summers) to complete coursework with a third year to complete the thesis and defense. Here is a typical full-time plan.

Coursework	Priority Tasks
SEMESTER 1	
MHL or MTC course (3) MTC coursework (3) Major 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. • Discuss what foreign language you will use to fulfill the foreign language exam requirement. • 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.
SEMESTER 2	
MHL or MTC course (3) MTC Coursework (3) Major coursework (3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete the Foreign Language Exam Requirement • Start to think about which faculty will serve on your committee.
SEMESTER 3	
MHL or MTC course (3) MHL or MTC course (3) Major 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 graduate. • Review thesis requirements and deadlines. • Your Plan of Study must be approved by the ASU Graduate College.
SEMESTER 4	
MHL 599 Thesis (6) Major coursework (3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review graduation deadlines on the MDT Graduate Student Resources site in Canvas. • Confirm that you have an approved Plan of Study and complete committee on file before the graduation deadline. • Schedule and complete defense • Apply for graduation through MyASU. • 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. • Ask your committee chair to hood you at the ceremony.