

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			

**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.

**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			

**Culminating Experience (6 credit hours)**

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.

## 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 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 Defense Timeline - Completed in your final semester (students on the thesis track ONLY)

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	

### Sample Plan of study

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
<b>SEMESTER 1</b>	
MTC 532 Advanced Composition (3) MHL or MTC Course (3) Elective coursework (3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Results from your graduate diagnostic exam in theory and musicology should be reviewed by your faculty advisor.</li> <li>Check your ASU ID Sun Card for access to the practice rooms.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>Consider what electives might interest you both in the school and in other academic units.</li> <li>Join a student group, chamber ensemble, etc.</li> <li>If wishing to do a DMA, consider taking MHL 532 Bibliography (required for a DMA degree).</li> </ul>
<b>SEMESTER 2</b>	
MTC 532 Advanced Composition (3) MHL or MTC Course (3) Elective coursework (3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meet with Julie Krause to fill out your Plan of Study and ensure that you are on track to degree completion.</li> </ul>
<b>SEMESTER 3</b>	
MTC 532 Advanced Composition (3) MHL or MTC Course (3) Elective coursework (3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify faculty members (see Student Handbook) to serve on your graduate committee.</li> <li>Update your Plan of Study with the names of your committee and any course changes by the end of the semester.</li> </ul>
<b>SEMESTER 4</b>	
MTC 593 Applied Project (6)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review graduation deadlines on the MDT Graduate Student Resources site in Canvas.</li> <li>Confirm that you have an approved Plan of Study and complete committee on file before the graduation deadline.</li> <li>Schedule and complete defense.</li> <li>Apply for graduation through <a href="#">MyASU</a>.</li> <li>Register for the master's written comprehensive exam at least 3 weeks prior to the exam date. See the <a href="#">Master's Comprehensive Exams website</a> for exam dates and registration details.</li> <li>RSVP to Graduation ceremonies through your My ASU.</li> <li>Order Graduation regalia.</li> <li>Ask your committee chair to hood you at the ceremony.</li> </ul>