

DMA in Music (music composition)

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

This document is designed to help you navigate your academic coursework. The DMA in Music with a concentration in music composition requires a total of 90 credit hours, a foreign language exam, a written comprehensive exam, an oral comprehensive exam, prospectus and a dissertation. Students with a completed master's degree from an accredited institution recognized by the ASU Graduate College may be approved for up to 30 blanket hours toward the DMA (depending on master's coursework), leaving 60 credit hours of coursework to complete. Shaded sections of the check sheet represent possible blanket credit hours from a master's degree.

Major Area - Composition, Music Technology and Electives (36 credit hours)

Prefix	#	Title	Hours Needed	Hours Taken	Semester/Year	Notes
MTC		Composition	3			Master's level May include thesis credits
MTC		Composition	3			
MTC	723	Composition	3			Doctoral Level
MTC	723	Composition	3			
MTC	723	Composition	3			
MTC	723	Composition	3			
MTC	723	Composition	3			
MTC	723	Composition	3			
MTC	723	Composition	3			
		Music Technology	3-6			Selected in consultation with faculty advisor.
		Music Technology				
		Elective	6-9			Selected in consultation with faculty advisor. Can be outside of department.
		Elective				
		Elective				

Music Theory and Musicology (30 credit hours)

500-level courses that are double-listed as a 400-level course may not be used toward the MHL/MTC requirement. In special cases, a substitution may be allowed. Visit the MHL + MTC Course website for more information. You must complete all MHL/MTC requirements before you are eligible to take your written and oral comprehensive exams.

Prefix	#	Title	Hours Needed	Hours Taken	Semester/Year	Notes
MHL	532	Music Bibliography	3			Required in DMA if not taken in MM
						Include if MHL 532 taken in DMA
MHL			3			
MTC	525	Pedagogy of Music Theory	3			Required in DMA if not taken in MM
						Include if MTC 525 taken in DMA
MTC			3			
			3			MHL or MTC
			3			
MHL	5XX or 6XX		3			
MHL			3			
MTC			3			
MTC			3			

Research (12 credit hours)

Prefix	#	Title	Hours Needed	Hours Taken	Semester/Year	Notes
MTC	792	Research	12			Can be taken over the course of four semesters at 3 credits each.
MTC	792	Research				
MTC	792	Research				
MTC	792	Research				

Culminating Experience (12 credit hours)

Prefix	#	Title	Hours Needed	Hours Taken	Semester/Year	Notes
MTC	799	Dissertation	12			Creation of a significant original work of music, considered to be a dissertation, and either two article-length research papers or a substantial paper
MTC	799	Dissertation				
MTC	799	Dissertation				
MTC	799	Dissertation				

Your Degree Guide, Timeline and Best Practices

Academic Advising

Your studio 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)

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

There are several milestones and requirements throughout the DMA program in addition to the required coursework listed above. All work towards a doctoral degree must be completed within ten consecutive years from the semester of entry.

Task/Milestone	Timeline
Complete diagnostic exams in musicology and music theory	Before your first semester (Jun. 15 for fall admission)
File Program of study	Third semester. Schedule an appointment with the Office of Academic Affairs.
Complete the foreign language requirement	Select two foreign language exams. Both language exams or courses 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. All committee members must approve degree recitals 2-5.
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 research topic	Can be done as early as the first semester.
Complete IRB training, if required	Must be done before any human subject research is conducted.
Research proposal exam	Scheduled at any time during coursework but it needs to be completed one semester before your defense semester.
Research Defense	Graduation semester.

Dissertation Defense Timeline - Completed in 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 and Submit the Z-Y Spreadsheet	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 defense date	Determine 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.
Complete Survey of Earned Doctorates	For current semester deadlines and more detailed information, go to the MDT Graduate Student Resources canvas site for defense information.
Submit final format revisions to ASU Graduate College	
Upload document to ETD/ProQuest	

Graduate Curriculum Breakdown

Every course taken for a doctoral 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. The DMA in Music with a concentration in music composition is accredited through the National Association for Schools of Music (NASM) and meets the curricular guidelines as indicated below.

<p>Studies in Major Area (51-54 credits) MTC 723: Composition (doctoral level, 6 terms) (18) MTC 523: Composition (master's level) (6) Music Technology (3-6 credits selected in consultation with faculty advisor) MTC 792: Research (12) MTC 799: Research and Dissertation (12)</p> <p>Other Electives (6-9) Graduate coursework chosen in consultation with faculty advisor (6-9)</p>	<p>Other Studies in Music (30 credits) MTC 525: Pedagogy of Theory (3) MTC: Music Theory electives (9) MHL 532: Music Bibliography (3) MHL 5xx or MHL 6xx Musicology or Ethnomusicology electives (9) MHL/MTC electives (6)</p> <p>NOTE: students may be exempt from completing MHL 532 in the DMA but need prior approval. See handbook for more information.</p>
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Sample Plan of Study

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

Coursework (# of credit hours)	Priority Tasks
SEMESTER 1	
MTC 723 Composition (3) MTC 792 Research (3) MHL or MTC Course (3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Results from your graduate diagnostic exam in theory and musicology should be reviewed by faculty advisor. • MHL 532 Bibliography should be completed if not taken in MM. • MTC 525 is only offered each fall semester consider taking either in first or second fall semester. • MTC 792 Research and MTC 799 Dissertation credits should be discussed with faculty advisor. • Consult the MHL + MTC website for DMA eligible courses in Music Theory. • Consider what electives might interest you both in the school and in other academic units. • Join a student group, chamber ensemble, etc. • 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.
SEMESTER 2	
MTC 723 Composition (3) MTC 792 Research (3) MHL or MTC Course (3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin process to identify a research topic with faculty advisor. • Begin to identify which faculty members (see Student Handbook) will serve on your graduate committee. • Begin planning your Foreign Language Exam timeline or plan on taking the Reading for Knowledge course. • Meet with Julie Krause to fill out your Plan of Study and ensure that you are on track to degree completion.
SEMESTER 3	
MTC 723 Composition (3) MTC 792 Research (3) MHL or MTC Course (3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foreign Language requirements should be completed by end of semester and you should notify the School of Music, Dance and Theatre Office of Academic Affairs when requirements have been met. • MTC 525 is only offered each fall semester consider taking either in first or second fall semester.
SEMESTER 4	
MTC 723 Composition (3) MTC 792 Research (3) MHL or MTC Course (3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update any course changes on your plan of study by the end of the fourth semester. • Finalize your graduate committee.
SEMESTER 5	
MTC 723 Composition (3) MTC 799 Dissertation (6)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete the Steps to Graduation Workshop. • Review Defense deadlines and procedures. • Last semester to submit Doctoral Proposal Result form if graduating in semester 6. Deadline is last day of final exams week. • Committee Chair reserves space for written and oral comprehensive exams assuming foreign language requirements have been met.
SEMESTER 6	
MTC 723 Composition (3) MTC 799 Dissertation (6)	<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 • Committee Chair schedules Defense • Apply for graduation through MyASU by October 1 (fall graduation) or February 15 (spring graduation). • RSVP to Graduation ceremonies through your My ASU. • Order Graduation regalia. • Ask your committee chair to hood you at the ceremony.