

MUSIC: COMPOSITION (M.A.)

<https://cola.unh.edu/music/program/ma/music-composition>

Description

Beginning in the 2025-2026 academic year, the Music: Composition M.A. is pausing admissions to the program. Current students will continue to have access to the same high-quality education and resources until they graduate.

The master of arts in composition option offers the opportunity for in-depth study of music composition. Some graduates of the program will go on to earn a doctoral degree in composition or music theory, while others will seek careers as film and theater composers, sound designers, teachers, and freelance writers. The program is responsive to the individual ambitions of its students to prepare them for their professional careers in the best way possible.

This degree program has final approval from the National Association of Schools of Music.

Requirements

Completion of the program requires a final project in an area of interest. Projects can take several forms (for example, a composition, a composition recital, a lecture recital, a research paper, etc.) and are usually proposed and developed in concert with the graduate studies coordinator and a faculty member who serves as the project adviser. A final oral examination assesses the candidate's ability to apply compositional skills, and/or to describe advanced independent work of particular interest.

All of the Master of Arts in Music options require **30 credit hours** as well as a final project for completion of the degree.

Code	Title	Credits
Concentration		
MUSI 875 & MUSI 876	Composition and Composition	6
MUSI 877	Advanced Composition	3
MUSI 891	Research Seminar	1-4
Supportive Courses in Music		
MUSI 865	Introduction to Bibliography	3
MUSI 894	Theory Seminar	3
MUSI 869	Musicology Seminar ³	3
Electives ¹		
Select from the following courses:		9
Musicology Courses		
MUSI 801	Topics in Music History ³	
Conducting		
MUSI 831	Advanced Instrumental Conducting	
Applied Lessons Courses		
MUSI 845	Graduate Voice	
MUSI 848	Graduate Cello	
MUSI 855	Graduate Bassoon	
Other Courses		
MUSI 895	Special Studies ²	
MUSI 869	Musicology Seminar	

¹ Normally, electives will be chosen only from offerings within the Department of Music. Students wishing to enroll in electives outside the department are permitted to do so in consultation with the Graduate Coordinator for the Department of Music.

² MUSI 895 Special Studies may be used to enroll in large and studio ensembles for a total of 6 credits.
³ MUSI 869 Musicology Seminar and MUSI 801 Topics in Music History can be repeated for credit.

Concentration and Supportive Courses are required; other electives are possible with the approval of the department.

Accelerated Master's

This graduate program is approved to be taken on an accelerated basis in articulation with certain undergraduate degree programs.

General Accelerated Master's policy, note that some programs have additional requirements (e.g. higher grade expectations) compared to the policy.

Please see the Graduate School website and contact the department directly for more information.

Student Learning Outcomes

Program Learning Outcomes General Competencies for All Music MA Programs

- Demonstrate advanced capacities to work independently and make effective artistic and intellectual judgments and professional decisions in the area of specialization by producing a final project or equivalent.
- Demonstrate advanced competence in the area of specialization.

Additional Competencies, M.A. in Composition

- Demonstrate advanced competencies in composition.
- Demonstrate advanced knowledge and skills in one or more related fields of music.
- Complete a faculty approved final project.
- Manage an advanced performance of their original composition.