

UC San Diego, Department of Music

Composition Graduate Curriculum

Master's Degree Program

The master of arts in music degree requires completion of at least thirty-six quarter units of graduate courses (courses numbered 201–299), including six units of Music 500 (Apprentice Teaching in Music) and six units of Music 299 (Advanced Research Projects and Independent Study) bearing directly on completion of the master's thesis. Master's students are expected to complete all requirements for the degree in six quarters of residence.

Core Graduate Curriculum

All Composition graduate students are required to take:

- Music 210 (Musical Analysis)
- Music 228 (Conducting)
- Music 229 (Orchestration)

Course Requirements

In addition to the core graduate curriculum, all Composition master's degree students are required to complete:

- MUS 201 (A, B, C, D, E, or F)—must take at least two times.
- MUS 203A-B-C—successful completion of the jury process is necessary to get a passing grade in the corresponding seminar.
- MUS 203D—after successful completion of 203C, students must enroll in Music 203D (with their committee chair) every quarter until graduation.
- MUS 204—every quarter until graduation.
- MUS 206, 207, and/or 209—a combination of any three courses.
- MUS 271A and B—must take both courses.
- MUS299—must complete at least six units
- MUS500—must complete at least six units

To assure that all requirements are being adequately met, all graduate students must make an appointment with the graduate staff adviser for a degree check no later than the winter quarter of the second year.

Master's Degree Completion Requirements

A folio of *three research papers* in professional format (normally to be written in connection with the courses the student will be taking) must be accepted by the student's committee prior to approval of the thesis.

MA candidates will present a *thesis* consisting of the following under the supervision of the student's committee chair in MUS 299:

- A folio of three chamber compositions together with tape recordings of at least two of them.

Must have final approval from the student's individual committee upon completion.

Doctoral Degree Program

Core Graduate Curriculum

All Composition graduate students are required to take:

- Music 210 (Musical Analysis) – must take at least two times.
- Music 228 (Conducting)
- Music 229 (Orchestration)

Course Requirements

In addition to the core graduate and PhD curriculum, Composition doctoral students must complete the following courses prior to the qualifying examination:

- MUS 201 (A, B, C, D, E, or F)—must take at least two times.
- MUS 203A-B-C—successful completion of the jury process is necessary to get a passing grade in the corresponding seminar. Continuing students from the UC San Diego Composition MA program may be excused from MUS 203B-C by successfully completing MUS 203A at the PhD level.
- MUS 203D—after successful completion of 203C, students must enroll in MUS 203D (with their committee chair) every quarter in residence.
- MUS 204—every quarter in residence.
- MUS 206, 207 and/or 209—a combination of any six courses.
- MUS 271A and B—must take both courses.
- MUS 298—must complete at least six units.
- MUS500—must complete at least six units, unless completed the requirement in UC San Diego's master's degree program
- MUS299—after completing the qualifying examination, must enroll in twelve units of Music 299 (Advanced Research Projects and Independent Study) with their committee chair or members every quarter.

Qualifying Examination/Advancement to Candidacy

Requirements prior to taking the qualifying examination:

- Completion of all PhD required course work.
- Formation of the Doctoral Committee. Students must choose the chair of their Doctoral Committee no later than their last quarter of course work. They must choose two more internal members of the Doctoral Committee by the end of the fall quarter of their third year. In consultation with the chair of the Doctoral Committee, two faculty members from outside the department should be added to the committee by the end of the spring quarter of the third year. All internal members of the committee must be faculty of the Department of Music. The final composition of the committee is approved by the Office of Graduate Studies.
- One research paper judged to be of publishable quality. The subject of the publishable paper will be developed during the student's first two years and must be approved by the student's PhD committee chair.
- A folio of not fewer than three compositions (not previously accepted for an MA degree).
- A proposal. The proposal delineates the Qualification exam topics, the form of exploration, discusses the rationale for why each topic merits such exploration. It also includes a provisional outline of the topic. The proposal should be submitted by the end of the 5th week of any given quarter to initiate the approval process to be reviewed and approved by the chair and members of the student's committee.
- Once proposal is approved, it is expected that the candidate will continue to work under the guidance of the committee members for the rest of the current quarter as well as the following quarter in order to complete the agreed upon qualification project, whatever its nature. Before undertaking the qualification oral exam, the doctorate candidate must submit a portfolio of compositions containing 3 most recently composed works. Before a composition student may advance to candidacy, the portfolio must be approved by the Chair of the Doctoral Committee.

The qualifying examination for all doctoral students will consist of the following:

A written and oral defense of three questions provided by the Doctoral Committee pertaining to appropriate areas of specialization. For Integrative Studies students, one question will involve a defense of the student's dissertation prospectus and the remaining two questions will pertain to the student's primary and secondary specialties.

Successful completion of the qualifying exam marks the student's advancement to doctoral candidacy, which must take place no later than the end of the spring quarter of the fourth year.

PhD Composition Degree Completion Requirements

- For *Composition* students, completion of a major composition project.
- For all doctoral students, a final public defense of the composition/dissertation/recitals.
- A full copy of the student's dissertation/research project must be in the hands of each of the student's Doctoral Committee members four weeks before the dissertation defense.
- It is understood that the edition of the dissertation given to committee members will not be the final form, and that the committee members may suggest changes in the text at the defense. Revisions may be indicated and, in extreme cases, may require this examination to be taken more than once.
- Acceptance of the dissertation by the university librarian represents the final step in completion of all requirements for the PhD.

Materials previously submitted for other degrees are not acceptable for submission for the PhD degree.