

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY  
COLLEGE OF MUSIC

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY  
in  
MUSIC THEORY

Degree will appear on final transcript and diploma as:  
Program: Music Theory and Composition  
Major: Music Theory

This degree is offered to candidates who have achieved distinction in the analysis of music and who demonstrate the ability to do research and scholarly study.

I. Credit Requirements

- A. The Doctor of Philosophy degree requires a minimum of 94 earned graduate semester credits beyond the baccalaureate degree.
- B. For students holding a master's degree in music from another accredited institution (with at least 30 earned credits):
  - 1. A minimum of 64 graduate credits must be earned at FSU (at least 40 credits of coursework plus 24 credits of dissertation).
  - 2. This requirement is applicable regardless of the total number of credits earned in the previous master's degree program, even if the total exceeds 30 credits.
- C. For students holding a master's degree in music from FSU:
  - 1. All graduate credits earned in the master's program, including those exceeding 30 credits, will be applicable towards the 94-credit requirement (excluding any remedial courses).

II. Diagnostic Examination

This exam consists of two analyses and a survey of the field of music theory. The student must attempt it during the first year and may retake it in the second year. The student may not register for a third doctoral seminar prior to passing the diagnostic exam. Failing to pass the diagnostic exam by the end of the second year will constitute unsatisfactory degree progress.

III. Competency Examinations

Offered each semester on keyboard harmony, part writing, and musical styles. Ph.D. students in music theory must complete all three competency exams in order to graduate.

IV. Language Requirements

Students are not required to demonstrate proficiency in foreign languages, but may count up to 6 credits of graduate-level coursework in foreign languages toward their degree, if relevant to research interests. Students should consult the music theory Ph.D. advisor.

## V. Residence/Scholarly Engagement Requirement

- A. The purpose of the Scholarly Engagement requirement is to ensure that doctoral students are active participants in the scholarly community. To meet the Scholarly Engagement requirement, doctoral students should interact with faculty and peers in ways that may include enrolling in courses; attending seminars, symposia, and conferences; engaging in collaborative study and research beyond the university campus; and utilizing the library, laboratories, and other facilities provided by the University. The goal is to prepare students to be scholars who can independently acquire, evaluate, and extend knowledge, as well as develop themselves as effective communicators and disseminators of knowledge.
- B. College of Music doctoral students can satisfy the Scholarly Engagement requirement through one of two options:
1. Complete 24 graduate credit hours (5000-level or above) within any consecutive 12-month calendar period; OR
  2. Complete a minimum of 18 graduate credit hours (5000-level or above) within any consecutive 12-month calendar period, AND submit to their Area Coordinator and/or Major Professor evidence of additional scholarly engagement activities deemed equivalent to 6 graduate credit hours of coursework by the Coordinator/Professor. Such professional activities may include attending or presenting/performing in seminars, masterclasses, workshops, symposia, conferences and festivals; engaging in creative activities, research and collaborative study beyond the university campus; utilizing the library, laboratories and other facilities provided by the University; or other scholarly or creative activities as determined by area faculty and approved by the area coordinator and by the Director of Graduate Studies for the College of Music. In effect, doctoral students in the College of Music must complete 24 Scholarly Engagement “points” in a 12-month period. Please note, however, that only graduate academic credits earned at FSU will be applicable towards the total degree requirements.<sup>1</sup>

## VI. Required Coursework

- A. Major Area (39 credits required)
1. M.M. Requirements (if courses taken elsewhere, contact the music theory Ph.D. advisor)
    - a. MUT 5151: Readings in Music Theory (3 credits)
    - b. MUT 5627: Tonal Analysis I (3 credits)
    - c. MUT 5628: Atonal Analysis I (3 credits)
    - d. MUT 5751: Pedagogy of Music Theory I (3 credits)
    - e. MUT 5760: History of Music Theory (3 credits)
  2. Ph.D. Requirements
    - a. MUT 5752: Pedagogy of Music Theory II (3 credits)
    - b. Focus Courses (must take at least 2 courses, at least 6 credits):
      - i. MUS 5939-xx: Analyzing Concert Music by Composers of Color (3 credits)
      - ii. MUS 5939-xx: Analyzing Concert Music by Women (3 credits)
      - iii. MUS 5939-xx: Analyzing Musical Theater (3 credits)
      - iv. MUS 5939-xx: Analyzing World Music (3 credits)
      - v. MUS 5939-xx: Theorizing Jazz (3 credits)
      - vi. MUS 5939-xx: Writing About Music (3 credits)
      - vii. MUT 5578: Analyzing Popular Music (3 credits)

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<sup>1</sup> For further details and explanation, please see the program page at <http://music.fsu.edu/programs/music-theory-composition/advising-exams>.

- c. Subject Courses (must take at least 2 courses, at least 6 credits):
  - i. MUS 5939-xx: Analyzing Music and Media (3 credits)
  - ii. MUS 5939-xx: Analyzing Rhythm and Meter (3 credits)
  - iii. MUS 5939-xx: Atonal Analysis II (3 credits)
  - iv. MUS 5939-xx: Cognition in Music Theory (3 credits)
  - v. MUS 5939-xx: Computation for Music Research (3 credits)
  - vi. MUS 5939-xx: Transformational Analysis of Tonal Musics (3 credits)
  - vii. MUT 5629: Tonal Analysis II (3 credits)
- d. MUT 6937 Doctoral Seminar (must take at least 3 seminars, at least 9 credits):

3. Doctoral Preliminary Examination: MUS 8964 (0 credits). The Doctoral Preliminary Examination consists of written and oral sections and is taken when the student has completed all coursework or in the final semester of coursework. It is the responsibility of the student's major professor to determine when a student must take the examination. The student must be registered for MUS 8964 during the semester in which the examination is taken.

#### B. MUS 6980 Dissertation (24 credits required)

- 1. Following submission of the completed dissertation to the supervisory committee, an oral defense with the committee is required. Students must register for MUS 8985 Dissertation Defense during the semester in which the defense is conducted (normally the semester of graduation).
- 2. Upon successful completion of the preliminary exam, students must maintain continuous dissertation enrollment of 2 credits each semester until graduation, including the semester of graduation.

#### C. Other Studies in Music (3 credits required)

- 1. MUH 5xxx Musicology course (3 credits)

#### D. Electives

- 1. Repertoire-based Courses (not geared towards Ph.D. students but available as electives)
  - a. MUT 5573: Music Since 1945 (3 credits)
  - b. MUT 5587: 18th-, 19th-, 20th-Century Styles (3 credits)
  - c. MUT 5618: Analysis of Masterworks (3 credits)
  - d. MUT 5619: Vocal Forms (3 credits)
  - e. MUT 5625: Instrumental Forms (3 credits)
  - f. MUT 5655: Modal Counterpoint and Analysis (3 credits)
  - g. MUT 5656: Tonal Counterpoint and Analysis (3 credits)
  - h. MUT 5673: Musical Meaning and Performance (3 credits)
- 2. Outside of Major Area
  - a. any MUC, MUG, MUN, MUL, MV\_, MUH 5xxx or 6xxx course
  - b. any MUS 5345, 5505, 5536, 5545, 5546–47, 5616, 5721, 5722, 5723
  - c. any MUS "special topics" class relevant to the student's interests
  - d. up to 6 credits of FSU coursework at the 5000 level or higher outside of music (e.g. psychology, mathematics, literature, humanities, history, art history, etc.)
  - e. up to an additional 6 credits of FSU coursework at the 5000 level or higher in foreign languages, if relevant to research interests

**TOTAL CREDITS REQUIRED:** a minimum of 64 credits must be earned at FSU, and 94 credits beyond the baccalaureate degree.

Notes:

Ph.D. students must take at least three doctoral seminars (MUT 6937) during their doctoral studies. If one or more semesters of MUT 6937 were taken during a previous degree at FSU, they will not count toward the three required seminars, but the credits will count toward the Ph.D. as electives.

Contrapuntal Genres (MUT 5445) and Survey of Schenkerian Techniques (MUS 5939-xx) are surveys of material covered in more depth by other courses and are not recommended for doctoral students in music theory.

MUH 5219 and MUT 5051 are remedial (or review) courses, and therefore do not fulfill degree requirements under any circumstances. These courses address past curricular deficiencies and/or comprehension levels of core curricular content, as determined by graduate music classification and placement assessments. Successful completion of these remedial courses prepares students for graduate-level content courses in the disciplines of Music History and Music Theory. Additional remediated coursework, in other curricular areas, may be required of a student, as determined by area faculty.

Additional details and programmatic requirements may be found in the College of Music Graduate Student Manual:

<https://music.fsu.edu/graduate-manual/degree-requirements/>

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