

MUSIC THEORY - COMPOSITION - PH.D.

College of the Arts
School of Music
www.kent.edu/music

About This Program

The Ph.D. degree in Music Theory–Composition prepares composers, research scholars and college/university teachers in the areas of music theory and composition. This degree program is based on the premise that original composition of high quality requires a strong background in theory, and that significant scholarship in theory requires experience in original composition.

Contact Information

- **Adam Roberts** | arober86@kent.edu | 330-672-4741
- Connect with an Admissions Counselor: U.S. Student | International Student

Program Delivery

- **Delivery:**
 - In person
- **Location:**
 - Kent Campus

Applications to the Ph.D. in Music Theory-Composition are not being accepted at this time.

Examples of Possible Careers and Salaries*

Art, drama, and music teachers, postsecondary

- 5.6% faster than the average
- 116,300 number of jobs
- \$69,690 potential earnings

Music directors and composers

- 1.7% slower than the average
- 58,000 number of jobs
- \$52,250 potential earnings

Accreditation

National Association of Schools of Music

* Source of occupation titles and labor data comes from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics'

Occupational Outlook Handbook. Data comprises projected percent change in employment over the next 10 years; nation-wide employment numbers; and the yearly median wage at which half of the workers in the occupation earned more than that amount and half earned less.

For more information about graduate admissions, visit the graduate admission website. For more information on international admissions, visit the international admission website.

Admission Requirements

Applications to the Ph.D. in Music Theory-Composition are not being accepted at this time.

- Master's degree from an accredited college or university
- Minimum 3.000 undergraduate GPA on a 4.000-point scale
- Official transcript(s)
- Résumé
- Goal Statement
- Three letters of recommendation
- Substantial term paper on a theoretical topic or a master's thesis in music theory written in English
- Minimum three scores of original compositions demonstrating a variety of genres (chamber, orchestral, piano, choral, etc.)
- English language proficiency - all international students must provide proof of English language proficiency (unless they meet specific exceptions to waive) by earning one of the following:¹
 - Minimum 71 TOEFL iBT score
 - Minimum 6.0 IELTS score
 - Minimum 50 PTE score
 - Minimum 100 DET score

¹ International applicants who do not meet the above test scores may be considered for conditional admission.

Program Requirements

Major Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Major Requirements		
MUS 71121	HISTORY OF MUSIC THEORY	3
MUS 71131	SCHENKERIAN ANALYSIS	3
MUS 71181	POST-TONAL THEORY	3
MUS 71191	SEMINAR IN MUSIC SINCE 1900	3
MUS 78251	PEDAGOGY OF MUSIC THEORY	2
MUS 81211	COMPOSITION (course is repeatable)	8
Music History Electives		6
Music (MUS) Electives or Related Studies ¹		2
Culminating Requirement		
MUS 88199	DISSERTATION I ²	30
Minimum Total Credit Hours:		60

¹ Electives must have been approved in student's prospectus.

² Each doctoral candidate, upon admission to candidacy, must register for MUS 88199 for a total of 30 credit hours. It is expected that a doctoral candidate will continuously register for Dissertation I, and thereafter MUS 88299, each semester, until all requirements for the degree have been met. All students writing a dissertation must pass a dissertation defense. Dissertation defense may be attempted two times.

Graduation Requirements

Minimum Major GPA	Minimum Overall GPA
-	3.000

Program Learning Outcomes

Graduates of this program will be able to:

1. Compile a body of completed compositions.
2. Demonstrate and apply compositional techniques for creation of new works, including musical style and structure.
3. Analyze music from a wide range of styles and style periods and communicate results in written and oral formats.
4. Recognize, identify and analyze representative literature from different historical periods, countries and composers.
5. Communicate knowledge of composition, theory and other aspects of music in classroom and private teaching.

School of Music Graduate Study

Theory Placement Examination

All entering graduate students (except those in the online music education degree program) take a placement examination in music theory at the beginning of enrollment in a graduate degree program. Graduate theory coursework required as a result of this examination will be counted toward the degree requirements. Graduate students who do not pass the placement examination will need to complete MUS 51011 and/or MUS 51012, depending on their specific test results. Students may retake the examination once.

Program Requirements

Each student will be accepted as a major in a specific curricular area. It may be necessary for the student to complete Kent State University requirements for the appropriate undergraduate degree. Each student's academic requirements are based on the catalog in force during his/her first semester at Kent State University. Students may elect to complete their degrees under the most recent catalog but must comply with all of the new requirements relevant to their program under the new catalog.

Master's Thesis, Essay, Recital and Final Oral Examination

All Master of Arts candidates must write a thesis. All Master of Music candidates in Performance and Conducting must perform two recitals or one recital and write an essay depending on their specific degree requirements. Final Oral Examinations are required in all masters programs and this exam will include thesis defense for the Master of Arts candidates. The final oral examination may be attempted two times.

Research Tool Requirement

Candidates for the Master of Arts degree program in Ethnomusicology must demonstrate a reading and understanding knowledge of one foreign language. Credit hours earned in meeting this requirement are not applied toward the credit-hour requirement in the degree program.

For candidates for the Music Theory-Composition Ph.D. program, this requirement may be either a reading translating knowledge of one foreign language or a demonstrated competence in an area of research specified by the doctoral advisory committee and approved by the Graduate Studies Committee. Credit hours earned in meeting this requirement are not applied toward the credit-hour requirement in the degree program. For candidates for the Music Education Ph.D. program, this requirement is MUS 73283 and related research methods courses in the College of

Education. These courses are applied toward the credit-hour requirement for the degree.

PhD. Candidacy Exams, Dissertation and Dissertation Defense

Doctoral candidates will take a comprehensive examination upon completion of their coursework and research tool requirement. This candidacy exam normally takes place within four years of beginning coursework. All doctoral candidates write a dissertation and defend this dissertation in a Final Oral Examination. The dissertation phase normally is completed within five years of passing the candidacy exams.

Time Limits

Master of Arts and Master of Music students must complete their degree within six calendar years after their first graduate registration at Kent State University. Any credit transferred for meeting degree requirements must also have been earned within the six-year period.

Ph.D. students must complete their degree within nine calendar years after their first doctoral registration at Kent State University. Any credit transferred for meeting degree requirements must also have been earned within the nine-year period.

Workshop Credit

A maximum of 4 credit hours of workshop credit may be applied to certain graduate degrees. The credit hours must pertain to the degree emphasis. Only workshop credits with grades of A or B may be transferred into a degree program.