

MUSIC THEORY - M.A.

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

About This Program

The Master of Arts degree in Music Theory is designed to enhance music theory abilities of advanced students and prepare them for admission to doctoral study. Based on a solid undergraduate music degree, the master's degree further develops abilities in music theory, including analytical, aural, written, keyboard and pedagogical skills. The program further develops breadth and depth in the area of music history and literature.

Contact Information

- **Gerrey Noh** | hnoh@kent.edu
- Connect with an Admissions Counselor: U.S. Student | International Student

Program Delivery

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

Applications to the M.A. in Music Theory 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 M.A. in Music Theory are not being accepted at this time.

- Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university
- Minimum 3.000 undergraduate GPA on a 4.000-point scale
- Official transcript(s)
- Three letters of recommendation
- Résumé
- Goal statement
- Academic paper written in English
- 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 58251	PEDAGOGY OF MUSIC THEORY	2
MUS 62411	MUSIC BIBLIOGRAPHY AND RESEARCH METHODS	2
Advisor-Approved Music (MUS) Elective		3
Advisor-Approved Music Ensemble		2
Music Theory Electives, choose from the following: ¹		9
MUS 51141	16TH-CENTURY COUNTERPOINT	
MUS 51151	18TH-CENTURY COUNTERPOINT	
MUS 61121	HISTORY OF MUSIC THEORY	
MUS 61131	SCHENKERIAN ANALYSIS	
MUS 61173	WORLD MUSIC ANALYSIS	
MUS 61174	ANALYSIS OF WESTERN ART MUSIC	
MUS 61181	POST-TONAL THEORY	
MUS 61191	SEMINAR IN MUSIC SINCE 1900	
Music History Electives, choose from the following:		6
MUS 52131	MUSIC OF THE UNITED STATES	
MUS 52161	HISTORY OF JAZZ	
MUS 52181	POPULAR WORLD MUSIC	
MUS 52291	SEMINAR IN MUSIC HISTORY AND LITERATURE	
MUS 62171	MUSIC FROM WORLD CULTURES	
Culminating Requirement		
MUS 68199	THESIS I ²	6
Minimum Total Credit Hours:		30

¹ Selection of music theory course is based on students' result from the theory placement exam. In the case of the exam results placing a student into MUS 51011 and/or MUS 51012, these courses will not count towards the M.A. degree and must be taken in addition to the music theory requirements.

² All students writing a thesis must pass a final oral examination covering the thesis and the student's major area of study. The final oral examination may be attempted two times.

Graduation Requirements

Minimum Major GPA	Minimum Overall GPA
-	3.000

- No more than one-half of a graduate student's coursework may be taken in 50000-level courses.
- Grades below C are not counted toward completion of requirements for the degree.

Program Learning Outcomes

Graduates of this program will be able to:

1. Analyze music from a wide range of styles and style periods, and communicate results in written and oral formats.
2. Demonstrate and apply functional aural, written and keyboard skills.
3. Recognize, identify and analyze representative literature from different historical periods, countries and composers.
4. Communicate knowledge of music theory and other aspects of music as would be done 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.