

Music, PhD

Learning Outcomes

- Acquisition of the highest level of knowledge and skills that will prepare students for careers in or beyond academia.
- Development of advanced critical thinking and skills in music research, writing, and public presentation of original scholarship.
- Demonstration of a core body of knowledge concerning the student's area of study.
- Learning effective approaches to pedagogy in the student's area of study.
- Knowledge and skills in one or more fields of music outside the student's area of study, such as theory, musicology, performance, composition, and more.

Requirements

The Doctor of Philosophy program in music requires a minimum of 72 s.h. of graduate credit. Students must maintain a minimum cumulative grade-point average of 3.00 to earn the degree. PhD concentration areas include composition, musicology, music education, and music theory. Information about specific curricular requirements for each area is available on the School of Music website.

Advisory Examinations

Entering Doctor of Philosophy students must take School of Music advisory examinations in the areas of music history and music theory. These examinations are given on the Friday and Saturday preceding the opening of classes in the fall semester. PhD students in music education are not required to take the advisory examinations.

PhD students in composition, musicology, and music theory must complete the courses required for the MA (see the MA in music in the catalog) and the following coursework. In addition, proficiency in one or more world languages is required.

Course #	Title	Hours
One or more additional music history course(s) listed in the MA requirements		
One or more additional music theory course(s) listed in the MA requirements		
And one of these:		
MUS:7950	PhD Thesis	1-4
MUS:7960	Composition PhD Thesis	1-4

Graduate Education

Graduate education prepares students with advanced knowledge and skills in specialized fields. At the University of Iowa, the Graduate College advocates for student-centered graduate education and supports equitable application of rules and policies across graduate programs.

Academics

University of Iowa graduate credentials are regulated by policies and requirements found in the Graduate College Manual of Rules and Regulations. This includes minimum grade-point average (GPA) requirements for academic

standing and degree conferral. The Graduate College sets the minimum requirement. Individual graduate programs may establish higher GPA requirements.

Admissions

Graduate student applicants must meet admission requirements for both the Graduate College and the program to which they have applied. University of Iowa graduate admission requirements are published by the Graduate College and on the Graduate Admissions website.

Financial Support

Graduate students might be eligible for financial support. Several contingencies apply, including degree program and award type, satisfactory progress toward degree, satisfactory completion of all duties related to an appointment, and availability of funding. Graduate students should inquire directly with their program for more information about funding availability. The Graduate Student Employment Standards govern the employment relationship between the University of Iowa and all graduate teaching and research assistants in all matters except wages, which are covered by an existing collective bargaining agreement or the conditions of an applicable federal grant.

Admission

Applicants must audition and/or submit supporting materials in their area of concentration in order to be considered for admission. Information about Graduate College admission for each area is available on the School of Music website.

For detailed information about Graduate College admission and policies, see the Manual of Rules and Regulations on the Graduate College website.

Career Advancement

The Grad Success Center within the Graduate College offers multiple resources to help students explore their potential career options.

Academic Plans

Sample Plans of Study

Sample plans represent one way to complete a program of study. Actual course selection and sequence will vary and should be discussed with an academic advisor. For additional sample plans, see MyUI.

Music, PhD

- Composition Concentration
- Musicology Concentration
- Music Education Concentration
- Music Theory Concentration

Composition Concentration

Course	Title	Hours
Academic Career		
Any Semester		
72 s.h. must be graduate level coursework; up to 30 s.h. of graduate transfer credits allowed upon approval. More information is included in the General Catalog and on department website. ^{a, b, c}		
Hours		0
First Year		
Any Semester		
MUS:5300	Introduction to Graduate Study in Music ^d	3
Hours		3
Fall		
MUS:3230	Composition Seminar	1
MUS:5200	Review of Undergraduate Theory ^e	3
MUS:5220	Advanced Composition	2
Music history course ^f		3
Hours		9
Spring		
MUS:3230	Composition Seminar	1
MUS:5220	Advanced Composition	2
MUS:5820	Electronic Music Production	3
Music history course ^f		3
Music theory course ^{f, g}		3
Hours		12
Second Year		
Fall		
MUS:3230	Composition Seminar	1
MUS:5220	Advanced Composition	2
MUS:5800	Interactive Music	3
Music history course ^f		3
Music theory course ^{f, g}		3
Hours		12
Spring		
Qualification Exam ^h		
MUS:3230	Composition Seminar	1
MUS:4200	Counterpoint Before 1600	3
MUS:4220	Orchestration	3
MUS:5220	Advanced Composition	2
Outside area course ^{i, j}		3
Hours		12
Third Year		
Fall		
Exam: Doctoral Comprehensive Exam ^k		
Composition area course ^l		3
Elective course or music theory course (if needed) ^{f, g, j}		3
Elective course ^j		3
Hours		9
Spring		
Composition area course ^l		3
Elective course ^j		3
Elective course ^j		3
Hours		9

Fourth Year

Course	Title	Hours
Fall		
MUS:7960	Composition PhD Thesis	2
Elective course ^j		3
Hours		5
Spring		
MUS:7960	Composition PhD Thesis	1
Exam: Doctoral Final Exam ^m		
Hours		1
Total Hours		72

- a An Area Keyboard Examination is required. Students may demonstrate basic keyboard ability in one of two ways: 1) take and pass MUS:4210 with a grade of B or better; or 2) take and pass the final examination for MUS:4210 by arrangement with the organ faculty.
- b Students must demonstrate ability to read professional literature in either French or German (other languages must be approved by the composition area). The language requirement must be satisfied by the end of the student's final semester of coursework.
- c Students must complete specific requirements in the University of Iowa Graduate College after program admission. Refer to the Graduate College website and the Manual of Rules and Regulations for more information.
- d May take during second year instead.
- e Take a music theory elective if exempted from MUS:5200 based on results from advisory examination in music theory.
- f See the department website for list of approved courses.
- g Must have either passed the advisor examination in music theory or completed MUS:5200 before taking additional music theory elective courses.
- h The PhD Qualification Exam is to be taken not later than the end of the second semester of residency; consists of both written and oral components. Refer to the department website for more information.
- i Take a graduate level course (numbered 4000 or above) outside of the School of Music.
- j Work with faculty advisor to determine appropriate graduate level coursework.
- k Typically taken during the final semester of coursework.
- l Choose from MUS:3190, MUS:3280, MUS:3285, MUS:4201.
- m Thesis defense.

Musicology Concentration

Course	Title	Hours
Academic Career		
Any Semester		
72 s.h. must be graduate level coursework; up to 30 s.h. of graduate transfer credits allowed upon approval. More information is included in the General Catalog and on department website. ^{a, b}		
Hours		0
First Year		
Any Semester		
MUS:5300	Introduction to Graduate Study in Music ^c	3
Hours		3
Fall		
MUS:4390	Musicology Colloquium	1
MUS:5200	Review of Undergraduate Theory ^d	3
MUS:6310	Topics in Musicology	3

MUS:6312	Historical Approaches to Music	3
MUS:6315	Foundations of Ethnomusicology	3
Hours		13
Spring		
MUS:4390	Musicology Colloquium	1
MUS:6211	Theoretical Approaches to Music ^e	3
MUS:6305	Teaching Music History and Culture	3
Musicology or methodology course ^f		3
Hours		10
Second Year		
Fall		
MUS:4390	Musicology Colloquium	1
MUS:6314	Topics in Ethnomusicology	3
Music theory course ^{e, f}		3
Musicology or methodology course ^f		3
Music elective course ^g		3
Hours		13
Spring		
Music theory course ^{e, f}		3
Musicology or methodology course ^f		3
Non-music elective course ^{g, h}		3
Non-music elective course ^{g, h}		3
Hours		12
Third Year		
Fall		
Exam: Doctoral Comprehensive Exam ⁱ		
Elective course ^g		3
Elective course ^g		3
Elective course ^g		2
Hours		8
Spring		
Elective course ^g		3
Elective course ^g		3
Elective course ^g		2
Hours		8
Fourth Year		
Fall		
MUS:7950	PhD Thesis	3
Hours		3
Spring		
MUS:7950	PhD Thesis	3
Exam: Doctoral Final Exam ^j		
Hours		3
Total Hours		73

a Proficiency in the ability to read musicological literature in two languages is required: French, German, or another language, chosen in consultation with the adviser and approved by the musicology faculty. The requirement for one of the two languages must be satisfied by the end of the second year of residency, and the requirement for the second language must be satisfied before taking the comprehensive examination. Refer to the department website for more information.

b Students must complete specific requirements in the University of Iowa Graduate College after program admission. Refer to the Graduate College website and the Manual of Rules and Regulations for more information.

c May take during second year instead.

d Take a music theory elective if exempted from MUS:5200 based on results from advisory examination in music theory.

e Must have either passed the advisor examination in music theory or completed MUS:5200 before taking additional music theory elective courses.

f See the department website for list of approved courses.

g Work with faculty advisor to determine appropriate graduate level coursework.

h Take two graduate courses (6 s.h.) outside of the School of Music related to specialization area.

i Typically taken during the final semester of coursework.

j Dissertation defense.

Music Education Concentration

Course	Title	Hours
Academic Career		
Any Semester		
72 s.h. must be graduate level coursework; up to 30 s.h. of graduate transfer credits allowed upon approval. More information is included in the General Catalog and on department website. ^a		
Hours		0
First Year		
Fall		
EDTL:4630	Psychology of Music	2
EDTL:4640	Introduction to Music Research	3
MUS:6690 or EDTL:5610	Special Studies in Music Therapy or Foundations of Music Education Curricula	3
MUS:6690 or EDTL:7600 or EDTL:7040	Special Studies in Music Therapy or Seminar: Current Topics in Music Education or Advanced Topics in Teaching and Learning	3
Hours		11
Spring		
EDTL:7040 or EDTL:7600 or MUS:6690	Advanced Topics in Teaching and Learning or Seminar: Current Topics in Music Education or Special Studies in Music Therapy	3
Statistics and research methods course ^b		3
Statistics and research methods course ^b		3
Elective course ^c		3
Hours		12
Second Year		
Fall		
EDTL:7040 or MUS:6690 or EDTL:7600	Advanced Topics in Teaching and Learning or Special Studies in Music Therapy or Seminar: Current Topics in Music Education	3
Statistics and research methods course ^b		3
Statistics and research methods course ^b		3
Elective course ^c		3
Hours		12

Spring

EDTL:7040 or MUS:6690 or EDTL:7600	Advanced Topics in Teaching and Learning or Special Studies in Music Therapy or Seminar: Current Topics in Music Education	3
Statistics and research methods course ^b		3
Elective course ^c		3
Elective course ^c		3
Hours		12

Third Year**Fall**

Exam: Doctoral Comprehensive Exam ^d		
MUS:7950	PhD Thesis	3
Elective course ^c		3
Elective course ^c		3
Elective course ^c		2
Hours		11

Spring

MUS:7950	PhD Thesis	3
Elective course ^c		3
Elective course ^c		2
Hours		8

Fourth Year**Fall**

MUS:7950	PhD Thesis	3
Hours		3

Spring

MUS:7950	PhD Thesis	3
Exam: Doctoral Final Exam ^e		
Hours		3
Total Hours		72

a Students must complete specific requirements in the University of Iowa Graduate College after program admission. Refer to the Graduate College website and the Manual of Rules and Regulations for more information.

b See the department website for list of approved courses.

c Work with faculty advisor to determine appropriate graduate level coursework.

d Typically taken during the final semester of coursework.

e Thesis defense.

Music Theory Concentration

Course	Title	Hours
Academic Career		
Any Semester		
72 s.h. must be graduate level coursework; up to 30 s.h. of graduate transfer credits allowed upon approval. More information is included in the General Catalog and on department website. ^{a, b, c}		
Hours		0
First Year		
Any Semester		
MUS:5300	Introduction to Graduate Study in Music ^d	3
Hours		3

Fall

MUS:4201 or MUS:4200	Counterpoint After 1600 or Counterpoint Before 1600	3
MUS:4290	Music Theory Colloquium	1
Music history course ^e		3
Outside area course ^{f, g}		3
Hours		10

Spring

MUS:4290	Music Theory Colloquium	1
MUS:6211	Theoretical Approaches to Music	3
Music history course ^e		3
Outside area course ^{f, g}		3
Hours		10

Second Year**Fall**

Qualifying Exam ^h		
MUS:4290	Music Theory Colloquium	1
MUS:5235 or MUS:5236 or MUS:5237	Tonal Analysis or Non-Tonal Analysis or Analysis of Popular Music	3
MUS:6215	Music Theory Pedagogy	3
Music history course ^e		3
Hours		10

Spring

MUS:4290	Music Theory Colloquium	1
MUS:5237 or MUS:5235 or MUS:5236	Analysis of Popular Music or Tonal Analysis or Non-Tonal Analysis	3
Music history course ^e		3
Elective course ^f		3
Hours		10

Third Year**Fall**

Exam: Doctoral Comprehensive Exam ⁱ		
MUS:4290	Music Theory Colloquium	1
Theory area course ^j		3
Theory area course ^j		3
Elective course ^f		3
Hours		10

Spring

MUS:4290	Music Theory Colloquium	1
Theory area course ^j		3
Elective course ^f		3
Elective course ^f		3
Hours		10

Fourth Year**Fall**

MUS:4290	Music Theory Colloquium	1
MUS:7950	PhD Thesis	4
Hours		5

Spring

MUS:4290	Music Theory Colloquium	1
MUS:7950	PhD Thesis	3
Exam: Doctoral Final Exam ^k		
Hours		4
Total Hours		72

- a Students must demonstrate competence in six areas of practical musicianship: sight singing; dictation of a chorale; keyboard sight reading; realization of thoroughbass OR harmonization of a melody from chord symbols; keyboard sight reading of a string quartet score OR improvising on an instrument; reduction at the keyboard of an orchestral score. Musicianship examinations are offered once a semester and may be taken as many times as necessary to pass.
- b Students must demonstrate the ability to read pertinent scholarly literature in French or German and one other language. This requirement must be fulfilled before the student takes the comprehensive examination, preferably during the first year of residency. Refer to the department website for more information.
- c Students must complete specific requirements in the University of Iowa Graduate College after program admission. Refer to the Graduate College website and the Manual of Rules and Regulations for more information.
- d May take during second year instead.
- e See the department website for list of approved courses.
- f Work with faculty advisor to determine appropriate graduate level coursework.
- g Take two graduate courses (6 s.h.) outside of the School of Music.
- h Taken at the end of the second semester or the beginning of the third; must pass a written examination evaluating foundational theoretical knowledge of analytical skills with regard to a reading and score study list determined by the theory faculty. See the General Catalog and department website for more information.
- i Taken at the end of the fourth semester or the beginning of the fifth. See the General Catalog and department website for more information.
- j Choose from MUS:4200, MUS:4201, MUS:4730, MUS:5235, MUS:5236, MUS:5237, MUS:5240.
- k Dissertation defense.