



DIVISION OF MUSIC HISTORY, THEORY, AND ETHNOMUSICOLOGY
www.music.unt.edu/mhte

MUSIC THEORY STUDENT HANDBOOK

2014-2015
(Updated August, 2014)

The Division of Music History, Theory, and Ethnomusicology is a diverse and distinguished community of musician-scholars united by a love of learning, dedicated to the highest standards of academic integrity, and committed to meeting the educational needs of our students and the larger community with exceptional teaching, scholarship, and musical activity.

The Music Theory Handbook is an official College of Music publication that serves as an informational guide for all students in the Music Theory program. Information concerning the College of Music and degree/course descriptions may be found in the University of North Texas catalogs online at <http://www.unt.edu/catalog/>.

Graduate Study in Music Theory

The graduate program in Music Theory at the University of North Texas provides advanced instruction in the diverse sub-disciplines currently found in the profession and thus prepares students for a career as college or university theory professors. The curriculum includes studies in analytical techniques covering the entire history of Western musical practice (specialized methodologies such as Schenkerian studies and set theory approaches as well as historically established methodologies); applied studies in contrapuntal composition; history of music theory with direct study of treatises; music theory pedagogy with on-site involvement in class instruction. Emphasis is placed upon the acquisition of and development of fluency in basic music skills (sight-singing, ear-training, realization of part music at the keyboard). During their period of study, students are mentored and encouraged to present scholarly papers at local, national and international conferences and to submit essays to scholarly journals in the field of Music Theory. The culmination of graduate study in Music Theory at UNT is a master's thesis or doctoral dissertation, in which the student develops an original line of thinking in the context of a contribution to the field of Music Theory.

Graduate Placement Examination for all College of Music Graduate Students

The Graduate Placement Exams (GPE) must be taken during orientation of the first semester in which the student is enrolled as a graduate student. Deficiency (i.e. remedial) courses assigned due to the results of the GPE do not count towards the degree and must be taken in the first semester in which they are available. The results of the GPE will be posted on the College of Music GPE Grade Center, which is listed as an "Organization" on [Blackboard Learn](#), by **12:00pm on Thursday, August 21.**

Note that GPE deficiencies are different from **transcript deficiencies**, which result from an evaluation of your transcript(s) by your area coordinator or division chair. Students assigned transcript deficiencies have been notified of those deficiencies via email by the Graduate Studies Office. Transcript deficiencies will also appear on the [College of Music GPE Grade Center](#). Please contact your area coordinator or division chair if you have any questions or concerns regarding transcript deficiencies. Like GPE deficiency courses, transcript deficiency courses must be taken in the first semester in which they are available.

All incoming graduate students must take the GPE in Music History and Music Theory with the following exceptions.

1. They may choose not to take one or more of these exams and instead take the deficiency courses associated with each waived exam. The petition to waive one or more GPEs is available [here](#). Petitions are due on **Friday, August 29 at 5:00pm.**
2. UNT College of Music continuing students (undergraduate to master's or master's to doctoral) are required to take **only** the Analysis portion of the GPE in Music Theory. No action is required of continuing students to qualify for the exemption.
3. All incoming students may apply for an exemption from the GPE in Music History if they meet the criteria outlined in the Exemption Request Form; however, the deadline to apply for the exemption was **August 1, 2014 at 5:00pm.** Late requests will not be accepted.

Under certain circumstances, incoming masters students (but not doctoral students) who fail the GPE in Music History and/or Theory may retake it. For more information, consult the [Petition to Retake the GPE](#).

For descriptions of the GPE, visit the following pages: [GPE in Music History](#) (<https://music.unt.edu/graduate/graduate-placement-exam-music-history>) and [GPE in Music Theory](#) (<https://music.unt.edu/graduate/graduate-placement-exam-music-theory>). We encourage you to familiarize yourself with the format of and expectations associated with the exams as you prepare to take them.

Planning Your Fall Semester

During orientation and the week before classes (August 18-22) you will plan your course schedule for the fall semester and begin working on your degree plan in consultation with your major professor (if you have already been assigned one) and the Graduate Academic Counselor, Dr. Colleen Conlon. We urge you to meet with one or both of these individuals before finalizing your course schedule for the fall. Before meeting with them, however, please familiarize

yourself with the academic requirements associated with your degree plan in the Graduate Catalog as well as with the Fall 2014 Schedule of Classes. Graduate level courses begin with 5xxx or 6xxx. Remember to register with the 4- or 5-digit class number, not the course prefix and catalog number. International students will not be allowed to register until they arrive on campus and attend both the College of Music and the UNT-International orientations.

Evidence of Satisfactory Progress

Students must maintain a minimum overall B average and must have no grade lower than B in courses counting toward the degree. Students with a grade point average lower than 3.0 will be placed on probation for one term/semester. Students not fulfilling the conditions of probation will be dismissed from the program by majority vote of the faculty.

Lecture Series Attendance Requirement

Each graduate student with a declared major in musicology or music theory is expected to attend all lectures presented in the Division of Music History, Theory and Ethnomusicology Lecture Series during each long term/semester of full-time enrollment (9 hours). Lectures generally are held twice a month on Wednesdays from 4:00-5:00p.m. in room MU321.

Master of Arts with Concentration in Music Theory Degree Requirements

The Master of Music (36 credits) with a major in theory offers two options for completion : (1) the traditional thesis or (2) the two-paper option (see below).

The following courses are required for a 32-hour program of study.

MUMH 5010, Introduction to Research in Music, 3 hours

MUTH 5080, Pedagogy of Theory, 3 hours

MUTH 5090, Problems in Pedagogy of Theory, 3 hours

MUTH 5355, Analytical Techniques I, 3 hours

MUTH 5360, Analytical Techniques II, 3 hours

MUTH 5370, Analytical Techniques III, 3 hours

MUTH 5400, Invertible Counterpoint and Fugue, or MUTH 5470, Advanced Schenkerian Analysis, 3 hours

Elective in music history or literature, 3 hours

MUGC 5950, Master's Thesis, 6 hours

Piano, 2 hours

Master's Thesis

Graduate students in music theory should consult the Master's Thesis Guidelines link at the division web site (www.music.unt.edu/mhte) for formatting, content, and stylistic suggestions for the master's thesis proposal. Thesis proposals must be submitted and, if necessary, revised and re-submitted to the Graduate Academic Degree Committee in a timely manner. Before the degree is granted, the candidate must pass a final oral examination (thesis defense) covering the thesis and, if applicable, the field of concentration. The examination may be taken no more than three times.

As an alternative option to the thesis requirement in Music Theory, graduate students may write two research essays. One of these essays must be a revised and extended research paper generated in a 5000 or 6000 level class in Music Theory at the College of Music. The professor of that class must serve as either the major or minor professor. The other paper may be from a graduate class or may be an independent project. The masters advisory committee, comprised of three professors, grades both essays and once both are passed, administers an oral exam. The "Masters 2-Paper Option" is administered by the Music Theory area. A copy of the "Masters 2-Paper Option" progress sheet should be completed with copies given to the Graduate Studies Administrative Assistant for the student's file and to the Chair of the division. Student petitions to take this option will be reviewed by the Theory area on a case by case basis.

Additional Requirements

Before applying for graduation in this degree, the student must pass an examination testing reading knowledge of one foreign language. The foreign language proficiency in German or French, may be satisfied by passing the UNT Reading Proficiency Examination or by two years (4 semesters) of foreign language coursework with at least a B average for all four terms/semesters.

Doctor of Philosophy with Concentration in Music Theory Degree Requirements

The Doctor of Philosophy degree with a concentration in music theory requires a minimum of 90 semester hours beyond the master's degree. A maximum of thirty hours may be transferred from other institutions at the discretion of GADCom of the College of Music. Under special circumstances, students may be admitted to the program after completing a bachelor's in Music Theory. A master's degree from an accredited institution usually is accepted for the first 30 hours. The minimum residence requirement consists of two consecutive long terms/semesters (fall and the following spring, or spring and the following fall) with a minimum load of 9 hours in each term or three consecutive long semesters with a minimum of six graduate hours in each term.

It should be understood that the Doctor of Philosophy degree cannot be earned by routine work alone, regardless of accuracy or amount. The degree will be conferred, rather, on the basis of mastery of the field of music as a whole and the proven ability to plan and carry out an original investigation (in music theory) with distinction. This curriculum provides opportunities for students to engage in study that will prepare them for professional careers in theoretical research and in teaching. Students are required to engage in considerable research activity in the seminar environment, as well as to develop the pedagogical skills necessary to communicate results of that research. Admission to the degree program occurs in three steps: (1) acceptance into the doctoral program in music theory; (2) permission to enroll in course work; and (3) admission to doctoral candidacy.

Acceptance into the Doctoral Program

Application for acceptance into the doctoral program is made by a letter submitted to the coordinator of music theory. The following supplementary materials should accompany this letter:

- 1) an academic resume;
- 2) three letters of recommendation by persons who know the applicant personally, professionally and academically; and
- 3) a portfolio that provides evidence of professional activity. The latter includes at least two substantial term papers or one term paper and a compositional assignment from a counterpoint or advanced harmony class.

Upon the completion of twelve hours of doctoral work, the student will select a major professor under whose counsel a degree plan is devised and submitted to the Graduate Studies Office.

Permission to Enroll in Course Work

To obtain permission to enroll in course work, the student must:

- 1) apply for admission to UNT through the graduate school (an evaluation of the student's transcript will determine deficiencies in course work);
- 2) submit an acceptable score on the general test (verbal and quantitative) of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE);
- 3) attend all orientation sessions scheduled by the director of graduate studies in music;
- 4) take the Graduate Placement Examination (GPE) given by the College of Music; and complete the appropriate deficiency courses the first term/semester they are offered.

Last 60 Hours of Study

MUTH 6660-6670, History of Music Theory, 6 hours

MUTH 6680, Proseminar in Music Theory, 12 hours, four 3 hour seminars

MUTH 6700-6710, Analytical Systems I and II, 6 hours

3 hours selected from MUCP 6200, and MUMH 6000, 6020, 6030, 6740, 6750, 6760 and 6770

Electives, 6 hours

Related field, 12 hours

MUGC 6950, Dissertation, 12 hours

Related/Minor Field Requirements, 12 hours (select one)

Twelve credits may be used to establish a minor or related field. Choose from one of the following areas of study: collaborative piano, conducting, jazz studies, music education, music history, music medicine, musicology or performance. Specific courses are to be determined in consultation with the chair of the related field and consult the Toulouse Graduate Catalog for specific related field course requirements. If degree credit is to be given for applied music, the student must pass the master's-level entrance audition in performance prior to enrollment for these credit hours. The student who does not pass, or take the audition may study applied music, but this credit will not count toward the 60 hours required for the degree.

Minor Field: Choose a minor field of study outside of music in consultation with the major professor. Select appropriate courses in that field in consultation with a minor field advisor.

Language Requirements

Proficiency in two languages, German and a second language, is required. These requirements may be satisfied in one of the following ways. The foreign language may be satisfied by passing the UNT Reading Proficiency Examination or by two years (4 semesters) of foreign language coursework with at least a B average for all four terms/semesters. Those opting to satisfy the language requirement with two years of coursework must have completed a similar course of study at an accredited university no earlier than three years prior to enrollment in the program. The course of study must be completed no later than the term/semester prior to attempting the qualifying examinations.

Evidence of Satisfactory Progress

Students must maintain a minimum overall B average and must have no grade lower than B in courses counting toward the degree. Students not meeting this standard will be placed on probation. Students not fulfilling the conditions of probation may be dismissed from the program.

Qualifying Examinations

The qualifying examination is a general review covering all fields of music study, with particular emphasis on the student's major field. The examination may not be taken until the language are satisfied or before all course deficiencies have been removed. Qualifying examinations are administered in November and March of each year. Students should check the Theory website for the dates of the qualifying examinations. Candidates should be prepared to spend three full days on the written examination.

Description of the Qualifying Exams

The examination consists of three written components (Analysis, History and Methodology). Each component includes 6 hours of examinations subdivided into smaller parts as given below. Each part will be accompanied by specific questions or instructions. All parts of the qualifying examination will be graded by members of the theory faculty. The grade of "pass" or "fail" will be given as a single grade for each of the three components. An added oral examination may be assigned by the graders for borderline grades on any or all components. Each sub-section of the three component examinations may be taken a maximum of three times.

Admission to Doctoral Candidacy

To be accepted into PhD candidacy in music theory, the student must have completed the following:

- 1) all course work, including deficiency courses and a related or minor field of 12 hours.
- 2) the PhD language requirement
- 3) pass all qualifying examinations. These examinations seek to confirm that the student has a broad knowledge in and about the fields of music theory and musicology, and in-depth knowledge in and about selected areas within those fields. Specific policies and procedures related to the qualifying examinations are the responsibility of the Music Theory area.

Dissertation

The culmination of the doctoral work is a dissertation of appropriate scope, quality and originality. The dissertation proposal will be presented to GADCom after successful completion of the qualifying examination. At this time, upon being admitted to candidacy, the student must maintain continuous dissertation enrollment (MUGC 6950) each long term/semester until the dissertation has been completed and accepted by the graduate dean. Registration in at least one summer session is required if the student is using university facilities and/or faculty time during that summer

session. The final copies of the dissertation must be placed in the hands of the major professor at least two weeks before the scheduled oral examination in any given term/semester. The oral examination will be scheduled after the dissertation has been completed and accepted by the major professor, and before the last day for filing dissertations in the office of the graduate dean, as announced in the Academic Calendar. The department chair must be allowed to examine a copy of the completed dissertation before it is delivered to the office of the Dean of the College of Music.

The Dissertation Defense

The candidate will defend the completed dissertation before the doctoral committee and any other interested faculty, students and members of the academic community. The successful defense is indicated by the signatures of all members of the doctoral committee.

Teaching Fellowships

A limited number of Teaching Fellowships are available on a competitive basis. Students should go to <http://music.unt.edu/mhte/theory/TF> for more information, or see Dr. Daniel Arthurs, Coordinator of Music Theory. Students should submit an application per the website's guidelines. Students awarded Teaching Fellowships must be in good standing and make satisfactory progress on their degree plan.

GAMuT: The Graduate Association of Musicologists and Theorists

All students in MHTE are encouraged to attend regularly scheduled meetings and events of GAMuT, the Graduate Association of Musicologists and Theorists (www.unt.edu/mhte). Open to all, undergraduate majors in music history and theory are also invited to attend these events for professional development and networking with ones colleagues. Faculty Advisor: Dr. Hendrik Schulze.

Music Theory Faculty

Daniel J. Arthurs, Assistant Professor; PhD, Indiana University. Jazz, Schenkerian analysis, and history of theory.

Gene Cho, Regents Professor; Ph.D., Northwestern. Music and culture of China and Japan; pedagogy of music theory.

Diego Cubero, Lecturer; PhD, Indiana University. Schenkerian analysis, Romantic aesthetics, and the music of Brahms.

Paul Dworak, Professor; Ph.D., Carnegie Mellon. Developing models of pitch recognition; general models of music cognition.

Joan C. Groom, Associate Professor (retired); Ph.D., Eastman School of Music. 20th-century analysis; principles and methods of theory pedagogy.

Frank Heidlberger, Professor; Ph.D., Würzburg. Western music history; romantic and modern opera; music aesthetics of the 19th century; compositional techniques in the 20th century; opera-dramaturgy;

Samantha Inman, Lecturer; PhD, Eastman School of Music. Sonata Theory, intersections of form and rhythmic theory.

Timothy Jackson, Professor; Ph.D., City University of New York. Music of the 19th and 20th centuries; Schenkerian theory.

Graham H. Phipps, Professor (retired); Ph.D., Cincinnati. History of music theory from 1700 to the present; the Second Viennese School; analysis procedures for music from Gregorian chant to the 20th century.

Justin Lavacek, Lecturer; PhD, Indiana University. Machaut, early music, counterpoint, and musical meaning.

David Bard-Schwarz, Associate Professor; PhD University of Texas at Austin. Music and cultural studies with an emphasis on semiotics and post-Lacanian psychoanalysis.

Stephen Slottow, Associate Professor; Ph.D., City University of New York. American traditional music; the American ultramodernists; atonal theory; Schenkerian analysis.

Thomas Sovik, Professor and Director of Central European Studies and Exchanges; Ph.D., Ohio State University. History of music theory in central Europe during the Medieval and Renaissance; popular music in American culture.

For further information contact:

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