

UNT College of Music – Music Theory Handbook (revised July 2018)

Welcome!

The Division of Music History, Theory, and Ethnomusicology is a diverse and distinguished community of musician-scholars united by a love of music, dedicated to the highest standards of academic integrity, and committed to meeting your educational needs and those of 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. You will find additional information concerning the College of Music, degree requirements, and course descriptions in the University of North Texas catalogs online at <http://www.unt.edu/catalog/>.

Graduate Study in Music Theory

The graduate programs in music theory at the University of North Texas provide advanced instruction in the diverse sub-disciplines currently found in the profession and thus prepare you for a career as college or university theory professor. The curriculum includes: studies in analytical techniques covering the entire history of Western musical practice as well as specialized methodologies such as Schenkerian studies with as strong emphasis on counterpoint, history of music theory, and music theory pedagogy. During your period of study, you 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 2-paper option to be discussed below) or doctoral dissertation.

Graduate Placement Examinations

All College of Music graduate students must take the Graduate Placement Exams (GPE) during orientation of the first semester in which you are enrolled as a graduate student. Review courses assigned due to the results of the GPE do not count towards your 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 noon on the Thursday before the first day of class.

Please note that review courses are different from leveling courses, which result from an evaluation of your transcript(s) by the area coordinator. Students assigned leveling courses will be notified of those deficiencies via email by the Graduate Studies Office. Leveling course assignments will also appear on the College of Music GPE Grade Center. Like review courses, leveling courses must be taken in the first semester in which they are available.

Exceptions to Taking the Graduate Proficiency Exams

- 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.
- Some incoming students are exempt from portions or the entirety of the GPE in Music History. They will be informed of this exemption by the Graduate Studies Office.

Planning Your Fall Semester

During orientation and the week before classes, you will plan your course schedule for the fall semester and begin working on your degree plan in consultation with an assigned faculty mentor and the Graduate Academic Counselor, Dr. Colleen Conlon. We urge you to meet with both of them before finalizing your course schedule for the fall. Before meeting with them, however, please familiarize yourself with this Handbook for academic requirements associated with your degree plan and the Graduate Catalog as well as with the Fall 2017 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 you arrive on campus and attend both the College of Music and the UNT-International orientations.

Satisfactory Progress

You must maintain a minimum overall B average and must have no grade lower than B in courses counting toward the degree. You will be placed on probation for one long semester (i.e. fall or spring) if your grade point average drops below 3.0. If you do not fulfill the conditions of probation, you will be dismissed from the program by majority vote of the theory faculty. Finally, the college-wide Degree Progress and Academic Dismissal Policy (see below) likewise pertains to all graduate students in music theory.

Degree Progress and Academic Dismissal Policy

Students must maintain satisfactory progress towards their degree and are subject to university policies regarding academic probation and suspension. In addition, they will be subject to dismissal from the program if one or more of the following conditions apply:

1. If the student receives one grade of a C or lower in two consecutive semesters.
2. If the student receives two grades of a C or lower in a single semester.
3. If the student receives a grade of NPR for thesis or dissertation hours in two consecutive semesters.

In cases where one or more of these conditions apply, students will typically be removed from their program upon the recommendation of the director of graduate studies in consultation with the division chair and major professor. Students may appeal this decision by contacting the College of Music associate dean for academic affairs.

Professional Expectation Policy

The UNT College of Music expects graduate students in music to be committed to their degree and to follow the UNT Code of Student Conduct (University Policy Manual, section 07.012). Success in a graduate program requires students not only to meet minimum academic standards but also to be active contributors to the artistic and scholarly community of the College of Music. Hence, students must exhibit professional behavior, which includes (but is not limited to): 1) attending classes and meetings (including seminars, masterclasses, and departmentals); 2) meeting area, division, college, and university deadlines; and 3) maintaining respectful interactions with all members of the UNT community. Students are also expected to adhere to professional standards as outlined in division/area handbooks. In cases where there is substantial evidence of unprofessional behavior, students will be removed from their program upon the recommendation of the director of graduate studies in consultation with the division chair and major professor. Students may appeal this decision by contacting the College of Music associate dean for academic affairs.

The Division Lecture Series

We expect each graduate student with a declared major in music theory 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). Refer to our division website and current announcements.

Master of Arts with Concentration in Music Theory (36 credits)

The Common Core: (15 credits)

- MUMH 5010: Introduction to Research in Music (3 credits)
 - Either: MUGC 5950: Master's Thesis (6 credits)
 - Or: MUGC 5930: Two-Paper Option (6 credits)
- 3 credits selected from:
 - MUTH 5355: Analytical Techniques I (3 credits)
 - MUTH 5360: Analytical Techniques II (3 credits)
 - MUTH 5370: Analytical Techniques III (3 credits)
- 3 credits selected from:
 - MUCP 5080: Composition Seminar (3 credits)
 - MUET 5030: Music Cultures of the World (3 credits)
 - MUMH 5711: Seminar in Musicology (3 credits)
 - MUTH 5680: Proseminar in Music Theory (3 credits)

The Concentration in Music Theory (21 credits)

- MUTH 5080: Pedagogy of Theory (3 credits)
- MUTH 5090: Problems in Pedagogy of Theory (3 credits)
- MUTH 5355: Analytical Techniques I (3 credits)
- MUTH 5370: Analytical Techniques III (3 credits)
- MUET 5230: Ethnomusicology Transcription and Analysis (3 credits)
- 3 credits selected from:
 - MUTH 5400: Invertible Counterpoint and Fugue (3 credits)
 - MUTH 5470: Advanced Schenkerian Analysis (3 credits)
- Music History or Literature Elective (3 credits)
- Piano: (2 credits)
- Ensemble: (1 credit)

Master's Thesis

Before submitting their proposal, graduate students in music theory should consult the Master's Thesis Guidelines link at the division web site (www.music.unt.edu/mhte) for information concerning formatting, content, stylistic suggestions, and submission requirements. 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 to the thesis requirement in music theory, graduate students may write two research essays. If you choose the 2-paper option, you must enroll in MUGC 5930 for two semesters. The Master's Two-Paper Option Application Form must be completed and submitted to the Chair for approval to begin the process (<http://mhte.music.unt.edu/music-theory/masters-2-paper-option>). Each essay must have a different advisor, and will be evaluated by a committee of

three faculty members: the advisor of paper #1, who will also serve as the instructor of record and Committee Chair; the advisor of paper #2, and a third faculty member. One essay must be a revised and extended research paper generated in a 5000- or 6000-level music theory class. The other paper may either be from a graduate class or be an independent project. Both papers must be on substantially different topics in the field of music theory. The committee evaluates both essays, determines what revisions or expansions are needed, and determines when they are ready to be defended, at which time the papers are either approved, approved with revisions, or not approved. After the oral defense, the Master's Two-Paper Option Progress Sheet ([link](#)) must be completed with copies given to the Graduate Studies administrative assistant for deposit in the student's file and to the Division Chair for his or her approval.

Foreign Languages

You must pass an examination testing reading knowledge of one foreign language prior to applying for graduation. The choice of language, other than German or French, must be approved by the music theory area.

Doctor of Philosophy with A Concentration in Music Theory

The Doctor of Philosophy degree with a concentration in music theory requires a minimum of 90 semester hours beyond the bachelor's degree. A maximum of 30 hours may be transferred from other institutions at the discretion of the Music Theory Coordinator. 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.

Please keep in mind 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 you to engage in study that will prepare you for professional careers in theoretical research and teaching. You are required to engage in considerable research activity in the seminar environment, as well as to develop the pedagogical, communicative, and technological skills necessary to communicate results of that research.

Upon the completion of twelve hours of doctoral work, you will select a major professor under whose guidance you will fill out a degree plan that will be submitted to the Graduate Studies Office

All doctoral students must have completed the Master's Common Core (15 hours)

The Doctoral Common Core (36 credits)

- MUGC 6950: Doctoral Dissertation (12 credits)
- MUMH 6XXX (3 credits)
- MUET 6XXX (3 credits)
- Related Field or Minor Field (12 credits)
- Elective (3 credits)
 - One course from the following (3 credits)
 - MUCP 5080 (Composition Seminar)
 - MUMH 5711 (Seminar in Musicology)

- MUTH 6680 (Proseminar in Music Theory)
- MUET 6000 (Proseminar in Ethnomusicology)

We assume that you have had a course at the master's level in research; if we determine that you have not, we will require that you take MUMH 5010 Introduction to Research (3 credits) no later than the second semester of your coursework. This course will not count towards your degree.

Doctoral Concentration in Music Theory (24 hours)

- MUTH 6660: History of Music Theory I (3 credits)
- MUTH 6670: History of Music Theory II (3 credits)
- MUTH 6680: Proseminar in Music Theory (3 credits each) (taken at least twice)
- MUTH 6700: Analytical Systems I (3 credits)
- MUTH 6710: Analytical Systems II (3 credits)
- Electives: (6 credits)

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

Related Field: choose a related field of study and relevant coursework outside of music theory but within the College of Music in consultation with your major professor and the Coordinator of Music Theory. If degree credit is to be given for applied music, you must pass the master's-level entrance audition in performance prior to enrollment for these credit hours. If you do not pass this audition you 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 and relevant coursework outside of music in consultation with your major professor and Coordinator of Music Theory.

Language Requirements

You must demonstrate proficiency in two languages other than English. One of these languages must be German. The language requirements must be satisfied before you take your qualifying examinations. Credits earned taking foreign languages do not count towards your degree.

Satisfactory Progress

You must maintain a minimum overall B average and must have no grade lower than B in courses counting toward the degree. If you do not meet this standard, you will be placed on probation. If you do not fulfill the conditions of probation, you may be dismissed from the program upon majority vote of the music theory faculty.

Qualifying Examinations

The qualifying examination is a general review covering all fields of music study. The examination may not be taken until the language requirements are satisfied and all course deficiencies have been removed. Qualifying examinations are administered in the fall and spring. Check the Theory website for the dates of the qualifying examinations. Be prepared to spend three full days on the written examination. 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 doctoral candidacy in music theory, you must have completed the following:

- all course work, including review and levelings courses and a related or minor field of 12 hours
- the doctoral language requirement
- all qualifying examinations with a grade of "pass"

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. Upon admission to candidacy, the student must maintain continuous dissertation enrollment (MUGC 6950) each long term/semester until the dissertation has been completed and accepted by relevant administrators of the College of Music and Toulouse School of Graduate Studies. Registration in at least one summer session is required if you are using university facilities and/or faculty time during that summer session. The final copies of the dissertation must be placed in the hands of your 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 your major professor, and before the last day for filing dissertations in the office of the graduate dean, as announced in the Academic Calendar.

The Dissertation Defense

You will defend your 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 on the Oral Defense Form.

Teaching Fellowships

A limited number of Teaching Fellowships are available on a competitive basis. You may hold a Teaching Fellowship for a maximum of 5 years (2 years for master's level + 3 years of doctoral level work). Students should go to <http://music.unt.edu/mhte/theory/TF> for more information, or see the theory coordinator. Students awarded Teaching Fellowships must be in good standing and make satisfactory progress on your 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 (<http://mhte.music.unt.edu/gamut>). Undergraduate majors in music history and theory are also invited to attend these events for professional development and networking with colleagues.

Music Theory Faculty

- Ellen Bakulina, Ph.D. City University of New York: form and meter in Viennese Classical repertoire, Schenkerian analysis, theories of tonality, Russian music theory, and Russian sacred music
- David Bard-Schwarz, Professor; PhD University of Texas at Austin. Music and cultural studies with an emphasis on semiotics and post-Lacanian psychoanalysis

- Diego Cubero, Assistant Professor Ph.D. Indiana University. Schenkerian analysis, Romantic aesthetics, and the music of Brahms
- 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
- Timothy Jackson, Professor; Ph.D., City University of New York. Music of the 19th and 20th centuries; Schenkerian theory
- Justin Lavacek, Lecturer; Ph.D., Indiana University. medieval music, counterpoint, Schenkerian analysis, theory at the keyboard
- 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; theology and music

For further information contact:

- Frank Heidlberger, Professor, Chair, Division of Music History, Theory, and Ethnomusicology; (940) 369-7542; frank.heidlberg@unt.edu
- David Bard-Schwarz, Professor, Music Theory Coordinator (940) 369-7299; David.Schwarz@unt.edu
- Hendrik Schulze, Associate Professor, Faculty Advisor, GAMuT (940) 369-8057; Hendrik.Schulze@unt.edu
- Colleen Conlon, Graduate Academic Counselor (940) 565-2930; colleen.conlon@unt.edu
- Sebastian Zaberca, Administrative Assistant, MHTE (940) 565-8724; sebastian.zaberca@unt.edu