

Eastern Illinois University
Department of Music
Graduate Handbook
2005

GRADUATE PROGRAMS IN MUSIC

Eastern Illinois University

Introduction

The Master of Arts in Music provides advanced preparation for teaching, performing, and/or further graduate study. A core of music courses required for the degree provides essential background in history, literature, research, and analysis. Other specialized courses, seminars, and individual studies in performance, conducting, composition, theory, history, and literature aid the student in achieving his or her career goals.

Admission Requirements

To be eligible for degree candidacy, applicants must meet all of the requirements for admission to the Graduate School (see “Requirements for Degree-Seeking Students”). Additional requirements include:

- proof of a Bachelor's Degree in Music or proof of a bachelor's degree in another discipline with sufficient musical experience to warrant admission;
- a letter of application and résumé;
- for singers and instrumentalists, an audition; for conductors, a video recording of a recent performance or rehearsal and an audition; for composers, scores and recordings of original compositions; and
- a personal interview.

Audition guidelines and repertory lists are available from the graduate coordinator.

Music Placement Examinations

Once admitted to graduate study, all graduate students are required to take examinations in music history and literature, theory, and aural skills. Examinations are given during the first week of each semester. The examinations are used to identify possible deficiencies in undergraduate work; remedial work is prescribed when necessary.

Course of Study and Study Plan

The course of study will be determined by the student and the Graduate Coordinator during the first semester of graduate study or before the completion of 12 hours of graduate courses. The course of study will include courses from the required core and a selected concentration. Six concentrations are offered: Vocal Performance, Instrumental Performance, Keyboard Performance and Pedagogy, Music Education, Composition, and Conducting. (With the approval of Graduate Committee of the Department of Music it is possible to develop a more specialized course of study that includes courses from various concentrations). The course of study will be recorded on a study plan with copies for the student and the Graduate Coordinator, and filed electronically at the Graduate School.

Appointment of Thesis/Recital Advisor

The Graduate Coordinator will consult with the student and appoint a member of the graduate faculty of the Department of Music as the student's thesis or recital advisor. Where a student has expressed a preference for an advisor, this request will be respected.

The Examination Committee

The student's examination committee will be comprised of four faculty members; at least three of the members must be graduate faculty of the Department of Music. The thesis/recital advisor will serve as chairman. The student will have the right to choose one member; the other two members will be selected by the Graduate Coordinator. The examination committee is responsible for approval of the thesis topic or recital music, approval of the completed thesis or recital and analysis, and certification of the student's comprehensive knowledge of music as determined by oral and written examination.

Thesis and Graduate Recital Requirements

All graduate students in music are required to write a thesis or present a graduate recital. The thesis and graduate recital requirements for the various concentrations are given below:

- Vocal Performance - Graduate Recital
- Instrumental Performance - Graduate Recital
- Music Education - Thesis
- Keyboard Performance and Pedagogy - Thesis or Graduate Recital
- Composition - Thesis
- Conducting - Graduate Recital

Thesis

The thesis may take the form of a written paper or, for composers, a composition and analysis. The student should register for MUS 5950 in the semester in which the thesis will be completed.

The Thesis Advisor is responsible for guiding the student in the preparation of the thesis. The advisor will circulate the final draft of the thesis among the members of the examination committee for correction. The advisor will read and correct the final copy.

The thesis must be presented in finished form and approved by the examination committee one calendar week before the final oral examination is taken.

Guidelines for the preparation of theses are available from the Graduate School Office.

The Graduate Recital and Recital Analysis

The Graduate Recital requirement comprises a public performance and a systematic analysis of the music to be performed. The student should register for MUS 5940 in the semester in which the recital will be presented.

The Graduate Recital is to be scheduled by a prescribed date in the calendar of the Department of

Music. The student, along with the recital advisor or major applied teacher, is responsible for the establishment of the recital date. The recital program is approved by the examination committee. The examination committee will also evaluate the performance.

The recital advisor is responsible for guiding the student in the Recital Analysis. The Recital Analysis must be completed and submitted to the advisor in draft form four weeks before the presentation of the Graduate Recital. The advisor will circulate the final draft of the analysis among the members of the examination committee for correction. The advisor will read and correct the final copy.

The Recital Analysis must be presented in finished form and approved by the examination committee one calendar week before the final oral examination is taken.

Guidelines for the preparation of the Recital Analysis are available from the Graduate Coordinator.

Final Oral and Written Examination

All music students take both a written and oral final examination at the conclusion of graduate study.

The written examination will be administered at least eight weeks prior to graduation (six weeks during the summer term) at a time announced in the calendar of the Department of Music. Each member of the examination committee will contribute two questions to the examination. The examination is limited to a maximum of four hours.

The advisor and other examination committee members will read and evaluate the completed examination. One copy of the written examination questions is to be filed with the Graduate Coordinator, along with the student's completed examination.

The oral examination will be scheduled no earlier than four weeks following the written examination at a time determined by the advisor in consultation with the student and the other members of the examination committee.

The passing of the examinations must be certified at least two weeks before the date of graduation. Guidelines for graduate examinations are available from the Graduate Coordinator.

Graduate Assistantships

Graduate Assistantships are available in band, jazz, accompanying, percussion, music theatre, and other areas. Information can be obtained from the Chair or the Graduate Coordinator of the Department of Music. Applicants are required to complete a Department as well as a Graduate School Assistantship Application form.