

MASTER OF ARTS DEGREE  
COMPOSITION  
Course Checklist

These degree checklists are intended to assist in your course planning but are not intended to serve as an official guide to graduation requirements. To confirm progress toward graduation, you should refer to your degree audit.

Degree Program: 34s.h.

Minimum of 24 graduate credits earned at the University of Iowa

**A. General Music Requirements (14 s.h.)**

- MUS:5300 Introduction to Graduate Study in Music (2 s.h.)

**Music Theory (6 s.h.)**

- MUS:5200 Analytical Techniques (unless exempt through advisory exam) (3 s.h.)

Students exempted from MUS:5200 through the advisory examination in music theory must substitute an additional theory elective from the following:

- MUS:4200 Counterpoint before 1600 (3 s.h.)
- MUS:4201 Counterpoint after 1600 (3 s.h.)
- MUS:5236 Post-Tonal Analysis (3 s.h.)
- MUS:5235 Tonal Analysis (3 s.h.)
- MUS:5240 Special Topics in Theory and Analysis (3 s.h.)

One elective chosen from these:

(N.B. Composition MA Students are strongly encouraged to take MUS:4200 Counterpoint before 1600 or MUS:4201 Counterpoint after 1600 as one of their theory electives.)

- MUS:4200 Counterpoint before 1600 (3 s.h.)
- MUS:4201 Counterpoint after 1600 (3 s.h.)
- MUS:6210 History of Music Theory I (3 s.h.)
- MUS:6211 History of Music Theory II (3 s.h.)
- MUS:5236 Post-Tonal Analysis (3 s.h.)
- MUS:5235 Tonal Analysis (3 s.h.)
- MUS:5240 Special Topics in Theory and Analysis (3 s.h.)
- MUS:6251 Advanced Post-Tonal Theory and Analysis (3 s.h.)
- MUS:6250 Advanced Tonal Theory and Analysis (3 s.h.)

**Music History (6 s.h.)**

- MUS:5301 Advanced History and Literature of Music I (3 s.h.)
- MUS:5302 Advanced History and Literature of Music II (3 s.h.)

Students exempted from MUS:5301 and/or MUS:5302 through the advisory examination in music history must substitute music history courses from the following list for each of the exemptions.

- MUS:6325 Renaissance Music (3 s.h.)
- MUS:6330 17th-Century Music (3 s.h.)
- MUS:6335 18th-Century Music (3 s.h.)
- MUS:6340 19th-Century Music (3 s.h.)

- MUS:6345 Music 1900-1945 (3 s.h.)
- MUS:6350 Music 1945-Present (3 s.h.)
- MUS:6355 American Music (3 s.h.)
- MUS:6314 Topics in Ethnomusicology (3 s.h.)
- MUS:6315 Foundations of Ethnomusicology (3 s.h.)
- MUS:6326 Renaissance Music Notations (3 s.h.)
- MUS:6375 Music Editing (3 s.h.)
- MUS:6310 Seminar in Musicology (3 s.h.)

### B. Composition Area Requirements (15 s.h.)

- MUS:5220 Advanced Composition - 4 semesters @ 2 s.h. each (8 s.h.)
- MUS:3230 Seminar in Composition - 4 semesters, 0-1 s.h. At least one semester should be for 1 s.h. credit, usually when presenting.
- MUS:4250 Composition: Electronic Media I (3 s.h.)
- MUS:6950 MA Thesis (final semester in residence) (1 s.h.)

And one or more of the following:

- MUS:4251 Composition: Electronic Media II (3 s.h.)
- MUS:4220 Orchestration (3 s.h.)
- MUS:3190:0002 LOUi (Laptop Orchestra) (0,1 s.h.)
- MUS:3280 The Spectral Nature of Sound (3 s.h.)
- MUS:3285 Creating New Musical Instruments (3 s.h.)

### C. Electives (5 s.h.), which are not limited to this list:

- MUS:3190:0002 LOUi (Laptop Orchestra) (0,1 s.h.)
- MUS:4201 Counterpoint After 1600\* (3 s.h.)
- MUS:6251 Advanced Post-Tonal Theory and Analysis\* (3 s.h.)
- MUS:3280 The Spectral Nature of Sound (3 s.h.)
- MUS:3285 Creating New Musical Instruments (3 s.h.)

### D. Foreign Language

French, German or Italian proficiency (other languages must be approved by the composition area) or the substitution of relevant computer programming language proficiency. Students can satisfy the proficiency requirement in one of the following ways:

- Completion of the fourth semester of the language at the undergraduate level with at least a grade of B, within the last 10 years.
- Testing out of the fourth semester of the language at the University of Iowa. Placement exams in French, German, and Italian are offered each semester by the UI Examination Service, 300 Jefferson Bldg.
- Written examination administered by the composition faculty. The exam will consist of a short article in the designated language, about which the student will answer a series of questions and of which she or he will translate a short excerpt.
- Two semesters of one or more programming languages with a grade of B or above.
- A research project that employs one or more programming languages (C, Java, Pure Data, MAX, Csound or SuperCollider, etc.) that produces compositionally, musically or pedagogically useful source material. Students wishing to pursue such a project should discuss their ideas with their professor and the Area Head. The project is submitted as a short written document with relevant examples.

E. Area Keyboard Examination

Demonstrate basic keyboard ability in one of two ways:

- Take and pass (with a B or better) MUS:4210 Keyboard Harmony
- Take and pass the final examination for MUS:4210, by arrangement with the organ faculty