DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY 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 consult with your advisor.

☐ 72 post-baccalaureate semester hours completed
☐ Minimum of 39 graduate credits earned at the University of Iowa

A. General Music Requirements (20 s.h.)

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

Music Theory: 9 s.h. (up to 6 s.h. can be counted from the master's degree, upon written approval of the Associate Director for Graduate Studies)

☐ MUS:5200 Review of Undergraduate Theory (Required of all graduate students who do not pass the advisory examination in music theory. It must be taken before completing 9 s.h. from the list of theory courses below. This course does not count toward graduate degree requirements.)

Students exempt from MUS:5200 through the advisory examination in music theory must complete 9 s.h. from the following:

☐ MUS:4200 Counterpoint before 1600 (3 s.h.)
☐ MUS:4201 Counterpoint after 1600 (3 s.h.)
☐ MUS:4730 Jazz Theory (3 s.h.)
☐ MUS:5235 Tonal Analysis (3 s.h.)
☐ MUS:5236 Non-Tonal Analysis (3 s.h.)
☐ MUS:5237 Analysis of Popular Music (3 s.h.)
☐ MUS:5240 Special Topics in Theory and Analysis (3 s.h.) (repeatable)
☐ MUS:6210 History of Ideas in Music (3 s.h.)
☐ MUS:6211 Theoretical Approaches to Music (3 s.h.)
☐ MUS:6215 Theory Pedagogy (3 s.h.)
☐ MUS:6250 Advanced Tonal Theory and Analysis (3 s.h.) (repeatable)
☐ MUS:6251 Advanced Non-Tonal Theory and Analysis (3 s.h.) (repeatable)
☐ MUS:6252 Advanced Theory and Analysis of Popular Music (3 s.h.) (repeatable)

Music History: 9 s.h. (up to 6 s.h. can be counted from the master's degree, upon written approval of the Director for Graduate Studies)

Students: select from the courses listed below. Only one 4000-level course (taken at the University of Iowa or equivalent transferred in from another institution) may count toward the 9 s.h. required.

☐ MUS:4320 Music and Gender (3 s.h.)
☐ MUS:4325 Medieval and Renaissance Music (3 s.h.)
☐ MUS:4330 Baroque Music (3 s.h.)
☐ MUS:4335 18th-Century Music (3 s.h.)
MUS:4340 19th-Century Music (3 s.h.)
MUS:4345 20th-Century Music (3 s.h.)
MUS:4350 Advanced Jazz History (3 s.h.)
MUS:4355 American Music (3 s.h.)
MUS:4360 Jazz Matters (3 s.h.)
MUS:4610 Studies in Film and Music (3 s.h.)
MUS:6305 Teaching Music History and Culture (3 s.h.)
MUS:6310 Topics in Musicology (3 s.h.) (repeatable)
MUS:6312 Historical Approaches to 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.)

B. Composition Area Requirements (34 s.h.)
MUS:5220 Advanced Composition - four semesters required, (2 s.h. each)
MUS:3230 Composition Seminar - four semesters required, (1 s.h. each)
MUS:4250 Composition: Electronic Media I (3 s.h.) or
MUS:5820 Electronic Music Production (3 s.h.)
MUS:4251 Composition: Electronic Media II (3 s.h.) or
MUS:5800 Interactive Music
MUS:4200 Counterpoint Before 1600 (3 s.h.)
MUS:4220 Orchestration (3 s.h.)
MUS:7960 Composition Ph.D. Thesis (1-4 s.h.) (4 s.h. required)

Electives (6 s.h.)
MUS:3190:0002 LOUi (Laptop Orchestra) (1 s.h.) (repeatable)
MUS:3280 Spectral Nature of Sound (3 s.h.)
MUS:3285 Creating New Musical Instruments (3 s.h.)
MUS:4201 Counterpoint After 1600 (3 s.h.)
MUS:6251 Advanced Non-Tonal Theory and Analysis (3 s.h.)

C. One course outside the School of Music (3 s.h.)
Graduate level course (4000 and above) outside of the School of Music.

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

F. Qualification Exam

□ Each student is required to sit for this exam no later than the end of the first year of study (end of the second semester). Its purpose is to test foundational knowledge in three areas: listening, score identification, and theoretical knowledge. The exam has two components: a 4-hour written portion followed by a 1-hour viva voce a week later, where the student meets with the faculty of the composition/theory area to review answers. If the student fails, they can retake the exam no later than the end of the following semester. If they fail a second time, they are no longer considered a candidate for the PhD degree and must leave the program. If the student fails any portion of the exam, they must retake that section by the beginning of the following semester.

In order to prepare for this exam, the student is asked to generate a list of ten compositions that covers the breadth and depth of the western classical repertoire, starting with early medieval forms (Machaut) and running through the mid-twentieth century (mid-1950s, post WW2). The student must seek approval of their list by the faculty of the composition area early in the semester, because the purpose is to become acquainted so well with these works that they should be able to answer any question regarding form and content. Two hours will be given over to analytical questions based on these 10 pieces. The exam also includes a listening portion of 10 compositions, where any work of the standard repertoire would be played (1-minute on/1-minute off) in a “drop-the-needle” format. The student must identify composer, title, and date of composition. Finally, the exam includes a score ID, where 10 works are chosen and the student must identify composer, title, and date of composition based on a single sheet from within the piece.