MUSIC - MASTER OF MUSIC (MMUS)

The major fields for this degree are composition, conducting, music theory, performance and the combined major of performance/pedagogy. Conducting students may concentrate in choral, orchestral or wind symphony/band. Performance and performance/pedagogy majors may concentrate in brass instruments, early keyboard, jazz, piano, percussion, organ, harpsichord, string instruments (including harp and guitar), voice or woodwind instruments.

Major work in the conducting degrees includes advanced conducting, analytical studies, score reading, orchestration, conducting practica and research and writing. In music theory, course work and two thesis papers are required. In pedagogy, courses in the psychology of music learning, the pedagogy and literature of one’s performing area and a written thesis are required. In performance, students complete applied study, recitals and courses that investigate the repertoire of their performance areas. All master’s degree students are required to take a course in bibliographic research and 6 credits outside their major area.

Brass, conducting, percussion, string, voice and woodwind majors are required to participate in a music ensemble. Committee chairs advise students concerning the appropriate choice of ensemble.

Dual Degree Program

Master’s Degree in Two College of Music Programs

Students may apply for a dual master’s degree that combines any two master’s programs in the College of Music. The student must apply separately and be admitted by the faculty in each of the degree programs under their respective admissions procedures and standards. The student must be accepted to both degree programs at the time of the initial application. With the exception of thesis credit hours, courses that fulfill requirements in both degree programs need only be taken once to be counted for both. A minimum of 45 credit hours must be earned. For most students, it is far preferable to pursue the DMA or PhD degree after completing a master’s degree, rather than to pursue a dual master’s degree.

Requirements

Prerequisites

Students should have completed undergraduate preparation equivalent to that expected for the bachelor’s degree at this university. Normally this is a bachelor of music degree in the proposed area of concentration.

Before admission, composition majors should submit representative scores and recordings (CD format), and a list of completed compositions. Theory majors should submit two scholarly writing samples that demonstrate ability in critical analysis, appropriate research techniques and skill in the cogent use of English. For further details, see the Application Process section of the website. Performance majors must submit a repertoire list and arrange for an audition, or submit a non-returnable recording of their performance. Conducting majors must submit a videotape or DVD of their performance.

Program Requirements

The master of music (MM) degree, which the Graduate School considers a Plan II program, requires a minimum of 30–32 credit hours of graduate course work, including thesis projects. Many students find it necessary to exceed this minimum in order to meet the musical and academic standards demanded by the MM qualifying examination. Outlines of specific programs may be obtained online at www.colorado.edu/music/academics/graduate-advising/degrees.

Each student’s program is directed by a three-member advisory committee headed by the major advisor (the student’s major professor). A second member is chosen from the major area, and a third from outside the major area. (The major areas are music education, music theory, composition and performance.) By the second semester of residence, the student should complete a tentative degree plan and obtain the approval of the advisory committee and the associate dean for graduate studies. Students must complete the master’s degree within four years of matriculation into the program.

Examinations

In addition to preliminary examinations, master’s degree students in music must take the master’s qualifying examination. The procedures, guidelines for registration and deadlines for taking these examinations are announced by the Music Graduate Office.

Recital/Thesis Requirements

The recital/thesis requirement for the MM in composition is the composition (during the period of graduate study) of several works of major proportion, at least one of which must receive public performance. For the major in conducting, the requirement is a public practicum and a performance-related or other scholarly document. For the major in music theory, it is two thesis papers. For the major in performance, presentation of two public recitals constitute the requirement. For the major in performance and pedagogy, a full-length recital and a research document in pedagogy are required.