UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO, BOULDER
COLLEGE OF MUSIC

DOCTOR OF MUSICAL ARTS
JAZZ STUDIES

Program Supervisor: Prof. John Gunther

REQUIREMENTS

I. ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS. Prior to enrolling in MUSC 6822, the D.M.A. degree requires 6 credits of graduate-level course work in musicology (not counting Music Bibliography): Jazz History & Literature (MUSC 5642) or equivalent plus three additional credits. Prior to enrolling in MUSC 6801, 6 graduate credits in music theory are required: Contemporary Jazz Theory (MUSC 5091) or equivalent, plus three additional credits.* These preparatory academic courses do not need to be officially transferred, but they must be validated in writing by the Associate Dean for Graduate Studies before the student enrolls in 6000-level courses. Also note that Preliminary Exam requirements in musicology and theory must be completed prior to registration for 5000-level or higher courses in the respective academic disciplines.**

Musicology course work* in preparation for MUSC 6822:  

Jazz History & Literature (MUSC 5642) or equivalent, plus 3 more cr. hrs.  

Advanced Studies in Musicology (MUSC 6822). Prerequisite: Introduction to Music Bibliography and Research (MUSC 5708) or equivalent.* With instructor’s permission, a Ph.D. seminar in musicology (MUSC 7822 or MUSC 7832) may be substituted.  

Music Theory course work* in preparation for MUSC 6801:  

Contemporary Jazz Theory (MUSC 5091) or equivalent, plus 3 more cr. hrs.  

Advanced Topics in Theory (MUSC 6801). Prerequisite: Introduction to Music Bibliography and Research (MUSC 5708) or equivalent.* With instructor’s permission, a Ph.D. seminar in theory (MUSC 7801) may be substituted.  

subtotal: \[6 - 18\]

II. MAJOR AREA

Applied Study (PMUS 68 _ 6) var. 1 or 2 credits 4

Seminar in Jazz Literature (MUSC 7046)** 3

Ensembles--Jazz Combo (EMUS 5437) and/or Jazz Ensemble (EMUS 5427) 4

Jazz Administration and Pedagogy (MUSC 5256) offered fall sem. even numbered years 0-3

or equivalent *

Support courses needed to complete the dissertation projects (determined by advisement)  

subtotal: \[11 - 14\]

*Graduate-level course work from a master’s degree may apply. Upon the recommendation of the area faculty, these courses may be validated in writing by the Associate Dean. In general, these credits do not need to be officially transferred to CU.

**Jazz majors may elect to take a second MUSC 7046 Seminar in place of MUSC 6822 or MUSC 6801.
III. DISSERTATION PROJECTS

The TMUS Dissertation Projects usually are begun after successful completion of the first semester of study at CU. Students must have passed all required Preliminary Examinations or have begun enrolling in remedial coursework before they are permitted to present their first recital. If a recital or project is not completed during the same semester as registration, an IP (“In Progress”) grade is recorded. The IP grade is later replaced with the letter grade assigned by the faculty advisory committee, and the student does not need to register again for the same TMUS project.

Dissertation Project 1 (TMUS 8219) -- Solo/Chamber Recital 3
Dissertation Project 2 (TMUS 8229) -- Solo/Chamber Recital 3
Dissertation Project 3 (TMUS 8239) -- Chamber Music Recital 3
Dissertation Project 5 (TMUS 8259) -- Lecture-Recital 3

Original research resulting in a paper and public lecture. The paper generated for TMUS 8259 will normally be a minimum of 30 pages in length, and should be in its final form before the public lecture is presented.

Repertoire Project (TMUS 8319) 3

Major Project (TMUS 8329) var. 2-6 credits 4

Original research resulting in a major project similar to a thesis in depth, though narrower in scope.

subtotal: 19

Total 36-51

Notes on Dissertation Projects:

Dissertation Project 1 (TMUS 8219), Dissertation Project 2 (TMUS 8229), and Dissertation Project 3 (TMUS 8239) must be performed by a combo of three or more players, with the DMA candidate taking a predominantly solo role in the concert.

The Lecture-Recital (TMUS 8259) must be built around a specific area of original research. Students will prepare a program on a specific topic, and remarks must be presented before and after selections.

The Repertoire Project (TMUS 8319) will consist of 50 pieces from the jazz repertoire, assigned by the primary advisor. The repertoire examination shall take no more than 60 minutes, and will take place in front of a committee comprised of jazz faculty. At the exam, the committee will select from this repertory the pieces to be performed. Pieces to be prepared will be from the following styles: bebop, ballad, swing, contemporary, free, and modal. In addition, some pieces from less familiar styles such as ragtime, stride, and early jazz may be chosen in order to further broaden the student’s repertoire. The student should be prepared to play the melody, recite/write the chord changes, and improvise at a professional level over the chord changes to each piece assigned.

For further details and essential information for all DMA students, please consult the General DMA Degree Guidelines at the College of Music website.

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