

**UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO  
COLLEGE OF MUSIC**

**MASTER OF MUSIC EDUCATION DEGREE:  
PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS\***

**Music Education Courses**

Foundations of Music Education (MUSC 6113) . . . . .	2
Research in Music Teaching (MUSC 5183) . . . . .	2
Psychology of Music Learning (MUSC 6203) . . . . .	2
Electives in Music Education . . . . .	<u>6</u>
Pedagogy of Music Teaching & Learning (MUSC 6113; 2 cr.)**	
	12

**Additional Music Courses**

Introduction to Bibliography and Research (MUSC 5708) . . . . .	2
Cognate Courses . . . . .	6
Electives in Music . . . . .	<u>4</u>
	12

**Open Electives/Specialization . . . . .** 6

\* A bachelor's degree in music education (BME or the equivalent) is a prerequisite. Students who have an undergraduate degree in music (B.A., B.M.) may apply to the Masters of Music Education plus Licensure program.

\*\* Required elective for Summer M.M.E. students.

**MASTER OF MUSIC EDUCATION DEGREE:  
GENERAL DESCRIPTION**

The Master of Music Education (M.M.E.) degree at the University of Colorado is designed to address a variety of interests, needs, and areas of expertise. Students working toward an M.M.E. degree complete 12 hours of study in music education, 12 hours of study in music and 6 hours of open electives. MME students are challenged to develop a greater understanding and mastery of music teaching-learning processes, to improve personal musicianship, to engage in a critical examination of pedagogy, and to become committed leaders within the profession.

**Music Education Courses (12 credit hours)**

**Required courses include:** Foundations of Music Education (MUSC 6113), Research in Music Teaching (MUSC 5183), Psychology of Music Learning (MUSC 6203). Students must complete a minimum of two additional elective credits at the 6000 level (Pedagogy of Music Teaching & Learning (MUSC 6113 is a required elective for Summer M.M.E. students). One-credit intensives, special studies, or an additional music education course (5000-level or above) may be used to fulfill the remaining two credits of the music education elective requirement.

### **Music Courses (12 credit hours)**

One specific course is required and should be completed during the first available semester: Introduction to Bibliography and Research (MUSC 5708). Six semester hours of course work must be taken in a cognate (see detailed information below). Students also must complete four hours of music electives. Music electives are defined as any non-music education classes, applied lessons, or ensembles. All music courses must be taken at the 5000-level or above.

### **Academic Year M.M.E. Cognate Courses**

Cognates include Music Theory, Music Technology, Musicology, Ethnomusicology, Jazz Studies, Performance, Performance and Pedagogy, Piano Pedagogy, Vocal Pedagogy and Conducting. An audition (live or taped) is required for individuals who wish to pursue performance, performance & pedagogy or conducting as their cognate. Students interested in pursuing a cognate in jazz studies or ethnomusicology should meet with the area coordinator at the beginning of their degree program to determine specific courses the student should register for to complete the cognate as well as the cognate area faculty member who will serve on the student's graduate committee. One member of the student's committee will be from the cognate area; it is assumed that at least some part of the student's cognate area of study will be with that professor.

**Cognates:** Listed below are possible courses and/or applied study that count toward each cognate:

Theory: Advanced Orchestration (MUSC 5041 [Fall]), Advanced Tonal Analysis (MUSC 5061 [Fall]), Post-Tonal Theory & Analysis 1 (MUSC 5071 [Spring]), Contemporary Jazz Theory (MUSC 5091 [Spring]), Topics in Music Analysis (MUSC 5151), Pedagogy of Music Theory (MUSC 6051)

Technology: Applications of Music Technology (MUSC 5081 [Spring or Summer]), Advanced Music Technology (MUSC 5121 [Spring or Summer]), independent study in music technology (maximum of 3 hours)

Musicology: Any musicology course at the 5000 level or above

Ethnomusicology: Any ethnomusicology course or courses at the 5000 level or above; maximum of 3 credits of world music ensembles count toward this cognate

Jazz Studies: Students selecting this cognate need to enroll in Jazz Administration and Pedagogy (MUSC 5256 [Fall]). In consultation with the jazz studies area coordinator, students will also enroll in Jazz History and Analysis (MUSC 5642 [Spring]) or Contemporary Jazz Theory (MUSC 5091 [Spring])

Performance: applied study at the graduate level

Performance and Pedagogy: a combination of at least 1 pedagogy course and at least 2 credits of applied study

Piano Pedagogy: Piano Pedagogy-Group Techniques (MUSC 5305-Fall, odd years), Piano Pedagogy-Intermediate Literature (MUSC 5315, Spring even years), Research: Piano Pedagogy (MUSC 5345-Spring, odd years), Studies in Piano Teaching (MUSC 5215)

Vocal Pedagogy: Vocal Pedagogy (MUSC 5444 [every Fall]), Graduate Seminar in Vocal Pedagogy (Spring- 5484 [every Spring]), Graduate Studies in Alexander Technique (MUSC 5608 [Fall]), Graduate Voice Class (TMUS 5574)

### Conducting

Vocal: Choral Symposium (MUSC 5156) and/or private conducting lessons

Instrumental: In consultation with Prof. McKinney (band) or Prof. Lewis (orchestra), students enroll in Intermediate Conducting (PMUS 5536), Advanced Conducting (MUSC 5136, 5186 or TMUS 5554), CBDNA Conducting Symposium (Summers), and/or Private Conducting (PMUS5536)

### **Summer M.M.E. Cognate Courses**

Cognates include Music Technology, Musicology, and Conducting (additional cognate areas are available during the academic year as scheduling permits). Students also must complete four hours of music electives. Music electives are defined as any non-music education classes, applied lessons, or ensembles. All music courses must be taken at the 5000-level or above.

Technology: Applications of Music Technology (MUSC 5081 [Spring or Summer]), Advanced Music Technology (MUSC 5121 [Spring or Summer]), independent study in music technology (maximum of 3 hours)

Musicology: Any musicology/ethnomusicology course at the 5000 level or above

### Conducting (Choral and Instrumental)

In consultation with Dr. Heil (choral), Dr. Roeder (band) or Prof. Lewis (orchestra), students enroll in Conducting courses and lessons offered on a rotating basis. Students can also request additional coursework related to literature or techniques during the Fall/Spring semesters through the Application of Music Pedagogy course.

### **Open Electives (6 credit hours)**

Based on the student's abilities and interests, and in consultation with his/her advisor, a variety of open electives may be identified. Students may choose among electives in the traditional fields of general, choral, and instrumental music education, in other music areas (including ensemble, private study) or in areas outside of the College of Music. Students also may complete several related electives, special studies, and/or a thesis to create an additional area of specialization.

### **Requirements**

The Master of Music Education degree requires a minimum of thirty credit hours. Normally, all 30 credit hours are at the 5000-level or above. M.M.E. students may elect to apply up to six credits of 4000-level coursework in Music Education, Music Theory, and Musicology toward the open electives portion of their degree plans if those courses do not exist at the 5000-level and the courses are not taken to remediate a deficiency revealed by a preliminary exam. Applied study on secondary instruments or voice also may be taken at the 4000-level as part of the open electives portion of the degree plan. Open elective courses taken outside of the College of Music must be at the 4000-level or above.

A maximum of six graduate transfer credits completed within the past five years from an accredited music institution and approved by the music education faculty may be applied to the M.M.E. degree. Only two graduate transfer credits can be applied to a category other than open electives.

A maximum of six credits of one-hour intensives and six credits of special studies may be applied to the M.M.E. degree if approved by the music education faculty.

### **Academic Year M.M.E. Load**

The minimum full-time course load is five graduate credit hours or eight credits of combined graduate and undergraduate coursework per semester. To complete the residency requirement of the degree, students must register as a full-time student for at least two semesters, three summer semesters, or a combination of one semester and two summer semesters. M.M.E. plus licensure students must complete licensure requirements prior to or concurrent with graduate degree requirements. M.M.E. plus licensure students need to be registered for at least one course each semester in order to maintain graduate student status. Full-time students typically complete the MME degree in two years, or the MME plus licensure degree in 2.5 to 3 years. All degree work must be completed within four years of the first semester during which a student registers for credit. A one year extension may be approved by the music education faculty, Associate Dean, and Graduate School.

### **Summer M.M.E. Load**

The minimum full-time course load is six to eight graduate credit hours per summer semester. To complete the residency requirement of the degree, students must register as a full-time student for at least two summer semesters, or a combination of one fall/spring semester and two summer semesters. Full-time students typically complete the Summer MME degree in three years. All degree work must be completed within four years of the first semester during which a student registers for credit. A one-year extension may be approved by the music education faculty, Associate Dean, and Graduate School.

# MASTER OF MUSIC EDUCATION DEGREE: PROCEDURES, EXAMINATIONS, AND APPLICATIONS

## **I. Preliminary Examinations and Advisory Interview**

Preliminary exams are diagnostic and are used to advise students in pursuit of their degree program requirements. Because the exams measure a student's preparedness for graduate-level work, students accepted into the MME program in Music Education must address background course expectations either through completing preliminary exams in Music Theory, Aural Skills and Musicology/Ethnomusicology or through equivalent course work completed during their undergraduate degree program or as part of prior graduate study.

The music education department chair, in consultation with the Associate Dean for Graduate Studies, will review incoming MME student transcripts for preliminary exam course equivalency and report this evaluation to the student during orientation. Course equivalency will be considered separately for music theory, aural skills and musicology. Preliminary exam requirements may be considered fulfilled for students who have earned a grade average of "B-" or higher in prior equivalent course work. During the first two summers of study, masters degree students should address any conditions imposed at the time of admission and/or remove any deficiencies revealed by the preliminary examinations (based on a transcript review).

Students seeking a cognate in Ethnomusicology must demonstrate preparedness by passing the Ethnomusicology section of the preliminary exam, or by passing a 5000-level Ethnomusicology course at CU-Boulder with a grade of B- or higher. If the latter option is used, course credits also may fulfill graduate degree requirements. Students seeking a cognate in Music Theory (music technology excluded) or Historical Musicology must demonstrate preparedness by passing the appropriate section of the preliminary exam or providing evidence of background course equivalency. Students unable to meet the prelim exam requirements for these cognate areas must choose another cognate area for graduate study.

In lieu of a preliminary exam in Music Education, MME students must complete an advisory interview. An orientation meeting for all new graduate students, scheduled the week prior to Fall semester classes, serves as the advisory interview. If the student is unable to attend the meeting, s/he must meet with their assigned program advisor during the first week of classes. New students are advised to schedule an appointment with the department chair at least two weeks before their first semester of study to determine their first semester class schedule and program advisor assignment.

## **IIa. Graduate Committee and Plan of Study; Qualifying Exam (Academic Year Students)**

### **Graduate Committee and Plan of Study**

During the second semester of study, or no later than the semester during which the 10th graduate credit is earned, students must identify the three members of their graduate committee and provide the music education faculty with a Plan of Study. Students are required to submit their Plan of Study/Advising Checklist and semester-by-semester calendar electronically to the department chair by March 15. Advising checklists and sample calendars can be accessed at [www.colorado.edu/music/departments/musiceducation](http://www.colorado.edu/music/departments/musiceducation). The music education faculty, in cooperation with the Associate Dean for Graduate Studies, is responsible for approving the Plan of Study. Committee members must include a primary advisor (within music education), a second faculty member within music education, and the cognate area professor. Committee members are responsible for

submitting questions for and evaluating the Written Qualifying Exam, and conducting the Oral Comprehensive Final Exam.

### **Qualifying Examination**

This written exam is typically taken during the semester/term prior to the semester of graduation. The exam is scheduled to be given on a Saturday at approximately the middle of each semester or term; exact dates are available on the graduate office website. Students must arrange to take this examination by notifying the Associate Dean for Graduate Studies, who then requests exam questions from the graduate committee members. Students write responses to four questions (2 questions from the chair, 1 each from the other committee members). Questions in the major area take approximately 3-4 hours to complete; cognate area questions typically are answered in one hour. Students should consult with their committee members about preparation for the qualifying exam. Depending on the quality of responses, students might be asked to rewrite a portion of the exam prior to scheduling the final oral examination.

## **IIb. Graduate Committee and Plan of Study; Qualifying Exam (Summer M.M.E. Students)**

### **Graduate Committee and Plan of Study**

In the Spring semester prior to second summer of study, students must provide the music education faculty with a Plan of Study. Committee members will be assigned during the fall semester prior to the written exam semester. Examples of checklists and sample calendars will be provided to students by the chair. The music education faculty, in cooperation with the Associate Dean for Graduate Studies, is responsible for approving the Plan of Study. Committee members must include a primary advisor (within music education), a second faculty member within music education, and the cognate area professor. Committee members are responsible for submitting questions for and evaluating the Written Qualifying Exam, and conducting the Oral Comprehensive Final Exam.

### **Qualifying Examination**

This written exam is typically taken during the semester/term prior to the semester of graduation. The exam is scheduled to be given on a Saturday at approximately the middle of each semester or term; exact dates are available on the graduate office website. Students must arrange to take this examination by notifying the Associate Dean for Graduate Studies, who then requests exam questions from the graduate committee members. Students write responses to four questions (2 questions from the chair, 1 each from the other committee members). Questions in the major area take approximately 3-4 hours to complete; cognate area questions typically are answered in one hour. Students should consult with their committee members about preparation for the qualifying exam. Depending on the quality of responses, students might be asked to rewrite a portion of the exam prior to scheduling the final oral examination.

## **III. Application for Admission to Candidacy**

Before taking the comprehensive-final oral examination, masters degree students should file an application for admission to candidacy in the graduate office. The application form lists all courses and other requirements for the degree. The student's committee chair and the Associate Dean must approve the application before it is sent to the Graduate School for final approval. The application for admission to candidacy must be filed with the Graduate School ten weeks prior to the comprehensive-final exam.

## **IV. Comprehensive Final Oral Examination(Academic Year Students)**

The oral exam is required by the student's committee during the final semester of enrollment. It is typically 60-90 minutes in length. Normally, one-third of the oral examination is spent on clarifying and elaborating on exam responses. A secondary goal of the oral exam is to provide Masters candidates the opportunity to make connections among courses, reflect on their educational experiences and make applications to future music

teaching. In consultation with the student's committee chair, 2 questions from the list below will be chosen for discussion during the oral examination:

- 1) Provide specific examples of how the topics covered in two or more courses taken as part of the degree are related or complementary
- 2) Using your music education application essay or an assignment completed for a course (and approved by your advisor) as a point of comparison, provide specific evidence of how your thinking has developed as a result of graduate study
- 3) Discuss and/or demonstrate (through reference to a DVD of your teaching) three ways you plan to apply concepts and ideas learned during graduate study to future teaching

This exam should be scheduled according to deadlines posted on the graduate office website. Students are responsible to arrange the time and place of the exam with their committee members, and are required to notify the Associate Dean three weeks in advance of the intended examination date. The Associate Dean's office then notifies the Graduate School to prepare the form on which the committee certifies the student for graduation. Students who write a thesis must schedule a separate oral defense.

#### **IVb. Comprehensive Final Oral Examination (Summer M.M.E. Students)**

In lieu of an oral exam, Summer M.M.E. students take the Capstone Portfolio course (spring semester prior to graduation). The portfolio project will be presented during a "Pedagogy Poster Session" during the final summer session of study. As a part of that portfolio, you will choose to present a project related to these areas:

- 1) Provide specific examples of how the topics covered in two or more courses taken as part of the degree are related or complementary
- 2) Using your music education application essay or an assignment completed for a course (and approved by your advisor) as a point of comparison, provide specific evidence of how your thinking has developed as a result of graduate study
- 3) Discuss and/or demonstrate (through reference to a DVD of your teaching) three ways you plan to apply concepts and ideas learned during graduate study to future teaching.

The poster session will be scheduled by the Music Education area according to deadlines posted on the graduate office website, and in coordination with the summer course schedule. The Chair of Music Education will confirm committee member representation, and will notify the Associate Dean three weeks in advance of the poster session event. The Associate Dean's office then notifies the Graduate School to prepare the form on which the committee certifies the student for graduation.

**Approved Fall 2015**