

MASTER OF MUSIC

Major Field: THEORY

DEGREE PLAN

CATEGORY I - MUSIC THEORY	<i>credit hours</i>
Music Theory Electives* (MUSC 5 __ 1)	9
Trends in Music Theory (MUSC 5151) <i>offered spring sem. even-numbered years</i>	3
Thesis (TMUS 6956) Research Paper ¹	2
Thesis (TMUS 6957) Project ²	<u>2</u>
	<i>subtotal: 16</i>
 CATEGORY II - OTHER REQUIREMENTS IN MUSIC	
Musicology or Ethnomusicology Elective (MUSC 5 __ 2)	3
Pedagogy of Theory (MUSC 6051) <i>offered fall sem. even-numbered years</i>	3
Music Electives Outside of the Major Area**	<u>5-6</u>
	<i>subtotal: 11-12</i>
 CATEGORY III – FREE ELECTIVES (OUTSIDE OF THE MAJOR AREA) **	<i>subtotal: 3</i>
	Total (min.) 30

1) The Research Paper will be 5000-6500 words (word count does not include musical examples, figures, or bibliography). The paper may build upon course papers, but should go substantially beyond them.

2) For the Thesis Project (TMUS 6957), the student may elect to do the following:

- Combined with TMUS 6596, write a single, extended thesis of 10,000–12,000 words (not including musical examples, figures, and bibliography)
- Write a second Research Paper of 5000-6500 words (word count does not include musical examples, figures, or bibliography).
- Create a teaching portfolio including, for example, a teaching statement, a syllabus, sample assignments, and a teaching video
- Provide a polished video of a research topic or public music theory lecture on a topic different from the TMUS 6956 research paper (approximately 20 minutes)
- Propose other options, such as podcast, with the consent of the faculty advisory committee

A formal proposal for the thesis (research paper and project) must be approved by the student's advisory committee.

The master's thesis (research paper and project) culminates in an oral defense before the three members of the student's advisory committee near the end of the student's final semester. (This is in addition to the M.M. Qualifying Oral Examination, held early in the student's final semester.)

* Students who do not pass preliminary requirements for Tonal Analysis, Post-tonal Analysis, or Keyboard Skills must take MUSC 5061 (Tonal Analysis), MUSC 5071 (Post-Tonal Analysis), or TMUS 5544 (Theory at the Keyboard), respectively. Theory at the Keyboard (offered spring of odd-numbered years) falls in the category **Music Elective outside the major area.

** Electives may include ensemble participation (limited to 3 cr. towards the degree) or private applied instruction. Free electives may be in or outside of the College of Music, but must be outside of the major area and germane to the program of study. A tool subject (e.g., foreign language, programming language, statistics, mathematics, theory at the keyboard) is strongly recommended.

Please see separate M.M. Degree Guidelines document for essential additional information.

December 2025