

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO AT BOULDER  
COLLEGE OF MUSIC  
DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Major Field: Music Education

The Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree, with music education as a field of specialization, is offered through the Graduate School for students who demonstrate superior commitment to the music education profession and scholarly promise. This degree program requires that individuals think abstractly, generalize knowledge, apply research results to areas of specialization, and communicate effectively in both oral and written forms. Course work emphasizes the study of historical, philosophical, psychological and sociological foundations of music education, the theoretical and pedagogical principles of music teaching and learning, curriculum development, and research techniques. Graduates typically will pursue careers in music education at the college level or supervisory positions in elementary and secondary schools.

Admission Criteria

Educational preparation equivalent to the Bachelor of Music Education and Master of Music Education degrees awarded by the University of Colorado at Boulder, and at least three years of successful K-12 public or private school teaching experience are prerequisites for admission to the PhD program in music education. In addition to the music education essay required for all music education graduate program degree applicants, PhD applicants must also submit an example of their scholarly writing (major research paper, thesis or a published article), and a video of their public school teaching (recorded within the past three years) as part of the application file. Prospective students must also schedule an interview with faculty (on-campus is preferred). Although the primary emphasis in the PhD program is on scholarship and research, applicants also are expected to have attained an acceptable level of musicianship.

GRE scores (verbal, quantitative, and analytical portions of the general test) are required for admission. PhD students applying for graduate awards must provide the College of Music Graduate Office with GRE scores prior to January 1st. GRE scores will be carefully considered by the Music Education Faculty, in conjunction with other admission criteria, when determining graduate awards and/or appropriate provisions for admission to the PhD program. While there are no minimum score requirements, students accepted into the PhD program typically receive scores at the 30<sup>th</sup> percentile or above on each of the tests.

Applications will not be considered by the Admissions Committee until all parts of the application have been received. December 1 is the application deadline; late applications may be considered after that date based on availability.

Admission to the PhD program in music education is competitive and selective. Meeting minimal admission requirements does not guarantee admission. More details about admissions requirements can be found on the College of Music website (<http://music.colorado.edu/departments/music-education/prospective-grad-students/doctor-of-philosophy-in-music-education/>).

### Preliminary Examinations

Students accepted into the PhD program in Music Education must complete preliminary exams in Music Theory, Aural Skills and Musicology or have completed equivalent coursework during their Masters degree program. The music education department chair will review incoming PhD student transcripts for preliminary exam course equivalency. Course equivalency will be considered separately for music theory, aural skills, musicology and ethnomusicology. Students need to have earned a B- or higher in a course in order for prior coursework to fulfill the preliminary exam requirement.

Students who fail sections of the preliminary exams must retake those sections the following semester or complete appropriate remedial course work. All required preliminary exams must be passed before students will be considered eligible to take the doctoral comprehensive exam.

### Course Requirements

A minimum of 45 semester hours of course work numbered 5000-level or above (including 15 hours of background courses in music education, which may be transferred from the master's degree upon approval of the Music Education faculty) and a minimum of 30 hours of doctoral dissertation credit are required for the PhD degree. A maximum of 15 graduate credit hours in any one semester (or 9 credit hours during a summer semester) may be applied toward degree requirements. Grades below B- will not be credited toward the PhD program.

Background Courses 15 hours	Music Education 15 hours	Intermed. Statistics 3 hours	Non-Music Electives 6 hours	Music Electives 6 hours
--------------------------------	-----------------------------	---------------------------------	--------------------------------	----------------------------

#### Background Courses (15 hours)

Required background courses include Foundations of Music Education, Psychology of Music Learning, Research in Music Teaching, and Introduction to Bibliography and Research. The remaining hours of required credit may be fulfilled by completing (or transferring) additional 5000- or 6000-level courses in music education.

#### Music Education Courses (15 hours)

The required course work in music education includes five 3-credit hour courses: Contemporary Issues in College Teaching, Historical Research Techniques, Quantitative Research Techniques, Qualitative Research Techniques, and Doctoral Seminar in Music Education.

#### Intermediate Statistics (3 hours)

Students are required to take Intermediate Statistical Methods (EDUC 7316). This course is offered Spring semester of odd-numbered years in the School of Education. The course is also offered every Fall semester at the University of Colorado-Denver. Students taking the course at University of Colorado-Denver must complete a concurrent registration form (available on the registrar website), check with the course professor that s/he has been added to their course roster, and gain access to CU-Denver's 'ecollege'. (Note: Students should also consult with the College of Music graduate office to be sure the student is being credited for the course in order to receive their GA/GPTI stipend.)

#### Non-Music Electives (6 hours)

Students can choose to complete a cognate if they register for two 3-hour courses in the same discipline or sub-discipline. Students may also choose to register for two 3-hour courses from different disciplines.

### Music Electives (6 hours)

Elective course work in music (music theory, musicology, applied music and pedagogy, conducting, or arts administration) shall be determined by each student in consultation with the advisor and approved by the music education faculty. Students electing course work in applied music or conducting must first pass an audition administered by the appropriate faculty. Only one course in arts administration can be used to fulfill the music electives requirement.

### Residency Requirement

The minimum residence requirement for PhD students is four semesters of full-time study (minimum enrollment of 5 graduate hours each semester) beyond the master's degree, including at least two consecutive semesters in one academic year. One-half semester of residence credit may be earned for each summer session (minimum enrollment of 3 graduate hours). Individuals may not be employed in public or private schools for more than three-fourths time during the consecutive semesters of residency. PhD students who receive a graduate part-time instructorship during the consecutive semesters of residency may not be employed in public or private schools for more than half-time. Individuals engaged in other forms of employment will earn residency credit on a pro-rated basis per Graduate School guidelines.

### Plan of Study

During the second semester of study, or no later than the semester during which the 18th graduate credit is earned, students must 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 and program advisor by March 15. The PhD advising checklist and a sample calendar can be accessed at [www.colorado.edu/music/departments/musiceducation](http://www.colorado.edu/music/departments/musiceducation) (follow 'current students' link). Students should list the course number, course name, credits, and semester taken for each course listed on the advising checklist (for example, MUSC 7143-Qualitative Research in Music Education (3), Fall 2015). Please see the 'Comprehensive Examinations' section of this document for information on comprehensive examinations committee members who need to be listed on the advising checklist submitted by the student. The music education faculty, in cooperation with the Associate Dean for Graduate Studies, is responsible for approving the Plan of Study.

### Colloquium

The music education faculty organize a colloquium series that runs throughout the fall and spring semesters. The faculty expects that all in-residence graduate students in the Ph.D. program will attend all colloquia, regardless of the topic or academic rank of the speaker. Further, all graduate students in music education are expected to present original research at a colloquium at some point during their residency.

### Comprehensive Examinations

Once all course work has been completed (or the final semester when course work is in progress), students may apply for Admission to Candidacy and make arrangements to take the comprehensive examinations. Doctoral comprehensive examinations consist of two components--one written and the other oral. The two components must be accomplished in succession (separated by three to six weeks), and the date of signoff (including the satisfactory completion of any conditions imposed by the examining committee) on the oral component is considered by the Graduate School as the official date of completion and admission to candidacy.

PhD students must take their comprehensive exams after completion of course work, but prior to commencing work on the dissertation. Students may choose to take the written portion of the exam either during the summer

following the completion of coursework or during the fall semester of their third year of the program. Each student taking the comprehensive examinations shall write for four days (up to 6 hours per day), including three days for Music Education, one half-day for music elective content and one half-day for non-music elective content. PhD comprehensive examinations in music education are closed book (with possible reference materials being provided by the faculty member).

Comprehensive examination committee members include three music education faculty members (with the program advisor serving as chair); one College of Music faculty member (outside of music education) who has instructed the PhD student in at least one course; and one University of Colorado faculty member (outside of the College of Music) who has instructed the PhD student in at least one course. Students may petition the graduate music education faculty for an exception to the normal committee membership.

The comprehensive oral examination may last as long as three hours. After committee members have had at least three weeks to read and evaluate the written component of the comprehensive exam, it is appropriate for students to consult directly with them over preparation for the oral component. At the conclusion of the oral examination, the student's committee will discuss in private the evaluation of both the written and oral examination, and each committee member will indicate a "pass" or "fail" on the evaluation form provided. Students must receive a "pass" from a majority of the committee. Students who fail the comprehensive examination may attempt it once more after a period of time determined by the committee. On occasion, the student's advisory committee will grant a "conditional pass," on the comprehensive exam. The student's major professor, along with the advisory committee, will determine what conditions must be met before the exam will be considered "pass" or part or what parts of the written and oral examination are to be repeated, in the case of a "failure." If any part of the exam is to be retaken, students should not necessarily expect identical questions. In all cases, the student will be notified in writing by the comprehensive examination committee chair as to the requirements prescribed by the advisory committee.

### Dissertation Requirement

A dissertation, based on an original investigation and demonstrating mature scholarship, must be completed by each candidate. Following successful completion of the comprehensive examination, the student will develop two preliminary dissertation proposals. The preliminary proposals consist of a literature review, research questions, methodology overview, and proposed timeline. The student will meet with music education graduate faculty to finalize the dissertation topic and dissertation advisor. The student will then develop a full proposal which consists of chapters 1-3 of the dissertation, references and appendices. Following successful defense of the full proposal with the students' dissertation committee, the student will work closely with the dissertation committee chair in planning and carrying out the research, and in writing the dissertation. A final dissertation defense will be conducted by the student's dissertation committee. This defense is open to the public up to the point of committee deliberation. It is expected that the dissertation will constitute a worthwhile contribution to the literature in a student's field of specialization.

Dissertation committee members include three music education faculty members (with the dissertation advisor serving as chair); one College of Music faculty member (outside of music education) who has served as a PhD course instructor; and one University of Colorado faculty member (outside of the College of Music) who has served as a PhD program course instructor. While the comprehensive examinations and dissertation committees usually consist of the same faculty, it is possible to modify dissertation committee membership based on faculty expertise.

A student must complete a total of at least 30 credit hours of dissertation with not more than 10 of these hours in any one semester. Once candidacy has been achieved, students must register for a minimum of 5 and maximum of 10 dissertation credits per semester (3 credits, if inactive). PhD in music education students are allowed to register for a maximum of 10 dissertation credit hours during the last semester of coursework, provided they are in good standing. However, PhD students will typically be registered for less than 10 hours during the last semester of coursework, given that graduate students in the College of Music are allowed to register for a maximum of 15 hours. Students registered for dissertation hours during the last semester of classes are expected to be working on preliminary dissertation proposals. Registration for dissertation hours prior to candidacy is based on the understanding that faculty are not obligated to chair or serve on a dissertation committee during the summer.

Listed below is the typical registration schedule for dissertation credit hours.

- 1) Spring, second year: 5-10 credits of dissertation during the semester when completing coursework or when working on preliminary proposals
- 2) Fall, third year: 10 credits of dissertation when working on dissertation proposal and defending the proposal
- 3) Spring, third year: 5-10 credits of dissertation when collecting and analyzing data
- 4) Fall, fourth year: 5 credits of dissertation when defending the final document\*

\* In rare instances, when chair and committee approval has been granted, a student may be able to defend the dissertation during the summer of the third year. Students may defend the dissertation in the fall of the fourth year while employed as a full-time faculty member at a peer institution or in K-12 schools; most PhD students do not continue to receive assistantship support for a fourth year.

Students may petition to alter this typical dissertation credit registration schedule if the student and dissertation advisor determine a longer dissertation timeline will be necessary given the scope of the project.

Dissertation hours are graded as IP (“in progress”) until the completed dissertation is approved by the faculty committee. Upon completion, the IP grades are replaced by the letter grade (A, B, etc.) assigned by the dissertation committee. Doctoral students are expected to complete all degree requirements within six years from the date they start course work in the program, but petitions approved by the major professor and Associate Dean may be filed in the Graduate School if an extension is needed and justifiable.

#### Further Information

PhD students are urged to consult the document ‘PhD Student Checklist-Final Stages of the Degree Program’. This document contains more specific information on required paperwork to be submitted to the graduate office, preparation for comprehensive exams, and dissertation completion.

Revised November 2018  
M. Berg, Chair