

# MUSIC COMPOSITION - M.A.

College of the Arts  
 School of Music  
[www.kent.edu/music](http://www.kent.edu/music)

## About This Program

Take your music composition skills to the next level. Our master's degree is designed to advance your creative skills and prepare you for doctoral study, with an emphasis on large-scale composition for various ensembles, including orchestra, choir and band. Read more...

## Contact Information

- Graduate Studies Coordinator: **Ben Lorenzo** | [blorenz1@kent.edu](mailto:blorenz1@kent.edu) | 330-672-2172
- Connect with an Admissions Counselor: U.S. Student | International Student

## Program Delivery

- **Delivery:**
  - In person
- **Location:**
  - Kent Campus

## Examples of Possible Careers and Salaries\*

### Art, drama, and music teachers, postsecondary

- 5.6% faster than the average
- 116,300 number of jobs
- \$69,690 potential earnings

### Music directors and composers

- 1.7% slower than the average
- 58,000 number of jobs
- \$52,250 potential earnings

## Accreditation

National Association of Schools of Music

\* Source of occupation titles and labor data comes from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' Occupational Outlook Handbook. Data comprises projected percent change in employment over the next 10 years; nation-wide employment numbers; and the yearly median wage at which half of the workers in the occupation earned more than that amount and half earned less.

For more information about graduate admissions, visit the graduate admission website. For more information on international admissions, visit the international admission website.

## Admission Requirements

- Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university
- Minimum 3.000 undergraduate GPA on a 4.000 point scale
- Official transcripts(s)
- Résumé

- Goal statement(s)
- Portfolio of original compositions
- Three letters of recommendation
- English language proficiency - all international students must provide proof of English language proficiency (unless they meet specific exceptions) by earning one of the following:
  - Minimum 525 TOEFL PBT score (paper-based version)
  - Minimum 71 TOEFL IBT score (Internet-based version)
  - Minimum 74 MELAB score
  - Minimum 6.0 IELTS score
  - Minimum 50 PTE score
  - Minimum 100 Duolingo test score

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## Application Deadlines

- **Fall Semester**
  - Rolling admissions
- **Spring Semester**
  - Rolling admissions
- **Summer Term**
  - Rolling admissions

## Program Requirements

### Major Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
<b>Major Requirements</b>		
MUS 58251	PEDAGOGY OF MUSIC THEORY	2
MUS 61211	COMPOSITION (course is repeatable)	8
MUS 62411	MUSIC BIBLIOGRAPHY AND RESEARCH METHODS	2
	Music Ensemble	2
	Music History Electives, choose from the following:	6
MUS 52131	MUSIC OF THE UNITED STATES	
MUS 52161	HISTORY OF JAZZ	
MUS 52181	POPULAR WORLD MUSIC	
MUS 62171	MUSIC FROM WORLD CULTURES	
MUS 62281	SEMINAR IN MUSIC HISTORY AND LITERATURE	
	Music Theory Electives, choose from the following: <sup>1</sup>	6
MUS 51141	16TH-CENTURY COUNTERPOINT	
MUS 51151	18TH-CENTURY COUNTERPOINT	
MUS 61131	SCHENKERIAN ANALYSIS	
MUS 61173	WORLD MUSIC ANALYSIS	
MUS 61174	ANALYSIS OF WESTERN ART MUSIC	
MUS 61181	POST-TONAL THEORY	
MUS 61191	SEMINAR IN MUSIC SINCE 1900	
<b>Culminating Requirement</b>		
MUS 68199	THESIS I <sup>2</sup>	6
<b>Minimum Total Credit Hours:</b>		<b>32</b>

<sup>1</sup> Selection of music theory course is based on students' result from the theory placement exam. In the case of the exam results placing a student into MUS 51011 and/or MUS 51012, these courses will not

count towards the M.A. degree and must be taken in addition to the music theory requirements.

- <sup>2</sup> Students writing a thesis must pass a final oral examination covering the thesis and the student's major area of study. The final oral examination may be attempted two times.

## Program Learning Outcomes

Graduates of the program will be able to:

1. Compile a body of completed compositions.
2. Demonstrate and apply compositional techniques for creation of new works, including musical style and structure.
3. Analyze music from a wide range of styles and style periods and communicate results in written and oral formats.
4. Recognize, identify and analyze representative literature from different historical periods, countries and composers.
5. Communicate knowledge of composition, theory and other aspects of music as would be done in classroom and private teaching.

## Full Description

The Master of Arts degree in Music Composition is designed to advance the music composition creative skills of advanced students and to prepare them for admission to doctoral study. The program emphasizes mastery of composition of large-scale works for media, including orchestra, choir, band and/or chamber music ensembles.

Based on a solid undergraduate music degree, the M.A. degree further develops abilities in music theory, including analytical, aural, written, keyboard and pedagogical skills. The program further develops breadth and depth in the area of Western music history and literature.