MUSIC COMPOSITION - M.A.

College of the Arts
School of Music
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: Andrew Shariari | ashahria@kent.edu | 330-672-2830
• 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 transcript(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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MUS 58251</td>
<td>PEDAGOGY OF MUSIC THEORY</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUS 61211</td>
<td>COMPOSITION (course is repeatable)</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>MUS 62411</td>
<td>MUSIC BIBLIOGRAPHY AND RESEARCH METHODS</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUS 62171</td>
<td>MUSIC FROM WORLD CULTURES</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUS 62281</td>
<td>SEMINAR IN MUSIC HISTORY AND LITERATURE</td>
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Music History Electives, choose from the following:

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<tr>
<td>MUS 52131</td>
<td>MUSIC OF THE UNITED STATES</td>
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<tr>
<td>MUS 52161</td>
<td>HISTORY OF JAZZ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUS 52181</td>
<td>POPULAR WORLD MUSIC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUS 62171</td>
<td>MUSIC FROM WORLD CULTURES</td>
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<tr>
<td>MUS 62281</td>
<td>SEMINAR IN MUSIC HISTORY AND LITERATURE</td>
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Music Theory Electives, choose from the following: ¹

<table>
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<tr>
<td>MUS 51141</td>
<td>16TH-CENTURY COUNTERPOINT</td>
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<tr>
<td>MUS 51151</td>
<td>18TH-CENTURY COUNTERPOINT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUS 61131</td>
<td>SCHENKERIAN ANALYSIS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUS 61173</td>
<td>WORLD MUSIC ANALYSIS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUS 61174</td>
<td>ANALYSIS OF WESTERN ART MUSIC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUS 61181</td>
<td>POST-TONAL THEORY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUS 61191</td>
<td>SEMINAR IN MUSIC SINCE 1900</td>
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Culminating Requirement

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<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MUS 68199</td>
<td>THESIS I ²</td>
<td>6</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Minimum Total Credit Hours: 32

¹ 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.

2 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.