

MASTER OF MUSIC
CONCENTRATION IN COMPOSITION

Revised 2009

PURPOSE

The purpose of the concentration in composition is to provide a course of study that will prepare students to become doctoral students in composition, professional composers, and teachers of composition.

ADMISSION

Application for admission is made through the Office of Graduate Studies in the College of Arts and Sciences. Online forms and instructions are found at www.gsu.edu/casgrad. Additional information regarding application, admission, and program requirements may be obtained from the Graduate Catalog, which is available online at www.gsu.edu. [Click on "GoSolar," then "Course Catalogs," then "Graduate Catalog."] Applicants must submit any additional materials as specified below. Auditions and portfolios are part of the application process and should be completed prior to the application deadline.

An applicant is expected to have strong training in composition. The applicant must submit to the School of Music at least five original compositions. These compositions should exemplify a variety of media and techniques. A cassette tape or CD recording should accompany the scores whenever possible. An entrance interview will be scheduled on audition day with members of composition faculty. Applicants in composition must submit GRE scores.

Scores and recordings must be sent at the time of application to:

Georgia State University
School of Music
Admissions and Enrollment Coordinator
75 Poplar St. Suite 522
Atlanta, GA. 30303

DO NOT SEND THESE ITEMS TO THE COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES. Be sure to identify all materials with your name, address, and desired semester of entry.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

1. Successful completion of at least 36 hours of graduate course work
2. A piano proficiency examination to be taken after the second semester of enrollment or 20 hours of study.
3. MUS 8890 Composition Recital
4. MUS 8910 Final Project in Composition
5. Comprehensive examination

Coursework normally requires four semesters of full-time study for completion. Not every course is offered every year. Time necessary for completion of any remedial work and proficiency requirements should be included in the student's plans. At least 18 hours of course credit must come from courses for graduate students only. The student will be assigned an advisor who will aid in planning course selections.

Proficiency in keyboard harmony may be demonstrated by completing MUS 6760 (Advanced Keyboard Harmony), or by the student's passing a proficiency test in which the student must be able to:

- Transpose a melodic line to any key
- Sight-read a four-part open score involving alto and/or tenor clef
- Sight-read a rhythmically complex melodic line
- Realize a figured bass in four voices, with or without a given soprano, and including chromatic harmonies and all inversions
- Improvise chord progressions to include specified chords and/or modulations, with correct voice-leading required
- Satisfactorily realize his/her own compositions as appropriate to the keyboard

COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION

For general information about the comprehensive exam, see section 5.3 of this Handbook.

The Composition area follows a portfolio format, with a written exam followed by a mandatory oral exam. Please see Dr. Nickitas J. Demos or Dr. Robert Scott Thompson for more detailed information about the exam.

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(36 total credit hours required)

1. Music Composition (24credits)

APCP 8001-04	Applied Composition (3), [four semesters]
MUS 6210	Composition Seminar (2), four semesters]
MUS 8890	Composition Recital (1)
MUS 8910	Final Project in Composition (3)

2. Required Related Courses (4 credits)

MUS 6480	Choral Conducting (2) (qualified students may substitute MUS 7440)
OR	
MUS 6490	Instrumental Conducting (2)
MUS 8000	Introduction to Graduate Studies (2)

3. Musical Studies (6-8 credits)

A. Music History/Literature (3)

(Music History Review (MUS 6150) is a prerequisite if required by placement tests.)

MUS 8870	Twentieth Century Music (3)
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B. Music Theory (3 credits)

(Theory review courses required by placement tests are prerequisite)

MUS 6460	Analysis of Post-Tonal Music (3)
MUS 6760	Advanced Keyboard Harmony (1), or proficiency
MUS 6770	Advanced Aural Skills (1), or proficiency

4. Electives (0-2 credits)

MUS 6110	Orchestration and Instrumentation (3)
MUS 6450	Advanced Tonal Analysis (3)
MUS 6500	Historical Counterpoint (3)
MUS 6971	Survey of Electroacoustic Music (3) (Prerequisite: MUS 6730 or equivalent)
MUS 6980	Electroacoustic Music Composition (3)
MUS 6981	Computer Music (3) (Prerequisite: MUS 6030 or equivalent)
MUS 6982	Adv. Topics in Computer Music (3) (Prerequisite: MUS 6981 or equivalent)