GRADUATE HANDBOOK
2022-2023

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MM Thesis Recital Proposal Form  
MM Thesis Performance Proposal Form  
MM Thesis Portfolio/Document Proposal Form  
MM Thesis Role Proposal Form
Establishing New York State Residency for Tuition Billing Purposes
(For more information, visit New York State Residency.)

If you are a US citizen or permanent resident and you are not a New York state resident, you will want to establish NYS residency for your second year of studies. If you become a NYS resident, you will be eligible for in-state tuition for your second year.

Full-Time Status

If you have completed fewer than 24 credits: You must register for 12 credits per semester to be considered a full-time student. You can overload up to 16 credits per semester without paying additional tuition and fees beyond 12 credits.

If you have completed 24 or more credits: You must register for 9 credits per semester to be considered a full-time student. You may take up to 12 credits per semester and can overload up to 16 credits per semester; however, you will pay tuition and fees up to 12 credits.

Placement Examinations

Examinations in music history and theory, given during the orientation period before the beginning of the semester, determine readiness to take graduate-level courses in these areas (e.g., MUS 501, 502, and 522). To pass the exams, you are expected to demonstrate levels of comprehension expected of students who complete a bachelor’s degree with a major in music.

If you do not pass an exam, you will be advised to undertake remedial work and will be required to retake the exam at the end of your first year of study. If you do not pass an exam for the second time, you will not be allowed to continue in the MM program.
Course Registration and Advising

The Graduate Director serves as your program advisor and will register you for coursework. Registration for the first semester occurs during orientation. For subsequent semesters, it is important that you meet with the Graduate Director to review progress in your program of study and to determine your course schedule for the next semester. Pre-registration periods are in November and April. If you plan to add or drop any courses, you should do so in consultation with the Graduate Director.

Independent Study

If you wish to pursue a study interest not offered as a regular course in music, you may propose an Independent Study (MUS 597) for 1-4 credits. To propose an independent study, you must select a topic, obtain a faculty member’s agreement to oversee the study, and submit an Independent Study Approval Form to the Graduate Director.

Grades

(For more information, visit Academic Policies – Grades.)

Grades are on the letter scale: A through C- and F. Grades of S (satisfactory) and U (unsatisfactory) are used for MUS 591 (Teaching of College Music) and MUS 599 (Thesis). S/U grading can be used for other 500-level courses at the discretion of the instructor.

A cumulative grade point average of 3.0 (B) is required for graduation. If you receive a grade of F or an unsatisfactory grade for a course, the course will not count toward the requirements for graduation.
Maintaining Matriculated Status
(For more information, visit Continuous Registration and Leaves of Absence.)

All graduate students who have been admitted to a degree program must maintain continuous registration every fall and spring semester or apply for a formal leave of absence. You are not required to register during the summer session unless you intend to complete your degree requirements during this period.

Academic Probation and Jeopardy
(For more information, visit Probation Relative to GPA.)

If your cumulative grade point average falls below 3.0, you will be placed on probation; you are in academic jeopardy if your grade point average falls below 2.6.

Satisfactory Progress in the MM Degree Program

All MM students are reviewed at the end of each semester of study. Continuation in the MM program is contingent upon satisfactory academic progress, as well as satisfactory artistic progress as judged by a committee of faculty experts in — or appropriate to — the student’s field of specialization. If you are not making satisfactory progress, you will be provided with a plan for remediation. If you do not make satisfactory progress in a subsequent semester, you may be severed from the Graduate School.
Graduate Application for Degree and Recommendation for Award
(For more information, visit Graduate Graduation Requirements and Deadlines.)

During the semester in which you plan to complete your degree requirements and graduate, you must file a Graduate Application for Degree (and the subsequent Recommendation for Award). The form is valid for only one semester: If you file a GAFD but do not graduate, you will need to submit a new form in the semester of intended completion. Not filing a GAFD on time may lead to a delay of graduation and an additional semester’s registration.

Time to Completion of MM Degree

The minimum number of required credits for the MM degree is 32; for a specialization in opera, the minimum is 36. Although it is possible to accumulate this number in two or three semesters, it is likely that four semesters will be required to satisfy degree requirements. Thus, full-time students will graduate with 42 or more credits.

Non-Matriculated Students

Non-matriculated students may take up to 24 credits of MUS and MUSP courses. Note that non-matriculated students must receive an instructor’s permission before auditioning for, or enrolling in, a MUS or MUSP course.
Graduate Assistantships

Graduate assistants are eligible to receive an assistantship for up to four semesters. Assistantships for new and continuing students are awarded on a competitive basis, normally for a period of one academic year. All incoming students are considered for assistantships, and all continuing students are considered for award or renewal of an assistantship in their second year. The Music Department Graduate Committee determines the procedures and criteria for new awards as well as for the renewal of awards for a second year.

A graduate assistant must be enrolled as a full-time student in an MM degree program. Graduate assistants must maintain an overall grade point average of at least 3.0 (B) and not have outstanding Incompletes while funded by the University. Students on probation are not eligible to receive renewed or new offers of funding.

Graduate assistants are assigned a workload between 9 and 18 hours per week and are expected to work from the first day of classes through the last day of the final exam period. Supervisors should provide a job description at the beginning of the semester, and a work schedule should be established and adhered to for the full duration of the semester. Slight changes to scheduling — for example, working one hour more during one week and one hour less during another — are allowed; however, these should not occur often and are granted only with the approval of the Graduate Director.

For the first semester, graduate assistants do not accrue sick days; after the first semester, graduate assistants have up to 5 paid sick days per calendar year. All graduate assistants will be sent a form from HR to record their time, even if they didn’t use any sick days. (For more information, visit Graduate Assistant Leaves.)

Graduate students may work up to 20 hours per week on campus. Graduate assistants may not accept additional on-campus work without the approval of the Graduate Director and the Graduate School.
The MM Degree with a Specialization in Collaborative Piano, Composition, Conducting, Instrumental Performance, or Vocal Performance

A minimum of 32 graduate credits in music, with an overall grade point average of at least 3.0 (B), must be completed. Distribution of requirements are as follows:

Field of Specialization = 12 credits

These courses count toward required Field of Specialization credits:

**Collaborative Piano**
- MUSP 555E  Collaborative Piano
- MUSP 556C  Accompanying: Methods & Techniques
- MUSP 585B  Accompanying: Studio Practicum

**Composition**
- MUSP 558ABCD  Graduate Composition I, II, III, IV
- MUSP 567E  Composition Seminar

**Conducting**
- MUSP 559ABCD  Graduate Conducting I, II, III, IV
- MUSP 567C  Conducting Seminar

**Instrumental Performance**
- MUSP 55x  Applied Lessons

**Vocal Performance**
- MUSP 556A  Voice
- MUSP 556EFGH  Voice Coaching

Supportive Studies in Music = 12 credits

- MUS 501  Music History & Research I (4)
- MUS 502  Music History & Research II (4)
- MUS 522  Analytical Techniques (4)
Electives = 4 credits

MUS or MUSP courses at the 500 level

Thesis = 4 credits

All MM students must complete 4 credits of MUS 599 (Thesis) in order to graduate. Each specialization has its own thesis requirement:

**Collaborative Piano** candidates must present a graduating recital, for which at least half of the music must be newly prepared, i.e., not having been played previously for any other student’s recital. There must also be a mixture of instrumental and vocal repertoire.

**Composition** candidates must submit a portfolio containing at least two substantial compositions. Portfolios must be prepared and submitted to the Graduate School in electronic form. *(For deadlines, visit [Graduation Requirements](#)).*

**Conducting** candidates must conduct, in public performances, one substantial work or concert segment with a major ensemble and at least two additional performances.

**Instrumental Performance** candidates must present two recitals (minimum 45 minutes of music per recital). One recital must include chamber music.

**Vocal Performance** candidates must present at least 60 minutes of public performance in which the performer is a soloist. This must include a full-length recital (i.e., 45 minutes of music) and other performances, which may include the following or their equivalent: A half- or full-length recital, a role in a fully staged opera production, a solo in an oratorio, or a performance of chamber music where the performer has a role as a soloist.

**Additional Requirements**

All MM students are required to take the **Comprehensive Listening Examination** and **Comprehensive Oral Examination** as part of their degree.
program. Students must pass both exams prior to the Graduate Director submitting a final recommendation for the awarding of the MM degree.

The MM Degree with a Specialization in Opera

A minimum of 36 graduate credits in music, with an overall grade point average of at least 3.0 (B), must be completed. Distribution of requirements are as follows:

Field of Specialization = 26 credits

- MUSP 556A Voice (10)
- MUSP 556EFGH Voice Coaching (4)
- MUSP 569A Opera Workshop (4)
- MUSP 586A Vocal Literature (4)
- MUSP 586CDEF Lyric Diction (4)

Supportive Studies in Music = 6 credits

- MUS 501 Music History & Research I (4)
- MUS 520 Graduate Theory Review (2)

Thesis = 4 credits

All MM students must complete 4 credits of MUS 599 (Thesis) in order to graduate. For their thesis requirement, Opera candidates must perform either one Leading/Featured role or two Supporting roles (according to American Guild of Musical Artists Schedule C) in fully staged opera productions. In addition, opera candidates must present a full-length recital (i.e., 45 minutes of music).

Additional Requirements

All MM students are required to take the Comprehensive Listening Examination and Comprehensive Oral Examination as part of their degree program. Students must pass both exams prior to the Graduate Director submitting a final recommendation for the awarding of the MM degree.
The MM Degree with a Specialization in History and Literature

A minimum of 32 graduate credits in music, with an overall grade point average of at least 3.0 (B), must be completed. Distribution of requirements are as follows:

Field of Specialization = 12 credits

These courses count toward required Field of Specialization credits:

- MUS 503 History of Opera
- MUS 58x Topics (varies by semester)
- MUS 597 Independent Study (as needed)

Supportive Studies in Music = 12 credits

- MUS 501 Music History & Research I (4)
- MUS 502 Music History & Research II (4)
- MUS 522 Analytical Techniques (4)

Electives = 4 credits

- MUS or MUSP courses at the 500 level

Thesis = 4 credits

All MM students must complete 4 credits of MUS 599 (Thesis) in order to graduate. History and Literature candidates are required to write a substantial research paper as their final project. A thesis must be prepared and submitted to the Graduate School in electronic form. (For deadlines, visit Graduation Requirements.)

Additional Requirements

Foreign Language Examination: History and Literature candidates are expected to demonstrate reading knowledge in German or one Romance language. Proficiency is demonstrated by translating a passage from a reading in the field of music, chosen by the music history faculty.
**Piano Proficiency Examination:** History and Literature candidates are expected to demonstrate piano proficiency by playing a Bach chorale or an equivalent musical passage.

All MM students are required to take the **Comprehensive Listening Examination** and **Comprehensive Oral Examination** as part of their degree program. Students must pass both exams prior to the Graduate Director submitting a final recommendation for the awarding of the MM degree.
Thesis Recital Procedure (for Collaborative Piano, Instrumental Performance, Opera, and Vocal Performance)

Before the add/drop deadline in the semester when the recital will be given:

- With your primary teacher, determine who will serve on the Thesis Committee. The committee includes three music faculty members: Your primary teacher plus two chosen from the following list. One member of the committee must be from outside your field of specialization.
  

- Choose a recital date/time and reserve the recital hall for the recital and rehearsals. Hall reservations must be made by the add/drop deadline; otherwise, you will have to delay your recital to the following semester.

- Send the names of the committee members and the recital date/time to the Graduate Director.

At least six weeks prior to the recital:

- Schedule a Recital Preview, which should take place 2-3 weeks before the recital.
  
  ○ The preview is a half-hour meeting in a studio or classroom with the committee, and it is expected that the recital repertoire will be ready-to-go (i.e., learned and memorized). The student may choose one work from the recital to perform at the preview; the committee will choose additional works from the recital to be performed.

  ○ The accompanist should attend the preview, but other additional instrumentalists do not need to be present.

  ○ The committee will evaluate the preview as satisfactory, action requested, or unsatisfactory. If an action is requested, the committee will ask the student to perform selected material again before the recital. If the
evaluation is unsatisfactory, the recital will be postponed to a subsequent semester.

- Complete the MM Thesis Recital Proposal Form and submit it to the Graduate Director. Include program information (formatted according to the provided template) and the date/time of the preview. The Graduate Committee will review and vote to approve the recital; if modifications are suggested, the Graduate Director will specify a deadline date for re-submission of the proposal.

- Inform the Concert Manager if two pianos are required for the recital.

At least two weeks prior to the recital:

- Review and send your complete program information (including program notes) to the Administrative Assistant.

- Pay the $50 recital fee to the Concert Manager.

After the recital:

- The committee will evaluate the recital as satisfactory or unsatisfactory. If the evaluation is unsatisfactory, you will receive a grade of U for MUS 599 and the recital will not count toward degree completion.
Thesis Performance Procedure (for Conducting and Vocal Performance)

At least six weeks prior to the performance:

- With your primary teacher, determine who will serve on the Thesis Committee. The committee includes three music faculty members: Your primary teacher plus two chosen from the following list. One member of the committee must be from outside your field of specialization.

- Complete the MM Thesis Performance Proposal Form and submit it to the Graduate Director. Include program information, formatted according to the provided template. The Graduate Committee will review and vote to approve the performance; if modifications are suggested, the Graduate Director will specify a deadline date for re-submission of the proposal.

After the performance:

- The committee will evaluate the performance as satisfactory or unsatisfactory. If the evaluation is unsatisfactory, you will receive a grade of U for MUS 599 and the performance will not count toward degree completion.
Thesis Portfolio/Document Procedure (for Composition, History and Literature)

Before the add/drop deadline in the semester when the portfolio/document will be completed:

- With your primary teacher, determine who will serve on the Thesis Committee. The committee includes three music faculty members: Your primary teacher plus two chosen from the following list. One member of the committee must be from outside your field of specialization.

- Complete the MM Thesis Portfolio/Document Proposal Form and submit it to the Graduate Director. For Composition, include portfolio information, formatted according to the provided template; for History and Literature, include a summary of the thesis topic. The Graduate Committee will review and vote to approve the portfolio/document; if modifications are suggested, the Graduate Director will specify a deadline date for re-submission of the proposal.

At least four weeks before the end of the semester:

- Send the final draft of the portfolio/document to the committee.

Before the Comprehensive Oral Examination:

- Make any requested corrections and revisions to the portfolio/document and send the updated version to the committee.

After the Comprehensive Oral Examination:

- The committee will evaluate the performance as satisfactory or unsatisfactory. If the evaluation is satisfactory, submit the portfolio/document to the Graduate School before the published deadline. (For deadlines, visit Graduation Requirements.)
Thesis Role Procedure (for Opera and Vocal Performance)

At least six weeks prior to the performance:

- With your primary teacher, determine who will serve on the Thesis Committee. The committee includes three music faculty members: Your primary teacher plus two chosen from the following list. One member of the committee must be from outside your field of specialization.

- Complete the MM Thesis Role Proposal Form and submit it to the Graduate Director. The Graduate Committee will review and vote to approve the role; if modifications are suggested, the Graduate Director will specify a deadline date for re-submission of the proposal.

After the performance:

- The committee will evaluate the recital as satisfactory or unsatisfactory. If the evaluation is unsatisfactory, you will receive a grade of U for MUS 599 and the role will not count toward degree completion.
Policy on Inclusive Programming

The Music Department sees inclusive programming as an essential artistic principle in the 21st century. All MM Thesis Recitals and MM Thesis Performances must include at least one work composed by a member of a group that has been historically excluded from concert programming or Western-Music pedagogy (i.e. BIPOC [Black, Indigenous, and People of Color] composers, women, and gender-expansive communities), or music from a non-Western tradition. Conductors’ programming will be considered over the multiple performances that fulfill the degree requirement. In the cases of thematically-designed, single-work, or half-length programs, the Graduate Committee may consider and grant exceptions to this policy.

A student requesting an exception must submit the request to the Graduate Committee no later than 8 weeks prior to the recital / performance date. The exception request should include a brief statement justifying the programming.

Beyond this requirement, students and their supervising faculty are encouraged to take an expansive approach to recital programming and to explore underrepresented repertoire more generally — e.g. new/recent music, music created before 1700, and music outside the standard repertoire.

Comprehensive Listening Examination

This exam is offered once every semester and can be taken beginning in the third semester of MM studies. For the exam, you will be presented recordings of a set number of unidentified examples (with scores, when available). You will be asked to identify stylistic characteristics and make informed guesses about contextual features such as country or region of origin, approximate date of creation, genre, function, performer, and composer. Up to half of the examples may be specific to your field of specialization; these examples will be selected in consultation with your primary teacher. If you do not pass the exam, you are allowed to take it again in the following semester.
Comprehensive Oral Examination

This exam takes place after you have completed your required thesis performances or documents. The exam is given by a panel of three faculty members: Your primary teacher and two other tenured or tenure-track faculty members, one of which must be from the theory or history faculty. For the exam, you should be prepared to answer any question pertaining to your specialization; questions may relate to coursework, recitals, performances, roles, teaching, a composition portfolio, or a history thesis document. If you do not pass the exam, you are allowed to take it again in the following semester.

Important Resources

*The 2022-2023 University Bulletin* provides information on academic policies and procedures, admissions, financial information, scholarships, awards, fellowships, and student life.

*The Graduate School Manual* provides information regarding admission, enrollment and registration, academic policies, funding policies and guidelines, resources for graduate students, guidelines on graduate student rights and responsibilities, grievance appeal procedures, and academic honesty.

Links to other resources:

- Application for Leave of Absence
- Application for Semester Withdrawal
- Application for Transfer Credit
- Directory Exclusion Authorization Form
- Directory Exclusion Removal Form
- Federal Graduate Work Study
- Graduate School Travel Grant Application
- Independent Study Approval Form
- International Students and Scholar Services (ISSS)
- Release of Student Records
- Request for Late Add / Withdraw / Delete / Change
**MM Thesis Recital Proposal Form**

This form must be submitted to the Graduate Director at least six weeks before the recital. Otherwise, you will have to delay your recital to the following semester.

*Please use the template on the next page for your proposed recital program.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student's Name:</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Field of Specialization:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recital Date and Time:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recital Location:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recital Preview Date and Time:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary Teacher / Committee Member:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Committee Member:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Committee Member: (Outside the Field of Specialization)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Date Received by Graduate Director: ________________________________

Evaluation by Graduate Committee:  Approved  Not Approved

*If not approved, requested modifications will be written on a separate sheet.*
Trouble in Binghamton
Song #1
Song #2
Song #3

Der schöne Binghamtonian
III. Song Title
V. Song Title
VII. Song Title

Violin Sonata No. 3 in D-sharp Major, Op. 22
Allegro
Adagio
Allegro

All's Well that Endwells
It Ain't Easy Being Greene
The Brown Vestal Look the Best
Johnson City Limits

Timings:
Stroh = 15 minutes
Lieder = 10 minutes
Fiddler = 22 minutes
Nettist = 8 minutes
Total = 55 minutes

Identify the work(s) on the program that represent groups that have been historically excluded from concert programming or Western-Music pedagogy (i.e. BIPOC composers, women, non-Western, and gender-expansive communities):
MM Thesis Performance Proposal Form

This form must be submitted to the Graduate Director at least six weeks before the recital. Otherwise, you will have to delay your recital to the following semester.

Please use the template on the next page for your proposed performance program.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student’s Name:</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Field of Specialization:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Performance Date and Time:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Performance Location:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name of Ensemble:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary Teacher / Committee Member:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Committee Member:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Committee Member: (Outside the Field of Specialization)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Date Received by Graduate Director: _________________________________

Evaluation by Graduate Committee: Approved    Not Approved

If not approved, requested modifications will be written on a separate sheet.
MM Thesis Performance Proposal
Your Name

For Conducting: List only the work(s) and/or movement(s) that you will conduct. Also indicate whether the performance satisfies the “one substantial work or concert segment with a major ensemble” or the “additional performance” portion of the thesis requirement.

For Vocal Performance: List only the work(s) and/or movement(s) when you are featured.

________________________________________________________________________

Violin Sonata No. 3 in D-sharp Major, Op. 22
   Allegro
   Adagio
   Allegro

A. Fiddler
(1906 – 1980)

Timing: 22 minutes

________________________________________________________________________

Identify the work(s) on the program that represent groups that have been historically excluded from concert programming or Western-Music pedagogy (i.e. BIPOC composers, women, non-Western, and gender-expansive communities). Conductors’ programming will be considered over the multiple performances that fulfill the degree requirement.
MM Thesis Portfolio/Document Proposal Form

This form must be submitted to the Graduate Director before the add/drop deadline in the semester when the portfolio/document will be completed. Otherwise, you will have to delay your completion to the following semester.

For Composition: Please use the template on the next page for your proposed portfolio.

For History and Literature: On a separate page, provide a summary of the thesis topic.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student's Name:</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Field of Specialization:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Title of Document: (For Composition, the title is &quot;Composition Portfolio&quot;)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary Teacher / Committee Member:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Committee Member:</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Committee Member: (Outside the Field of Specialization)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Date Received by Graduate Director: ________________________________

Evaluation by Graduate Committee: Approved Not Approved

If not approved, requested modifications will be written on a separate sheet.
MM Thesis Portfolio Proposal
Your Name

For each work in the portfolio, include:

Name of Work
Year of Composition
Instrumentation
Timing
Performance(s) Information

For works that are in progress, provide as much information as possible.
This form must be submitted to the Graduate Director at least six weeks before the performance. Otherwise, you will have to delay your role to the following semester.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Student's Name:</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Field of Specialization:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Title of Opera:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Performance Date(s):</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Performance Location:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Role:</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Primary Teacher / Committee Member:</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Committee Member:</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Committee Member: (Outside the Field of Specialization)</strong></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Date Received by Graduate Director: ___________________________

Evaluation by Graduate Committee:  

Approved  

Not Approved

*If not approved, requested modifications will be written on a separate sheet.*