Admission Requirements

Applicants apply for admission to the program via the Graduate School application for admission (http://gradschool.psu.edu/prospective-students/how-to-apply). Requirements listed here are in addition to Graduate Council policies listed under GCAC-300 Admissions.

The School of Music requires the completion of a recognized baccalaureate degree in music or music education, with a junior/senior grade-point average of 2.80 or higher (on a 4.00 scale).

Admission to the M.Mus. program requires an audition, or the submission of compositions, or a list of works studied in preparation for conducting (depending on the specific degree).

Admission to the M.A. program requires scores from the Graduate Record Examinations (GRE General Test), and evidence of scholarly writing on a musical topic.

Additional requirements include an interview in person or by interactive video to assess language skills.

The language of instruction at Penn State is English. English proficiency test scores (TOEFL/IELTS) may be required for international applicants. See GCAC-305 Admission Requirements for International Students for more information.

Degree Requirements

Master of Music (M.Mus.)

Requirements listed here are in addition to Graduate Council policies listed under GCAC-700 Professional Degree Requirements.

In the Master of Music degree program, at least 18 credits must be at the 500 or 800 level, with at least 6 credits at the 500 level, and a comprehensive examination is required. The Master of Music degree (36 credits) offers four majors:

- Performance
- Composition/Theory
- Conducting
- Pedagogy and Performance (piano and voice tracks)

The M.Mus. in Performance offers three separate curricula with areas of emphasis in: Voice, Keyboard, or Orchestral Instruments. Depending on the area of emphasis, a recital, a composition project, or a conducting project is required. For the M.Mus. in Performance with emphasis in voice or keyboard, a master's recital is required, in addition to either a master's paper or lecture-recital. For the M.Mus. in Performance (orchestral instruments), a master's recital is required.

For the M.Mus. in Composition/Theory, a composition project and a master's paper are required.

The M.Mus. in Conducting offers three areas of emphasis: Orchestral, Choral, or Band/Wind Ensemble. A performance project and a master's paper are required.

For the M.Mus. in Pedagogy and Performance, a master's recital is required, in addition to either a master's paper or lecture-recital.

The School of Music sponsors many musical ensembles, and candidates for performance degrees are required to participate in positions of responsibility. All candidates for degrees are expected to be in residence for a minimum of two semesters.

Master of Arts (M.A.)

Requirements listed here are in addition to Graduate Council policies listed under GCAC-600 Research Degree Requirements.

In the Master of Arts degree program, at least 18 credits must be at the 500 level or higher, and a comprehensive examination is required. The Master of Arts in Music offers three tracks, in:

- Music Theory (32 credits)
- Musicology (32 credits), and
- Music Theory and History (34 credits).

All three tracks provide an interdisciplinary approach to the field of music scholarship, a hallmark of our program, and all tracks require a thesis. The track in Music Theory offers preparation in current modes of research and analysis from a music theoretical perspective. The track in Musicology emphasizes the development of a broad knowledge of music of all periods and, at the same time, cultivates one or more areas of specialization. The track in Music Theory and History provides greater
breadth by integrating theoretical, analytical, and historical approaches to musical styles and works. A reading knowledge of German or another appropriate language must be demonstrated before thesis credits may be scheduled.

Integrated Undergrad-Grad Programs

Integrated B.A. in Music and M.A. in Music

Requirements listed here are in addition to requirements listed in GCAC-210 Integrated Undergraduate-Graduate (IUG) Degree Programs (http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gcac/gcac-200/gcac-210-integrated-undergraduate-graduate-degree-programs).

The IUG program enables a select number of students to further their research interests at the undergraduate and graduate levels. By the end of the five-year program students receive two degrees, a B.A. in Music and an M.A. in Music.

Candidates for these Integrated Undergraduate-Graduate degrees must demonstrate a high level of aptitude and achievement in academic core courses and be highly motivated to pursue research projects with faculty.

The IUG program enables gifted music students to double count credits in two degree programs. As a result they will have developed a research focus during their fourth and fifth years, which will help them prepare for entry into doctoral programs at other institutions.

Integrated B.M. in Performance and M.A. in Music

Requirements listed here are in addition to requirements listed in GCAC-210 Integrated Undergraduate-Graduate (IUG) Degree Programs (http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gcac/gcac-200/gcac-210-integrated-undergraduate-graduate-degree-programs).

The IUG program enables a select number of students to further their research interests at the undergraduate and graduate levels. By the end of the five-year program students receive two degrees, a B.M. in Performance and an M.A. in Music.

Candidates for these Integrated Undergraduate-Graduate degrees must demonstrate a high level of aptitude and achievement in academic core courses and be highly motivated to pursue research projects with faculty.

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Student Aid

Graduate assistantships available to students in this program and other forms of student aid are described in the Tuition & Funding (http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-funding) section of The Graduate School's website. Students on graduate assistantships must adhere to the course load limits (http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gsad/gsad-500/gsad-501-credit-loads-graduate-assistants) set by The Graduate School.

Courses

Graduate courses carry numbers from 500 to 699 and 800 to 899. Advanced undergraduate courses numbered between 400 and 499 may be used to meet some graduate degree requirements when taken by graduate students. Courses below the 400 level may not. A graduate student may register for or audit these courses in order to make up deficiencies or to fill in gaps in previous education but not to meet requirements for an advanced degree.

Music (MUSIC) Course List (https://bulletins.psu.edu/university-course-descriptions/graduate/music)

Contact

Campus
University Park

Graduate Program Head
R J David Frego

Director of Graduate Studies (DGS)
Marica Susan Tacconi

or Professor-in-Charge (PIC)

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