MASTER OF MUSIC (MMus) DEGREE IN THE FIELD OF COMPOSITION

Program Learning Outcomes for the MMus Degree

Upon completing the MMus degree, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate technical and musical competence in performance, composition, or historical scholarship at a professional level.
2. Develop advanced analytical skills in music theory and a deep understanding of how those skills inform music performance.
3. Demonstrate a thorough understanding of the relationship between music history and music performance.
4. Develop career development skills that complement their professional-level performance skills.

Requirements for the MMus Degree

The MMUS degrees can be thesis or non-thesis master's degrees depending on the field declared. For general university requirements for thesis master's degrees, please see Thesis Master's Degrees (ga.rice.edu/graduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/regulations-procedures-thesis-masters-degrees). For general university requirements for non-thesis master's degrees, please see Non-Thesis Master's Degrees (ga.rice.edu/graduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/regulations-procedures-non-thesis-masters-degrees). For additional requirements, regulations, and procedures for all graduate programs, please see All Graduate Students (ga.rice.edu/graduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/regulations-procedures-all-degrees). Students pursuing the MMus degree programs must complete:

- A minimum of 43-54 credit hours depending on field of study to satisfy degree requirements.
- A minimum of 30 credit hours of graduate-level study (coursework at the 500-level or above).
- A minimum of 24 credit hours must be taken at Rice University.
- A minimum residency enrollment of one fall or spring semester of full-time graduate study at Rice University.
- A minimum overall GPA of 2.67.
- A minimum GPA of 2.67 in required coursework.

Students completing the MMus degree in all fields of study must participate in core music, applied music, and other required music courses as well as in chamber music and large ensembles, plus electives. They are entitled to one hour of private lessons each week of each semester they are enrolled as an MMus degree candidate; private or group lessons beyond this may result in additional fees.

The courses listed below satisfy the requirements for this degree program. In certain instances, courses not on this official list may be substituted upon approval of the program's academic advisor, or where applicable, the department or program's Director of Graduate Studies. (Course substitutions must be formally applied and entered into Degree Works by the department or program's Official Certifier (https://registrar.rice.edu/facstaff/degreeworks/officialcertifier).) Students and their academic advisors should identify and clearly document the courses to be taken.

### Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total Credit Hours Required for the MMus Degree in the field of Composition</td>
<td>48-52</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Degree Requirements

#### Composition Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MUSI 601</td>
<td>COMPOSITION FOR MAJORS ADVANCED AND GRADUATES (minimum of 4 semesters)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUSI 603</td>
<td>GRADUATE COMPOSITION SEMINAR (minimum of 4 semesters)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUSI 512</td>
<td>ANALYTICAL SYSTEMS</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUSI 513</td>
<td>MODAL COUNTERPOINT</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or MUSI 613</td>
<td>TONAL COUNTERPOINT</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUSI 516</td>
<td>ADVANCED ORCHESTRATION</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUSI 517</td>
<td>EARLY MODERN MASTERS</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUSI 617</td>
<td>MUSIC SINCE 1950</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUSI 403</td>
<td>BASIC ELECTRONIC MUSIC ¹</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or MUSI 605</td>
<td>ADVANCED ELECTRONIC AND COMPUTER MUSIC SYSTEMS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUSI 404</td>
<td>ELECTRONIC MUSIC COMPOSITION ¹</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or MUSI 606</td>
<td>ADVANCED COMPUTER SOUND SYNTHESIS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUSI 641</td>
<td>MASTER'S RECITAL I</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUSI 647</td>
<td>MASTER'S THESIS ²</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Other Requirements

Select 6 credit hours from the Elective Requirements (see below for course lists) ³

Select 2 courses from Performance Coursework (see below for course lists) ⁴

### Proficiencies

- Students must demonstrate the following proficiencies:
  - Piano proficiency ⁴
  - Aural skills proficiency

- Total Credit Hours 48-52

### Other Requirements

Students must complete 6 credit hours from the Elective Requirements, and 2 courses from the Performance Coursework lists below.

#### Elective Requirements ³

Select 6 credit hours from the following:

- Any course at the 300-level or above
- Any language course at the 100-level or above
- Any additional Music Theory, Music History, or Music Career and Skills Enhancement course (see below for course lists)
Master of Music (MMus) Degree in the field of Composition

Secondary Lessons (any course between MUSI 251 and MUSI 297 with the exception of MUSI 281)
MUSI 342 RICE JAZZ ENSEMBLE
MUSI 345 APPLIED STUDIES IN JAZZ
MUSI 381 CONCENTRATION PIANO
MUSI 649 GRADUATE INDEPENDENT STUDY

Performance Coursework
Select 2 courses from the following: 2-6

Secondary Lessons (any course between MUSI 251 and MUSI 297 with the exception of MUSI 281)
MUSI 342 RICE JAZZ ENSEMBLE
MUSI 345 APPLIED STUDIES IN JAZZ
MUSI 381 CONCENTRATION PIANO
MUSI 649 GRADUATE INDEPENDENT STUDY

Footnotes and Additional Information
1 Electronic Music courses are chosen following faculty advisement.
2 The master’s thesis must be publicly defended.
3 No more than three (3) credit hours of MUSI 649 - Independent Study may fulfill this requirement. Remedial courses (such as MUSI 281, MUSI 432, MUSI 511, MUSI 521, or MUSI 522) and extra hours of required Performance Coursework (such as extra private instrumental or vocal study, ensembles, chamber music, vocal coaching, or repertoire classes) will not fulfill this requirement.
4 Piano lessons are strongly recommended as the Performance Coursework for MMus students in the field of Composition until piano proficiency is proven. Performance hours may be satisfied by any combination of private instrumental or vocal study, classes in conducting or score reading, or performance in sonata class or large ensembles.
5 Deficiencies in these areas will result in remedial coursework being added to a student’s degree plan.

Course Lists to Satisfy Requirements

Music Theory Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MUSI 316 / FILM 323</td>
<td>EXPERIMENTAL SOUND AND VIDEO</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUSI 378 / ASIA 378</td>
<td>CLASSICAL, CONTEMPORARY, AND CROSS-CULTURAL ASIAN MUSIC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUSI 403</td>
<td>BASIC ELECTRONIC MUSIC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUSI 404</td>
<td>ELECTRONIC MUSIC COMPOSITION</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>MUSI 405</td>
<td>MUSIC BUSINESS AND LAW</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>MUSI 416</td>
<td>ORCHESTRATION</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUSI 417</td>
<td>MUSIC FOR MEDIA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUSI 514</td>
<td>SCORE READING AND THEORY AT THE KEYBOARD</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Music History Courses

MUSI 422 RENAISSANCE MUSIC
MUSI 429 / MDEM 429 MUSIC OF THE MIDDLE AGES
MUSI 523 BIBLIOGRAPHY AND RESEARCH METHODS
MUSI 524 AMERICAN MUSIC
MUSI 525 PERFORMANCE PRACTICES SEMINAR
MUSI 527 TOPICS IN EARLY MUSIC
MUSI 528 TOPICS IN THE 17TH AND 18TH CENTURIES
MUSI 529 TOPICS IN 19TH AND 20TH CENTURIES
MUSI 530 MUSIC, MAGIC, AND SCIENCE IN THE MODERN WORLD
MUSI 534 PROGRAM MUSIC IN THE 19TH CENTURY
MUSI 537 SATIE, COCTEAU, & LES SIX: PARIS IN THE 1920s AND BEYOND
MUSI 543 MUSIC AND MODERNISM IN FRANCE
MUSI 551 MUSIC OF RICHARD STRAUSS
MUSI 552 WORDS AND MUSIC
MUSI 621 SELECTED STUDIES IN MUSIC HISTORY
MUSI 622 EARLY OPERA
MUSI 623 J.S. BACH: CAREER, WORKS, AND CRITICAL RECEPTION
MUSI 624 SEMINAR ON A SELECTED COMPOSER
MUSI 625 MOZART OPERAS
MUSI 626 THE CLASSICAL STYLE
MUSI 627 ROMANTIC SONGS AND PIANO PIECES
MUSI 721 MUSIC OF SCHOENBERG
MUSI 722 MUSIC OF STRAVINSKY
MUSI 605 ADVANCED ELECTRONIC AND COMPUTER MUSIC SYSTEMS
MUSI 606 ADVANCED COMPUTER SOUND SYNTHESIS
MUSI 611 CLASSROOM PEDAGOGY
MUSI 711 ANALYTICAL APPROACHES
MUSI 712 SEMINAR IN ADVANCED ANALYSIS
MUSI 713 SPECIAL TOPICS IN ADVANCED ANALYSIS
MUSI 723 AESTHETICS OF MUSIC

Music Career and Skills Enhancement Courses

LPCR 200 ADVANCED MENTAL TRAINING
MGMT 621 THE NEW ENTERPRISE
MGMT 625 DESIGN THINKING
MGMT 629 BUSINESS PLAN DEVELOPMENT
MGMT 676 SOCIAL ENTERPRISE
MUSI 413 INTRODUCTION TO DALCROZE EURHYTHMICS
MUSI 500 IMAGINATION AND COMMUNICATION: DEVELOPING MUSICAL SKILLS THROUGH THEATRICAL TECHNIQUES
MUSI 501 ENHANCED PERFORMANCE: WRITING, SPEAKING, PLAYING
MUSI 502 CONDUCTING: AN OVERVIEW OF PRACTICAL SKILLS
### Policies for the MMus Degree

**Shepherd School of Music Graduate Program Handbook**

The General Announcements (GA) is the official Rice curriculum. As an additional resource for students, the Shepherd School of Music publishes a graduate program handbook, which can be found here: [https://gradhandbooks.rice.edu/2018_19/Shepherd_School_of_Music_Graduate_Handbook.pdf](https://gradhandbooks.rice.edu/2018_19/Shepherd_School_of_Music_Graduate_Handbook.pdf)

#### Admission

For Instrumental Performance, Vocal Performance, and Orchestral Conducting applicants, an audition is required. Composition applicants must submit portfolios, and Musicology applicants must provide samples of their written work. Musicology applicants must also complete advanced music tests as well as the Graduate Record Examination for admission consideration.

#### Academic Standards

**Curriculum and Degree Requirements**

Further information on curricular requirements for all majors and degree programs is available from the Shepherd School of Music.

**Grading Policy**

A minimum grade of B- (2.67 grade points) is expected of all music students in their major applied area. A grade of C+ (2.33 grade points) or lower is considered unsatisfactory and will be evaluated in the following manner:

A music major who receives a grade of C+ (2.33 grade points) or lower in their major applied area will be placed on music probation. Music probation signifies that the student’s work has been sufficiently unsatisfactory to preclude graduation unless marked improvement is achieved promptly. A student on music probation may be absent from class only for extraordinary reasons and may not represent the school in any public function not directly a part of a degree program.

If a student receives a second semester of C+ (2.33 grade points) or lower in their major applied area, whether for consecutive semesters or not, the student will be discontinued as a music performance major and merit scholarship from the Shepherd School will be discontinued.

Note: For music history and musicology majors a grade of C+ (2.33 grade points) or lower in any music history course is considered unsatisfactory and will be evaluated as above.

Graduate degree requirement: a minimum grade point average of 2.67 is necessary for graduation.

#### Leaves of Absence and Voluntary Withdrawal

Music majors must obtain permission in writing from the dean of the Shepherd School before requesting a leave of absence from the university. Requests must be in the dean’s office before the first day of classes in the semester for which leave is requested.

Music majors taking voluntary withdrawal from the university are not guaranteed readmission into the Shepherd School and may be asked to reapply/reaudition. Students should explain the reasons for their withdrawal to the dean before leaving campus.

#### Performance

Students are expected to perform frequently during their residency at Rice. MMus students in any of the performance fields of study must present at least two full recitals. Composition and Conducting students should present recitals as specified by their degree programs. Students are expected to attend both faculty and student recitals. In addition, all MMus students must participate in the school’s conducted ensembles as assigned.

#### Thesis

A thesis is required for MMus students in the field of Musicology. In lieu of a thesis, MMus students in the field of Composition must produce an original work of extended scope. Both thesis and original work must be publicly defended.

#### Additional Information

For additional information, please see the Shepherd School of Music website at: [https://music.rice.edu](https://music.rice.edu)

### Opportunities for the MMus Degree

**Other Musical Opportunities**

#### Lectures and Performances

A visiting lecturer series, a professional concert series, and numerous distinguished visiting musicians contribute to the Shepherd School environment. The Houston Symphony Orchestra, Symphony Chorus, Houston Grand Opera, Houston Ballet, Houston Masterworks Chorus, Da Camera, Context, and Chamber Music Houston, as well as the activities of other institutions of higher learning in the area, also provide exceptional opportunities for students to enjoy a wide spectrum of music.

#### Additional Information

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