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.
5. Demonstrate technical and musical competence in performance, composition, or historical scholarship at a professional level.

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).

Students pursuing the MMUS degree programs must complete:

- A minimum of 43-54 credit hours depending on field of study to satisfy degree requirements

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.

Summary

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<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
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<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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Degree Requirements

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<th>Credit Hours</th>
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Composition Requirements

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<th>Credit Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MUSI 601</td>
<td>COMPOSITION FOR MAJORS ADVANCED AND GRADUATES (minimum of 4 semesters)</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>MUSI 603</td>
<td>GRADUATE COMPOSITION SEMINAR (minimum of 4 semesters)</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>MUSI 512</td>
<td>ANALYTICAL SYSTEMS</td>
<td>3</td>
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Other Requirements

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

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Elective Requirements

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
- 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
- MUSI 502 CONDUCTING: AN OVERVIEW OF PRACTICAL SKILLS

Performance Coursework

Select 2 courses from the following:

- Secondary Lessons (any course between MUSI 251 and MUSI 297 with the exception of MUSI 281)
- Concentration Lessons (any course between MUSI 351 and MUSI 373)
- Concentration Lessons (any course between MUSI 381 and MUSI 397)
- MUSI 334 CAMPAHLE ORCHESTRA
- MUSI 436 COLLEGIA MUSIC
- MUSI 444 PRACTICUM IN CONTEMPORARY MUSIC
- MUSI 502 CONDUCTING: AN OVERVIEW OF PRACTICAL SKILLS
MUSI 514  SCORE READING AND THEORY AT THE KEYBOARD
MUSI 585  SONATA CLASS
MUSI 640  RICE CHORALE - ADVANCED

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.

Policies for the MMus Degree

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-” is expected of all music students in their major applied area. A grade of “C+” or lower is considered unsatisfactory and will be evaluated in the following manner:

A music major who receives a grade of “C+” 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+” 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+” 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.

For additional information, please see the School of Music website at: http://music.rice.edu

Opportunities for the MMus Degree

Other Musical Opportunities
Lectures and Performances
A visiting lecture 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.

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