MASTER OF MUSIC (MMUS) DEGREE IN THE FIELD OF ORGAN PERFORMANCE

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 degree in the field of Organ Performance is a non-thesis master's degree. For general university requirements, please see Non-Thesis Master's Degrees (https://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 (https://ga.rice.edu/graduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/regulations-procedures-all-degrees/). Students pursuing the MMus degree in the field of Organ Performance must complete:

- A minimum of 51 credit hours to satisfy degree requirements.
- A minimum of 30 credit hours of graduate-level study (graduate semester credit hours, coursework at the 500-level or above).
- A minimum of 24 graduate semester credit hours must be taken at Rice University.
- A minimum of 24 graduate semester credit hours must be taken in standard or traditional courses (with a course type of lecture, seminar, laboratory, lecture/laboratory, studio).
- A minimum residency enrollment of one fall or spring semester of full-time graduate study at Rice University.
- A maximum of 2 courses (6 graduate semester credit hours) from transfer credit. For additional departmental guidelines regarding transfer credit, see the Policies (p. 2) tab.
- A minimum overall GPA of 2.67 or higher in all Rice coursework.
- A minimum program GPA of 2.67 or higher in all Rice coursework that satisfies requirements for the non-thesis master's degree.

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/). Additionally, these course substitutions must be approved by the Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies. Students and their academic advisors should identify and clearly document the courses to be taken.

Summary

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Total Credit Hours Required for the MMus Degree in the field of Organ Performance		51

Degree Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Performance Requirements		
MUSI 683	ORGAN FOR MAJORS-ADVANCED (minimum of 4 semesters)	3
MUSI 636	ADVANCED CHAMBER MUSIC	1
MUSI 640	RICE CHORALE - ADVANCED (minimum of 2 semesters)	1
MUSI 285	SECONDARY HARPSICHORD	2
MUSI 641	MASTER'S RECITAL I	0
MUSI 741	MASTER'S RECITAL II	0
Field of Study Specific Coursework		
MUSI 545	LITURGICAL ORGAN PLAYING	2
MUSI 547	CHURCH MUSIC SEMINAR I	3
MUSI 548	CHURCH MUSIC SEMINAR II	3
MUSI 608	IMPROVISATION AT THE ORGAN (minimum of 2 semesters)	2
MUSI 645	ORGAN LITERATURE BEFORE 1750	3
MUSI 646	ORGAN LITERATURE SINCE 1750	3
Academic Coursework		
MUSI 514	SCORE READING AND THEORY AT THE KEYBOARD	3
Select 1 course from the Approved Music Theory course offerings (see course list below)		*3*
Select 2 courses from the Music Career and Skills Enhancement course offerings (see course list below)		*4*
Select 6 credit hours from the Elective Requirements (see course list below)		*6*
Proficiencies [2]		
Students must demonstrate the following proficiency:		
Aural skills proficiency		
Total Credit Hours		**51**

Footnotes and Additional Information

[1] 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.

[2] Deficiencies in this area will result in remedial coursework being added to a student's degree plan. MMus students in the field of Organ Performance do not have to demonstrate piano proficiency.

Academic Coursework

Academic Coursework is comprised of MUSI 514, *Score Reading and Theory at the Keyboard* (3 credit hours), 1 course (3 credit hours) from the Approved Music Theory course offerings, 2 courses (4 credit hours) from the Music Career and Skills Enhancement course offerings, and 6 credit hours from the Elective Requirements.

Approved Music Theory Courses

Code	Title	Credit Hours
MUSI 512	ANALYTICAL SYSTEMS	3
MUSI 513	MODAL COUNTERPOINT	3
MUSI 516	ADVANCED ORCHESTRATION	3
MUSI 517	EARLY MODERN MASTERS	3
MUSI 610	MUSIC THEORIES OF THE WORLD: CROSS-CULTURAL APPROACHES TO PITCH, MELODY, AND RHYTHM	3
MUSI 613	TONAL COUNTERPOINT	3
MUSI 614	SPECIAL TOPICS IN MUSIC THEORY AND MUSIC THEORY COMPOSITION	3
MUSI 615	MUSIC OF RAVEL: MUSIC THEORY AND COMPOSITION	3
MUSI 617	MUSIC SINCE 1950	3
MUSI 723	AESTHETICS OF MUSIC	3

Music Career and Skills Enhancement Courses

Code	Title	Credit Hours
LPCR 200	ADVANCED MENTAL TRAINING	2
MGMT 621	NEW ENTERPRISES	3
MGMT 625	DESIGN THINKING	1.5
MGMT 676	LEADERSHIP, ETHICS, AND FREE ENTERPRISE	1.5
MUSI 413	INTRODUCTION TO DALCROZE EURHYTHMICS	2
MUSI 500	IMAGINATION AND COMMUNICATION: DEVELOPING MUSICAL SKILLS THROUGH THEATRICAL TECHNIQUES	2
MUSI 501	ENHANCED PERFORMANCE: WRITING, SPEAKING, PLAYING	2
MUSI 502	CONDUCTING: AN OVERVIEW OF PRACTICAL SKILLS	2
MUSI 503	DEVELOPING CAREER ENHANCING PROJECTS IN MUSIC	2
MUSI 506	PERFORMING WITH TODAY'S TECHNOLOGY	2
MUSI 507	TECHNOLOGY FOR MUSICIANS	2
MUSI 508	FUNDAMENTALS OF PRIVATE TEACHING	2
MUSI 509	THE ALEXANDER TECHNIQUE FOR MUSICIANS	2
MUSI 510	PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR MUSICIANS	2
MUSI 519	THEMATIC PROGRAMMING: THE ART OF THE RECITAL	2
MUSI 520	BUSINESS COMMUNICATION FOR MUSICIANS	2
MUSI 538	THE ART OF PERFORMANCE: PRESENCE ON STAGE	2
MUSI 540	APPLIED JAZZ IMPROVISATION: DEVELOPING SOLO IMPROVISATIONAL SKILLS IN THE JAZZ IDIOM	2

Elective Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Select 6 credit hours from the following: [1]		*6*
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 436 / MDEM 456	COLLEGIUM MUSICUM	
MUSI 444	PRACTICUM IN CONTEMPORARY MUSIC	
MUSI 585	SONATA CLASS	
MUSI 649	GRADUATE INDEPENDENT STUDY	

Footnotes and Additional Information

[1] 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.

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/2026_27/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) per course is expected of all music students in their major applied area. A grade of C+ (2.33 grade points) or lower in a course in the student's major applied area 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 a course 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 a course 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 overall 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.

Transfer Credit

For Rice University's policy regarding transfer credit, see Transfer Credit (https://ga.rice.edu/graduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/regulations-procedures-all-degrees/#transfer). Some departments and programs have additional restrictions on transfer credit. Requests for transfer credit must be approved for Rice equivalency by the appropriate academic department offering the Rice equivalent course (corresponding to the subject code of the course content) and by the Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (GPS). Students are encouraged to meet with their academic program's advisor when considering transfer credit possibilities.

Program Transfer Credit Guidelines

Students pursuing the MMus degree should be aware of the following program-specific transfer credit guidelines:

- No more than 2 courses (6 credit hours) of transfer credit from U.S. or international universities of similar standing as Rice may apply towards the degree.
- Transfer credit will not be considered for any performance coursework or other core requirements.

Additional Information

For additional information, please see the Shepherd School of Music website: 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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