

## **GRADUATE STUDY**

The College of Music offers a variety of programs leading to the Master of Arts, Master of Music, Doctor of Musical Arts, and Doctor of Philosophy degrees. Within the framework approved by the faculty of the University and the College of Music, graduate programs are designed to respond to current professional and social needs and to students' expectations and goals. The programs combine selected aspects of the following learning opportunities: requisite course work; outreach and teaching experiences; and production, performance, or research projects. The College faculty and student body represent diverse backgrounds and cultures and work together to challenge past assumptions and set future directions in the arts. An open and responsive learning environment continues to attract faculty, staff, and students from rich and varied cultural traditions into our educational community. All of the graduate degree programs offered by the College of Music have been accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music. The Master of Music degree program in music therapy has been approved by the National Association for Music Therapy, Inc.

### **General Requirements for Consideration for Admission to Master's and Doctoral Degree Programs in the College of Music**

Each applicant must submit a College of Music application for graduate study, including a letter providing the applicant's academic background and reasons for pursuing advanced study. International applicants must fulfill the University's English language proficiency requirement as described in the *Graduate Education* section of the Academic Programs catalog or as specified by the specific degree program. Individual master's and doctoral degree programs may specify additional requirements for consideration for admission such as a sample of an applicant's composition, a portfolio, or an audition, and/or an interview.

### ***College of Music Requirements for the Master of Arts and Master of Music Degrees***

Master of Music degree programs are offered in the following areas: Music Performance, Music Composition, Music Conducting, Music Education, Music Performance, Music Theory, Music Therapy, and Piano Pedagogy. The Master of Arts degree program is offered in the area of Musicology.

### **Admission**

To be admitted to a master's degree program in the college on regular status, an applicant must have:

1. A minimum cumulative grade–point average of 2.80 for the undergraduate program of study, as well as have met the College requirements for admission to a master's degree program.
2. Received the approval of the faculty in the applicant's area of specialization.
3. A baccalaureate degree from a recognized educational institution.

### **Master's Orientation Examinations**

All students who are admitted to master's degree programs in the College of Music must take the written master's orientation examination in music theory. The results of this

examination are used to place students in music theory courses. Based on the results of this examination, a student may be required to complete two collateral courses in music theory, Music 200 and 201, in addition to meeting the requirements for a master's degree. All students who are admitted to the Master of Music degree program in music education in the College of Music must also take the written master's orientation examination in music education. Each student must take the orientation examination in music theory, and the orientation examination in music education if required, before the first day of classes of the student's first semester of enrollment in the program. For additional information about the orientation examinations in music theory and music education, contact the Associate Dean of Graduate Studies.

### **Oral Final Certifying Examination**

All students in master's degree programs in the college are required to pass an oral final certifying examination. Oral final certifying examinations are given during Fall and Spring semesters, and may be given during a Summer session with the approval of the Associate Dean of Graduate Studies and every member of the student's examining committee.

### **Academic Standards**

A master's student in the College of Music must:

1. maintain a cumulative grade–point average of at least 3.00.
2. not accumulate deferred grades (identified by the DF–Deferred marker) in more than 8 credits in courses (excluding courses numbered 896, 897, 898, 899 or 996, 997, 998, 999). If at the end of a semester a graduate student fails to meet one or both of the requirements specified above, the student shall receive a deficiency warning. If the deficiency is not removed within one academic year, the graduate student will not be allowed to continue in the degree program. A student may accumulate no more than 6 credits with a grade below 3.0 in courses that are to be counted toward the degree. All deficiencies with regard to orientation examinations or entrance requirements, whether stated in terms of credits, courses, or performance standards, must be removed before the oral final certifying examination that is required for the master's degree is scheduled. If the student fails the oral final certifying examination, the student shall be allowed to retake the examination only once, during the next Fall or Spring semester.

### **Transfer Credits**

Transfer credits must have been completed within the time limit for the degree. As many as 9 semester credits of graduate course work (excluding research and thesis credits) may be transferred into a master's degree program from other accredited institutions or international institutions of similar quality, if they are appropriate to a student's program and provided they were completed within the time limits approved for the earning of the degree desired at Michigan State University. The Associate Dean of Graduate Studies must grant approval. Only courses in which at least a 3.0 grade or its equivalent was received will be considered for transfer. With the approval of the student's academic advisor and the Associate Dean of Graduate Studies, these transfer credits **may** fulfill specific MSU degree requirements; but not all transfer credits will necessarily fulfill specific MSU degree requirements.

## ***College of Music Requirements for the Doctor of Musical Arts and Doctor of Philosophy Degrees***

Doctor of Musical Arts degree programs are offered in: Music Composition, Music Conducting, and Music Performance. The Doctor of Philosophy degree program is offered in Music Education.

### **Admission**

In addition to meeting the requirements of the University as described under Admission in the *Graduate Education* section of the Academic Programs catalog, students must meet the requirements specified below. To be admitted to a doctoral degree program in the College of Music on regular status, an applicant must have:

1. a record of high academic achievement and demonstrate potential as a performer, conductor, composer, or research scholar acceptable to the program.
2. a master's degree or equivalent in a relevant field.
3. a cumulative grade-point average of 3.0 in any previous graduate course work.

Admission on provisional status may be offered if the applicant's record is incomplete or contains minor deficiencies in preparation.

### **Doctoral Orientation Examinations**

The primary purpose of the doctoral orientation examinations is to aid the student's academic adviser and guidance committee in planning the student's program of study. All students who are admitted to the **Doctor of Philosophy degree program with a major in music education** must take the written doctoral orientation examination in music education. All students who are admitted to doctoral degree programs in the College of Music **other than music education** must take the written doctoral orientation examinations in music history and music theory.

### **Requirements for a Doctoral Degree**

The student plans a program of study in consultation with a guidance committee, subject to the rules of College and the University. For the composition of the committees, see the information below regarding specific degree programs.

### **Comprehensive Examinations**

All students who are enrolled in the **Doctor of Philosophy degree program with a major in music education** are required to take a comprehensive examination in the field of music education. For students who are enrolled in the Doctor of Musical Arts degree program with majors in music composition, music conducting, and music performance, see the statements on those programs in the sections that follow. The comprehensive examinations are given during Fall and Spring semesters, and may be given during the Summer session at the discretion of the faculty in the areas of music history, music theory, and music education.

### **Final Oral Examination**

The dissertation, composition, or scholarly paper or abstract on which the final oral examination is based, or the scholarly paper that is related to the lecture–recital, must be

submitted to the Associate Dean of Graduate Studies and all of the members of the student's guidance committee no later than four weeks before the final oral examination is held or the lecture–recital is performed for the committee. Final oral examinations and performances of lecture–recitals are given during Fall and Spring semesters, and may be given during a Summer session with the approval of the Associate Dean of Graduate Studies and every member of the student's committee.

### **Academic Standards**

A doctoral student in the College of Music must:

1. Maintain a cumulative grade–point average of at least 3.00.
2. Not accumulate deferred grades (identified by the DF–Deferred marker) in more than 8 credits in courses (excluding courses numbered 896, 897, 898, 899 or 996, 997, 998, 999). If at the end of a semester a graduate student fails to meet one or both of the requirements specified above, the student shall receive a deficiency warning. If the deficiency is not removed within one academic year, the graduate student will not be allowed to continue in the degree program. A student may accumulate no more than 6 credits with a grade below 3.0 in courses that are to be counted toward the degree.

### **Transfer Credits**

Graduate credits maybe transferred from other accredited institutions or international institutions of similar quality if they are appropriate to a student's program and provided they were completed within the time limits approved for the earning of the degree desired at Michigan State University. The Associate Dean of Graduate Studies must grant approval. Only graduate– level courses in which at least a 3.0 (B) grade was received will be considered for transfer. With the approval of the Guidance Committee and the Associate Dean of Graduate Studies, these transfer credits **may** fulfill specific MSU degree requirements; but not all transfer credits will necessarily fulfill specific MSU degree requirements.

### ***College of Music Requirements for the Doctor of Philosophy Degree***

Should the student's guidance committee fail to accept the dissertation or the student's performance on the final oral examination, the student shall be allowed to rewrite the dissertation or to retake the examination only once. The dissertation must be rewritten or the examination must be retaken within one year, during a Fall or Spring semester.