Composition (Interdisciplinary Digital Media), MM

Take your skills to the next level by working with digital sound and experimental media. This program provides extensive faculty interaction from both the School of Music and the School of Arts, Media and Engineering.

Program Description

Degree Awarded: MM Composition (Interdisciplinary Digital Media)
The MM program in composition with a concentration in interdisciplinary digital media is designed for students who have interests and skills in unique cross sections of the arts and sciences.

The degree program expands the School of Music, Dance and Theatre offerings to include areas beyond typical music coursework, allowing additional opportunities for transdisciplinary study and collaboration across the Herberger Institute and beyond. It also allows the School of Music, Dance and Theatre and its students to be actively involved in current developments in the ever-changing field of media.

Students are encouraged to develop their own compositional voices and focus on their area of interest, regardless of style or aesthetics, while developing a breadth of knowledge through coursework and private lessons with the composition faculty.

The state-of-the-art media facilities of the School of Arts, Media and Engineering and its hybrid arts-engineering faculty and courses are invaluable assets to music students, with resources that complement existing and future courses in electronic music.

At a Glance

- **College/School:** [Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts](https://www.asu.edu/hest/)
- **Location:** Tempe
Degree Requirements

32 credit hours including a thesis and a written comprehensive exam, or
32 credit hours including a thesis, a written comprehensive exam and an oral comprehensive exam, or
32 credit hours including a written comprehensive exam and the required applied project course (MTC 593), or
32 credit hours including a written comprehensive exam, an oral comprehensive exam and the required applied project course (MTC 593)

Required Core (6 credit hours)
MTC 523 Advanced Composition (6)

Concentration (18 credit hours)
Arts, Media and Engineering coursework (9)
Music Theory and Music History (9)

Electives (2 credit hours)

Culminating Experience (6 credit hours)
AME or MTC 599 Thesis (6) or
MTC 593 Applied Project (6 credit hours)

Additional Curriculum Requirements
Completion of diagnostic exams in musicology and music theory is required of all new graduate music students prior to enrollment in the ASU School of Music.

Additional information on degree requirements for all graduate music programs may be found on the check sheets at the [graduate music degrees page](#).

Admission Requirements

Applicants must fulfill the requirements of both the Graduate College and the Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts.

Applicants are eligible to apply if they have earned a U.S. bachelor's or master's degree from a regionally accredited institution or the equivalent of a U.S. bachelor's degree from an institution in another country and officially recognized by that country.

Applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 (scale is 4.00 = "A") in the last 60 semester hours or 90 quarter hours of a student's first bachelor's degree program, or applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 (scale is 4.00 = "A") in an applicable master's degree program.

All applicants must submit:
1. graduate admission application and application fee
2. School of Music, Dance and Theatre application, including a resume and personal statement
3. official transcripts
4. prescreening portfolio
5. three letters of recommendation
6. proof of English proficiency

Additional Application Information
An applicant whose native language is not English must provide proof of English proficiency regardless of their current residency. The School of Music, Dance and Theatre does not offer conditional admission under any circumstances. In order to meet English proficiency requirements, students should have a TOEFL iBT score of at least 80, or an IELTS overall band score of at least 6.5, or a Pearson Test of English score of at least 60.

Although a bachelor's degree in music is not required to be eligible for admission, applicants who do not hold an undergraduate degree in music may wish to take foundational courses in music theory and history as recommended by their advisor.

Students should see the program website for application deadlines. After the School of Music, Dance and Theatre receives the complete application (this includes recommendation letters, transcripts and English proficiency requirements) and it is reviewed by the department, the applicant may be invited for an interview. Information about the interview may be found at the graduate music degrees page.

Tuition Information
When it comes to paying for college, everyone's situation is different. Students can learn about ASU tuition and financial aid options to find out which will work best for them.

Application Deadlines

Fall  
Spring  

Program Learning Outcomes
Program learning outcomes identify what a student will learn or be able to do upon completion of their program. This program has the following program outcomes:

- Apply software engineering skills to music, sound, and video.
- Evaluate specific musical products within the context of a specific historic or cultural tradition, including contemporary media.
- Create independent musical products or performances using interdisciplinary digital media.
Career Opportunities

The School of Music, Dance and Theatre graduate programs inspire and empower students to become creative leaders who transform society through music.

Musicians with expertise in performing, composing, teaching, researching, arts advocacy and serving as therapists are in high demand across many sectors and industries, including performing arts organizations, educational institutions, entertainment companies, health and wellness industries and community arts organizations. Skills such as creativity, collaboration, innovation, entrepreneurship and the focused discipline needed for success as musicians are all highly valued by a wide range of companies and professions.

Career examples include:

- arts administrator
- community arts advocate
- composer for film, video games or television
- performing musician
- public or community school teacher
- university professor

Contact Information

School of Music, Dance and Theatre | MUSIC E167
mdtadmissions@asu.edu | 480-965-5069
Admission Deadlines