Music Composition, MM

FAMCOMPMM

Are you interested in working with renowned faculty who have diverse musical specialties? Join us and expand your knowledge and advance your skill set in your preferred genre.

Program Description

Degree Awarded: MM Composition
The MM program in composition focuses on the development of skills required for a career in music composition.

Composers learn through experiential opportunities, including composing for fellow student performers leading to performances of their works in venues on campus and off. Project-based experiences include working with the Visiting Quartet Residency program and creating new works for student string quartets.

Composers have multiple performance opportunities each year, including collaborations with student performers, readings by the Visiting Quartet Residency Program, readings by the ASU Symphony Orchestra as part of the orchestra composition competition, year-long residencies with the ASU Wind Ensembles, student commissions for the PRISMS contemporary music festival, and collaborations with student filmmakers.

Students develop advanced skills, such as orchestration, electronic studio techniques, film and video scoring, and jazz composition in the degree program. Collaboration with music scholars, theorists, performers, educators and other composers under the guidance of renowned composition faculty provides students with a broad and well-rounded foundation for advanced careers in music.

At a Glance

- College/School: Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts
- 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 hours including a written comprehensive exam and the required applied project course (MTC 593), or
32 hours including a written comprehensive exam, an oral comprehensive exam and the required applied project course (MTC 593)

The credit hour requirements for the degree are distributed as follows:

composition (9 credit hours)
electives (8 credit hours)
music theory and music history (9 credit hours)
thesis or 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, Dance and Theatre.

Additional information about degree requirements for all graduate music programs may be found on check sheets.

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 to the program if they have earned a U.S. bachelor's degree or higher from a regionally accredited institution or the equivalent of a U.S. bachelor's degree from an institution in another country that is officially recognized by that country.

Applicants must have achieved a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 (scale is 4.00 = "A") in the last 60 semester hours or 90 quarter hours of their first bachelor'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. In order to meet English proficiency requirements, students must 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.

The School of Music, Dance and Theatre does not offer conditional admission under any circumstances.

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.

Applicants should see the program website for application deadlines. After receipt of complete application materials, including recommendation letters, transcripts and English proficiency, and review of prescreening materials, an applicant may be invited for an interview. Information on the interview may be found at the school's graduate auditions 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:

- Critique compositions in a variety of styles, applying theoretical understanding of compositional techniques.
- Create an original portfolio that synthesizes principles of composition.
- Interpret specific musical products within the context of a specific historic or cultural tradition.

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 and arts advocacy 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
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Admission Deadlines