

Department of Music

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<http://music.boisestate.edu/>

Graduate Degrees Offered

- Master of Music, Music Education
- Master of Music, Performance

Master of Music

Graduate Program Coordinator: Jeanne Belfy

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General Information

The Master of Music is a professional degree in music with emphasis in either 1) music education or 2) performance. The emphasis in education is designed to meet the needs of music education specialists who work in the public school system, grades K-12, or who aspire to further graduate study and teaching in music education. Students engage in critical inquiry in music education through graduate courses related to research, pedagogy, history, and philosophy, as well as graduate courses in music theory and history. Declaring an area of emphasis of either elementary, choral, or secondary instrumental, students structure elective credits to reflect their area, and conclude their studies with a culminating activity related to their emphasis.

Performance majors seek to improve their performance and studio teaching skills, possibly in preparation for a performance career, further graduate study, private studio teaching, and/or collegiate applied teaching. Their course work centers around applied study, music theory and history, and pedagogy and literature courses, and culminates in a graduate recital or other appropriate culminating project.

The Department offers four full graduate teaching and service assistantships, and a flexible number of additional assistantships are available through the Blue Thunder Marching Band program. A cooperative program for string students exists with the Boise Philharmonic Orchestra. Contact the Graduate Program Coordinator for further information.

Application and Admission Requirements

Admission will be granted to applicants who hold a Bachelor's degree in music (B.M., B.A., or B.S. with a music major) from an accredited college or university, and who give promise of meeting the standards set by the Department of Music and the University. Students seeking Music Education Emphasis must possess the B.M.Ed. or equivalent with certification, and submit a teaching portfolio to include a formal writing sample, lesson plan samples including assessment tools, program sample, teaching video, and three letters of reference from professionals who are familiar with the applicant's teaching. Students seeking admission to the Performance Emphases must submit a formal writing sample (short undergraduate academic research paper) and three letters

of recommendation from professors familiar with their work, and perform a satisfactory audition, in person, before the performance faculty of his/her major performance area (keyboard, winds, strings, etc.). Audition details are available from the Department of Music.

Before a graduate student can be admitted to Regular Status, predictive examinations in music history and music theory must be passed. Predictive examinations identify strengths and weaknesses so that an individual academic program can be formulated to best serve the student's needs. Remedial courses used to remove deficiencies do not count toward the degree. A student who has deficiencies will be granted Provisional Status in the graduate program. When deficiencies have been removed, the student may then seek Regular Status. A description of material covered on these examinations is available from the Department of Music.

Degree Requirements

Master of Music, Music Education	
Course Number and Title	Credits
Graduation Requirements	
33-36 credits minimum, stipulated below, are required for graduation. The actual number of credit hours may vary depending on the needs of individual students as determined by the results of predictive examinations. Candidates are required to establish an area of emphasis in one of the following: elementary, choral, or instrumental music education.	
Core Courses	
MUS 503 Introduction to Music Research	3
MUS 510 Advanced Form and Analysis	3
MUS 570 New Developments in Music Education	3
MUS 576 History and Philosophy of Music Education	3
Music Education Emphasis Area and Electives (courses selected with the approval of the student's Committee)	
A. 6 credits in the student's area of emphasis: elementary general music, choral music, or instrumental music.	
No more than four (4) workshop elective credits, of which one may be a music conference credit, may be applied towards the degree.	
B. 3 credits additional approved electives in music	
6	
Other Music Courses (courses selected with the approval of the student's Committee)	
Music History	3
Additional credits selected from the following area(s)	6
A. Additional music theory or history course(s)	
B. Music Ensemble(s)	
C. Private Music Lessons	
D. Conducting course(s)	
Comprehensive Examination	
A written comprehensive examination in music must be passed prior to completion of the student's culminating activity. This exam will be tailored to each student's graduate course work. The comprehensive exam may be taken after the completion of 27 hours of required course work to include 6 credits of the core courses and the 3 hours each in music history and music theory.	
Oral Examination	
If needed, an oral examination relating to the written comprehensive examination or to the culminating activity may be requested at the discretion of the candidate's Committee.	
Culminating Activity	
MUS 591 Project (3 cr) or MUS 593 Thesis (6 cr)	3-6
Total	33-36