The University of Texas
Rio Grande Valley
College of Fine Arts

Graduate
Student Handbook

School of Music

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The School of Music
Master of Music
(2017-2019)

Please note: This document is offered to prospective and current graduate students and faculty in music. Any policies mentioned are those of the School of Music at the time of publication, and they are subject to change without notice. Moreover, they may not be the policies of other schools or departments. Details on UTRGV regulations are published in official college catalogs and bulletins.

Graduate College Handbook:

Graduate College Catalog:
http://www.utrgv.edu/graduate/_files/documents/utrgv_graduate_catalog.pdf

The Graduate College Admissions Process
In order to be admitted to a graduate program, the student must meet all requirements for admission to UTRGV as well as the program-specific requirements. Application for admission to the University must be submitted online. The application is available at www.utrgv.edu/graduate/onlineapplication. Once submitted, Applicants can check the status of their applications by contacting the Graduate College.

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley Graduate College Catalog (also available on-line: http://www.utrgv.edu/graduate/_files/documents/graduate-catalog.pdf) provides a detailed description of admission requirements for graduate study.

The Graduate College requires official transcripts be sent directly to UTRGV from each institution attended.

For more information concerning Graduate School requirements, deadlines etc visit the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley website: http://www.utrgv.edu/graduate/index.htm

or:
Graduate College
Marialice Shary Shivers Bldg. 1.158
Email: gradcollege@utrgv.edu
Phone: (956) 665-3661
Phone Alt: (956) 882-6552
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It is important to note that admission to graduate standing in the Graduate College DOES NOT automatically constitute acceptance by any specific program of study. To pursue a graduate degree in music, the Applicant must also be accepted to the program after gaining regular admission to the Graduate College.

Application Deadlines for the Graduate College: www.utrgv.edu/grad
I. ADMISSION TO THE SCHOOL OF MUSIC (Use Appendix A as a guide)
Every graduate applicant is responsible for ensuring that she/he meets all Graduate College and School of Music requirements.

After submitting the application to the Graduate College, they will review it and forward it to the School of Music. The Graduate Admissions Committee within the School of Music will read and evaluate all materials received plus those listed below to make a final decision to admit or deny the applicant’s acceptance.

SCHOOL OF MUSIC ADMISSION: After receiving these materials, Applicants may be granted Clear or Conditional Admission. Approval of the audition or these application materials and acceptance to the School of Music does not guarantee acceptance into the Graduate College or vice versa.

http://www.utrgv.edu/graduate/for-future-students/graduate-programs/program-requirements/music-mm/index.htm#item1

A. Master of Music (concentration admission requirements):

**MM – Performance** – Applicant must perform an audition for a music faculty committee organized by the appropriate applied teacher or Graduate Advisor. Check with the School of Music office or audition coordinator for a list of appropriate audition dates. Specific repertoire requirements are available from the applied teacher or on the music audition portion of the School of Music webpage. String, guitar, and voice students are expected to perform the materials from memory. The auditioning committees may also ask for scales and sight reading.

**MM – Ethnomusicology** – Applicant must submit a writing sample or research paper of a topic in music history/ethnomusicology. Applicants with specific questions should direct them to the Graduate Advisor and ethnomusicology specialists within the School of Music.

**MM – Music Education** – Applicant will need to provide a live teaching sample (DVD) of approximately 50 minutes (recorded within 6 months of applying to UTRGV) and include the corresponding lesson plan. This recording may be either a guest coaching of a UTRGV ensemble (to be arranged by the Graduate Advisor and/or the ensemble director), or video of classroom/private teaching.

**MM – Conducting** – Applicant will need to provide a video recording of conducting large ensemble (recorded within 6 months of applying to UTRGV).
Please contact the Graduate Advisor or specialist in the area of band, choir, or orchestra for specific details.

B. Diagnostic Exams: Prior to the first semester of enrollment, all incoming graduate students must take diagnostic exams in both music theory and music history. These exams will be administered a week before the fall and spring semesters.

C. MM in Vocal Performance: Vocal Performance majors must meet prerequisites in both conversational language study and lyric diction in Italian, French, and German.

Conversational Language Study: The purpose of the conversational language study prerequisite is to ensure a grounding in vocabulary and grammar that will enable continued growth and independence at the professional level. The prerequisite will be considered met by one of the following conditions:

1. The Applicant has at least two semesters of prior university study – this can be met either by taking two semesters of one language (i.e. two semesters of French) or by taking one semester each of two of the three languages (i.e. one semester of Italian and one of German).
2. The Applicant can show proof of equivalent language study as part of a professional training program such as a summer artist’s program or continuing studies language program (subject to faculty approval).
3. The Applicant can show equivalent language proficiency via WebCAPE.

Any deficiencies can be addressed in one of the following ways:

1. Language study at UTRGV or at another university (subject to faculty approval).
2. Language study as part of an artist program or other professional training program (subject to faculty approval).
3. Individual study to prepare for WebCAPE testing.

Lyric Diction will be assessed during the audition for admission to the School of Music. Any deficiencies may be addressed through work with the applied teacher, through an independent study course in lyric diction, or by taking the undergraduate diction course(s) MUSI 1160, 1161.

D. Mandatory Orientation and Assessment: In addition to above documents, the Applicant will meet with the Graduate Admissions Committee/Graduate Advisor for an orientation meeting and advisement.

E. Admission Classification

1. Clear Admission: An Applicant who meets the following criteria is eligible for clear admission to a graduate degree program if he or she:
1. was awarded a baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution and earned at least a 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) on the graduate admission GPA calculation; or

2. earned a previous master’s degree from an accredited university.

3. has been approved by the School of Music Graduate Admissions Committee based on satisfactory completion and approval of the materials required by the School of Music:
   A. Satisfactory completion of the: Applied Audition, Writing Sample, or DVD recording (and lesson plan)
   B. Applicants statement, which includes degree selection, intentions, and goals
   C. Current resume
   D. Letters of Recommendation
   E. Diagnostic Exams

2. Conditional Admission: Students not eligible for Clear Admission may be admitted conditionally. Once the conditions are satisfied, the admissions classification will be updated to “clear.” Based on Academic Record, an Applicant meeting the following criteria may be granted conditional admission:
   1. Awarded a baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution.
   2. Earned between a 2.75 and 2.99 (on a 4.0 scale) on the graduate admission GPA calculation.
   3. If the materials submitted to the School of Music are incomplete.
   4. If the School of Music Graduate admissions finds a specific deficiency that needs to be monitored and reevaluated upon completion of the first semester of graduate study.

An Applicant granted conditional admission based on academic standing may not enroll for more than 12 graduate hours total while on conditional admittance. A student on conditional status who earns any graduate grade less than a B will not be allowed to continue in UTRGV graduate programs. The student may appeal this decision to the Dean of the Graduate College through the School of Music Director or Graduate Advisor and the Dean, who will each provide a recommendation on the appeal. The appeal must be in writing to the School of Music Director or the program to which the student is applying and should provide an explanation of any extenuating circumstances to be considered. The Graduate College Dean’s decision shall be final.

At the end of the semester in which a conditional student’s total earned graduate hours are six or more and the student’s graduate GPA is 3.0 or better with no grade less than B, the student’s admission classification will be changed to “clear.”
II. DEGREE REQUIREMENTS – all MM degrees require 36 credit hours

A. The graduate Applicant is responsible for:
   1. being familiar with all of the requirements for the degree sought
   2. insuring that the proper forms have been submitted to and approved by Admissions and Records
   3. meeting all deadlines established by the School of Music and the University, keep up to date all personal records.

Note: Applicants are strongly encouraged to work closely with the School of Music Graduate Advisor and their applied instructor or area specialist to insure that they meet all requirements for continued enrollment, and graduation.

B. Applicants pursuing the MM in Music Education or Performance need to decide which of two (2) Program Options they wish to pursue: Thesis or Non-Thesis.

   1. Thesis Option: The Applicant is required to complete 30 credit hours of designated course work. The Applicant will receive an additional 6 credit hours for the successful completion and Oral Defense of a personally authored, thesis (i.e., 30 sch course work + 6 sch for thesis = 36 credit hours).

   2. Non-Thesis Option for Music Education: The Applicant is required to complete 33 credit hours of designated course work.
      In addition to 33 hours of coursework, the School of Music requires the completion of a 3 hour final project course. (i.e., 33 sch course work + 3 sch for final project = 36 credit hours)

   3. Non-Thesis Option for Performance: The Applicant is required to complete 36 credit hours of designated course work.

C. Applicants pursuing the MM in Ethnomusicology are required to complete 30 credit hours of designated course work. The Applicant will receive an additional 6 credit hours for successful completion and defend a personally authored thesis. (i.e., 30 sch course work + 6 sch for thesis = 36 credit hours).

D. Applicants pursuing the MM in Conducting are required to complete 36 credit hours of designated coursework.

In addition to coursework for all of the MM degrees, the Applicant must take Written and Oral Comprehensive Examinations.

III. ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS (See Appendix B)

A. Core Requirements for MM in Education, Conducting, and Performance: All Applicants are required to take a core of 15 credit hours of course work:
   1. MUSI 6350-6054 Music Theory (2 courses= 6 credits)
   2. MUSI 6360-6069 Music History (2 courses=6 credits)
   3. MUSI 6334 Research Methods in Music (1 course=3 credits)
B. Designated Electives: Applicants selecting the non-thesis option will have options of DESIGNATED ELECTIVES (6000 OR 7000-level courses. See Appendix D for the link to the School of Music webpage) from the course listing in Music. Applicants receive credit toward their graduate degree only from graduate courses.

C. Transfer Credits: (see the Graduate Catalog) A maximum of nine (9) credit hours of graduate-level course work may be taken at another institution, and/or as online courses. These courses must have written prior approval by the School of Music Admissions Committee, Graduate Advisor, and School of Music Director. These credits must conform to ALL of the following:

A course may be transferred only if:
1. The course is equivalent to a graduate-level course at UTRGV or is appropriate for elective credit at the graduate level within the student’s degree program;
2. The grade for the course is not less than B; and
3. The course was not taken at such a date that it would extend the student’s time for achieving the degree beyond the approval limit for the graduate program (seven years for a master’s program and 10 years for a doctoral program).

D. Independent Study Credit: A maximum of nine (9) hours of work may be taken “collectively” via this alternative instructional methods*. However, any transfer credits will be considered as part of this nine (9) credit hour total. (*other alternative instructional methods include: classes taken at another accredited university and courses taken online).

Note: No Core Required Course may be taken by any of these alternate formats. Further, approval must be secured from the Graduate Advisor and/or the Applicant’s graduate committee and/or the graduate faculty committee for each course to be taken by an alternate format.

E. Graduate Applicants may be enrolled either full-time or part-time each semester. Full-time graduate enrollment requires the Applicant to be registered for nine (9) or more credit hours during the current semester.

Teaching Assistants (TAs)/Research Assistants (RAs) must be enrolled full-time, and may NOT drop a course if it leaves them with too few hours to qualify for full-time status.

F. Graduate Students must maintain a graduate GPA of 3.0 or higher. For more information, see "Scholastic Probation and Suspension-Graduate", in the UTRGV Graduate Catalog.

G. All requirements for the Master of Music degree must be completed within seven (7) years from the semester/session of enrollment in the first graduate-level course. If a student will be absent more than one semester, the student should write a letter to the
Graduate Advisor to request a “leave of absence.” NOT requesting a *leave of absence* will result in the student’s needing to reapply and start the admission process again. This could place the student under a new catalogue year and he or she will be subject to those degree plans and requirements.

**H. Double Majoring or enrolling in a 2nd MM degree within the School of Music is prohibited.**

**IV. MUSIC PROGRAM OPTIONS (See Appendix B)**

**MM – Performance:**

**A. Non-Thesis Option:** REQUIREMENTS (36 credits):
1. Core Requirements (15 credits)
2. Designated Music Electives (6 credit) (MUS 6000-7000 level courses, Appendix D)
3. Chamber Music/Large ensemble (4 credits)
4. Graduate Recital (1 credit)
5. Applied Lessons (8 credits)
6. Pedagogy of Major Instrument/Voice (2 credits)
7. Comprehensive Examinations. Applicant is required to take Written and Oral Comprehensive Examinations upon completion of 27 credit hours or during the last semester of enrollment.

**B. Thesis Option:** REQUIREMENTS (36 credits):
1. Core Requirements (15 credits)
2. Chamber Music/Large ensemble (4 credits)
3. Graduate Recital (1 credit)
4. Applied Lessons (8 credits)
5. Pedagogy of Major Instrument/Voice (2 credits)
6. Thesis (6 Credits). Applicant will be awarded six (6) credit hours for the successful completion and defense of a personally authored and defended research thesis.
7. Comprehensive Examinations. Applicant is required to take Written and Oral Comprehensive Examinations upon completion of 27 credit hours or during the last semester of enrollment.

**MM – Music Education:**

**A. Non-Thesis Option:** REQUIREMENTS (36 credits):
1. Core Requirements (18 credits)
2. Designated Music Electives (3 credit) (MUS 6000-7000-level courses, Appendix D)
3. Music Education (6 credits)
4. Applied Lessons (4 credits)
5. Pedagogy of Major Instrument/Voice (2 credits)
6. Final Project – (3 credits)
7. Comprehensive Examinations. Applicant is required to take Written and Oral Comprehensive Examinations upon completion of 27 credit hours or during the last semester of enrollment.

**B. Thesis Option:** REQUIREMENTS (36 credits):
1. Core Requirements (18 credits)
2. Music Education (6 credits)
3. Applied Lessons (4 credits)
4. Pedagogy of Major Instrument/Voice (2 credits)
5. Thesis (6 Credits). Applicant will be awarded six (6) credit hours for the successful completion and defense of a personally authored and defended research thesis.
6. Comprehensive Examinations. Applicant is required to take Written and Oral Comprehensive Examinations upon completion of 27 credit hours or during the last semester of enrollment.

**MM – Ethnomusicology** with thesis: REQUIREMENTS (36 credits):
1. Foundation of Ethnomusicology (3 credits)
2. Research Methods (3 credits)
3. Ethnographic and Analytical Methods (3 credits)
4. Folk Music (3-6 credits)
5. Music and Culture (3-6 credits)
6. Ensemble (2 credits)
7. Designated Elective in music, (6000 level or more, Appendix D) (1-7 credits)
8. Outside Electives: Anthropology, Sociology, History (6 credits)
9. Thesis (6 credits)
10. Comprehensive Examinations. Applicant is required to take Written and Oral Comprehensive Examinations upon completion of 24 credit hours or during the last semester of enrollment.

**MM – Conducting**: REQUIREMENTS (36 credits):
1. Core Requirements (15 credits)
2. Applied Instrument/Voice and Pedagogy (18 credits)
3. Designated Music Electives (3 credit) (MUS 6000-7000 level courses, Appendix D)
4. Comprehensive Examinations. Applicant is required to take Written and Oral Comprehensive Examinations upon completion of 24 credit hours or during the last semester of enrollment.

**V. SELECTING A GRADUATION COMMITTEE**: At the completion of approximately 27 credit hours (three full-time semesters), or before the beginning of the fourth full-time semester of study, the Candidate should select a committee that will serve as his or her advisors during the comprehensive examination process, recital (hearing and performance), and/or thesis.

**A.** The Graduation Committee Chair should be selected within the first week of the last semester of graduate study or during the semester when the comprehensive exams will be administered, solo recital performed, and/or thesis defended. The Graduate Committee Chair will be the primary advisor.

**B.** Each Candidate, with guidance from his or her advisor, will select a Graduation Committee comprised of a minimum of three (including the Chair) professors from the School of Music. Students pursuing ethnomusicology may choose one committee member outside of music, as approved by the Chair of the Graduation Committee and Graduate Advisor.
C. The Graduation Committee must have at least two “academic faculty” (professors from area such as music history, music theory, or pedagogy). The Dean or Associate Dean(s) of the college may NOT serve as members unless approved by the Graduation Committee Chair and Graduate Advisor.

D. The faculty members chosen for the Graduation Committee must be instructors with whom the Candidate has been enrolled for 2- or 3-credit hour graduate courses. Any deviations from this configuration need to be approved by the Graduation Committee Chair and the Graduate Advisor.

E. The Candidate must extend a personal invitation (email, in writing) to each of the faculty members that you wish to have serve on your Graduation Committee.
   1. Tell each invited member who the Chair of the Graduation Committee will be.
   2. Ask the following question of each faculty member invited to serve on the Committee: “Would you be willing to serve as Committee Member?”

F. The Chair will submit the appropriate form to the Graduate Advisor; complete with signatures of all members’ willingness to serve on the committee.

G. Within the first week of the semester, the Chair will organize a meeting or communicate with the Graduation Committee and Candidate to determine preparation procedures for the exams, recital, thesis, and/or recital hearing and performance. Communication about all procedures and time lines are crucial. All materials (exam results, recital results, thesis defense etc) must be submitted to the Graduate Advisor before or on the last day of class (before study days and exams) in the particular semester.

H. A Candidate must be enrolled in a graduate course each semester while completing his or her degree, including the comprehensive exams. If the student will be absent for a semester he or she must write a letter to the Graduate Advisor requesting a “leave of absence”.

VI. COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATIONS
   A. General Information:
      1. All Candidates for the Master of Music degree will be required to complete successfully Written and Oral Comprehensive Examinations.
      2. These examinations will be related to information, materials, and course work in the Candidate’s Degree Plan.
      3. The Candidate is eligible to schedule and take the Comprehensive Examinations upon completion of approximately 27 credit hours of graduate work (including ALL music core courses).
      4. Comprehensive Examinations should be completed during the fall or spring semesters. If this is not possible and the student is finishing the degree in the summer, the Graduation Committee Chair may organize an appropriate committee and administer the exams during the summer sessions.
a. All written and oral portions of examinations MUST BE COMPLETED by the 15th of November for the fall semester.
b. All written and oral portions of examinations MUST BE COMPLETED by the 15th of April for the spring semester.

B. Guidelines for Written Examinations
1. The Graduation Committee Chair will be responsible for organizing and proctoring the Written Examination.

2. The Graduation Committee Chair will request that questions from each of the Graduation Committee Members be sent to him/her. Upon receiving and evaluating the questions, the Chair will give/send a copy of the questions to the Candidate, the Graduation Committee Members, and the Graduate Advisor.

3. Questions will reflect the breadth of the discipline with regard to Theories, Concepts, and Research Methodologies. Questions SHOULD specifically address the course work emphasized by an individual Candidate’s degree program.

4. The Candidate will sit for examination within the School of Music.

5. The Chair and Candidate should set up an examination date allowing the Candidate a minimum of two weeks to prepare for the written exam.

6. The Candidate should allow approximately 6 hours for the written exam (2 hours per committee member’s question).

7. The Chair will decide the method in which the Candidate will write the exam. For example, the Candidate will either bring 6 bluebooks and writing utensils to the exam, OR the School of Music will provide a study area with a computer that is not connected to the internet and the Candidate will bring 3 empty USB storage drives. No personal computers or notes are allowed.

8. On the day of the exam the Chair will give the Candidate a separate copy of each question to be placed inside of the corresponding bluebook/USBs and an honor code agreement to sign and leave with the bluebooks/USBs. (See sample honor code agreement in Appendix C)

C. Grading Written Examinations
1. Upon completion of the written exams, the Candidate will give the bluebooks/USB to the Graduation Committee Chair who will distribute them to the corresponding professor the day following the exam. The committee members will grade and return them to the Chair within 5 working days.

2. When the graded bluebooks/USBs have been returned and reviewed by the Graduation Committee Chair and Committee Members, an oral examination will be scheduled with all committee members and the Candidate before 21st of November for the fall semester or the 21st of April for the spring semester.
Note: 1. Each Candidate MUST PASS ALL content areas (Pass or Pass with Reservations) before she/he can schedule and take Oral Examinations.

2. Though all committee members should review ALL answers, each Committee member will provide a grade for ONLY his/her area.

3. Grade(s) should be accompanied by sufficient criticism to inform the Candidate regarding the quality of her/his performance.

4. Each Content Area/Question will receive one of three Grades: Pass, Pass with Reservations, Fail.
   - **Pass** – indicates that the Candidate’s response(s) were judged, at minimum, as adequate and competent.
   - **Pass with Reservations** - indicates that the Candidate’s responses, though to some extent accurate, did not satisfactorily demonstrate the necessary completeness or competence required.
     - **Note:** This grade highlights the Candidate’s need to further demonstrate his/her mastery of the material, either through additional written work or by special attention and effort during the Oral Examination.
   - **Fail** – indicates that the Candidate’s response(s) did NOT provide sufficient nor adequate evidence of understanding, nor mastery of the material addressed.
     - **Note:** Should a Candidate FAIL one (1) or more Questions/Content Areas, the Committee will prepare immediately a course(s) of action for the Candidate to follow. The Committee should:
       a. Agree upon a time frame to retake those failed portions of the examination.
       b. Assign Readings or other "make-up" work to be completed before failed portions of the examination can be re-administered.
       c. Require additional course work be completed successfully before Failed portions of the examination can be re-administered.
     - **Note:** Reexamination cannot be scheduled for at least a minimum of one (1) week following the Failure of a portion of the examination.

**D. Guidelines for Oral Examination**

1. The Graduation Committee will schedule a date for the Oral Examination at least three (3) days, but not more than seven (7) days, following the successful completion of all criteria for the Written Examination.
   a. Candidate will sit for the Oral Examination within the School of Music
   b. Method and Ordering of Questioning will be determined by the Graduation Committee.
   c. Typically, oral examinations last between 45 to 90 minutes in length.
2. The **procedure** for questioning the Candidate during the Oral Examination will be determined by the Chair. FOR EXAMPLE:
   a. Each Committee Member, in turn, will ask ALL questions related to her/his area(s) before relinquishing the floor to the next Committee Member.
   b. Each Committee Member, in turn, will question the Candidate
      i. After the established time period expires, the questioning will be resumed by the next Committee member.
      ii. This alternating procedure will continue until all Committee members have questioned the Candidate satisfactorily.

**Note:** All Committee Members are encouraged to participate in the questioning/examining of the Candidate in ALL areas of the examination, not just her/his assigned area.

**E. Grading Oral Examinations**

1. When the Committee is satisfied that the Candidate has sufficiently addressed their concerns, the Committee will excuse the Candidate and meet in executive session to render a judgment on the Candidate’s performance.

2. Each Committee member can award the Candidate one of four possible evaluations: **Unconditional Pass, Conditional Pass, Conditional Fail, or Unconditional Fail**.
   a. **Unconditional Pass** - The Candidate passed the exam without further need to demonstrate mastery of content area.
   b. **Conditional Pass** - The Candidate demonstrates passing performance on some parts of the Examination while failing other parts of the exam. The Committee member believes that the Candidate should be afforded the opportunity to demonstrate mastery of those sections failed. The Committee member recommends scheduling a **SECOND Oral Examination**.
      **Note:** This evaluation (Conditional Pass) can only be employed once for any student (i.e., the Candidate cannot be awarded an Unconditional Pass on his/her reexamination).
   c. **Conditional Fail** - The Candidate did not demonstrate mastery of material, but the Committee member believes that the Candidate should be given another chance to improve her/his understanding of required material. At the Committee’s discretion, such Candidates will be directed to take additional course work, individual directed studies or other remedial work prior to retaking all or part of the Written and/or Oral Examination.
   d. **Unconditional Fail** - The Candidate did not demonstrate mastery of program material and the Committee member does not see any basis for another attempt.

3. Evaluation of the Candidate’s performance will be made.
   a. **Consensus Evaluation** - The final evaluation of the Candidate’s performance will be based on a Consensus of the Committee.
   b. A majority **IS NOT** sufficient. All Committee members must agree on the final evaluation.
Note: Candidates who conditionally fail their Comprehensive Examinations may NOT reconstitute a new committee for the purpose of retaking the Examination. A member or members of the original Comprehensive Examination Committee may be excused from the Committee and a new member or members added ONLY with written permission by the Graduation Committee member, the Committee Chair, and the Candidate’s Graduate Advisor.

4: Reexamination cannot be scheduled for at least a minimum of one (1) week following Conditional Pass evaluation of the Oral Examination.

F. Completion of Written and Oral Exams:
1. Upon successfully completing ALL criteria for the Oral Examination (and by inclusion, criteria for the Written Examination), an email declaring the Candidate’s achievement will be drafted by the Chair, and all Committee members will sign a hard copy of the Committee Form.

2. Upon completion of Written and Oral examination, the Committee Chair will return the appropriate form(s) signed by all Committee members and bluebooks/USBs to Graduate Advisor before study days. The Graduate Advisor will forward the recommendation to the appropriate Graduate College office for processing for commencement.

VII. MASTER’S RECITAL – Detailed Procedures for the MM in Performance – Requirement: A public recital of at least 60 minutes with an appropriate amount of memorized music based on the decision of the Graduation Committee.

See Section V. SELECTING A GRADUATION COMMITTEE (page 8)

A. Scheduling a Recital
1. At the beginning of the semester in which the recital will be performed, the Graduation Committee Chair, Candidate, and Piano Collaborator (if applicable) should schedule tentative hearing, recital dates, and locations with the appropriate campus Music Office.
2. It is important that all members of the Graduation Committee can attend the hearing and recital.
3. Candidate must follow all recital policies set forth by the piano and corresponding applied area.
4. The graduate recital must be completed before the last class day of the semester. Scheduling graduation recitals in the summer is not recommended.

B. Time Line and Grading
1. Recital hearing must take place approximately 10 days before the scheduled recital date.
2. Grade(s) should be accompanied by sufficient criticism to inform the Candidate regarding the quality of her/his performance.
   Pass – indicates that the Graduation Committee judged the performance, at minimum as adequate and competent.
Pass with Reservations - indicates that the Graduation Committee judged that the hearing was mostly accurate, but a particular component/piece did not satisfactorily demonstrate the necessary competence required.

Note: The Graduation Committee highlights the Candidate’s need to demonstrate further his/her mastery of the material through an additional hearing of that particular component/piece.

Fail – indicates that the Candidate’s hearing performance did NOT provide sufficient mastery of the material addressed.

Note: Should a Candidate FAIL, the Committee will immediately prepare course(s) of action for the Candidate to follow. The Committee should agree upon a time frame and criteria to be met.

Note: Reexamination cannot be scheduled until the following semester.

VIII. FINAL PROJECT for non-thesis Music Education Option

See Section V. SELECTING A GRADUATION COMMITTEE (page 8)

Final Project: Final Project must be on an approved-current issue topic in music Education:

Student needs to enroll and complete MUSI 6390 Final Project.

IX. MASTER’S THESIS - Detailed Procedures for Master’s Thesis Option (see Appendix E)

A. See Section V. SELECTING A GRADUATION COMMITTEE (page 8)

1. The School of Music recommends that the Candidate select committee members who can provide a mixture of expertise, methodological skills, editorial input, emotional support, and a personal/professional challenge.

2. When inviting faculty to serve on the committee, the Candidate will provide each invited member with a 2- to 3-page abstract of the proposed thesis.

3. The Candidate will provide all committee members with a tentative time line of the thesis process (i.e., anticipated completion date for proposal, date of first draft, date of defense, etc).

B. Follow the guidelines in the Thesis Manual:


1. If human subjects are used (as opposed to content analysis, rhetorical research), prior approval from the IRB on Protection of Human Subjects is required.

**IRB (Institutional Review Board):** For more information concerning research regarding human subjects contact the UTRGV’s IRB office:

**Kimberly Fernandez**
Institutional Review Board (IRB)
Office of Research Compliance
Email: irb@utrgv.edu
Phone: (956) 665-2093
Fax: (956) 665-2940

Or visit the website:
http://www.utrgv.edu/research/for-researchers/human-subjects-research/index.htm

2. Depending on the nature of the research, one of three protocols will be required: Exempt, Expedited, or Full Committee Review.

**Note:** If the study involved data collection that does not place your subjects “at risk,” the protocol is granted an exemption from full committee review.

**D. Enrolling for Thesis Credit** - Once the faculty have reviewed the abstract, the Candidate is eligible to enroll in thesis credit (e.g., 7300/7301).

1. The Candidate should be registered for at least 3 hours of thesis credit during each semester(s) she/he is working on her/his thesis.
2. When enrolled in 7300 or 7301, the professor of record will be the Chair of the Candidate’s Graduation Committee.
3. The Candidate will receive “Incompletes” for all 7301 grades until the thesis has been completed and successfully defended.
4. The Chair, in consultation with other Committee members, will determine a grade for the Candidate’s work, and all “Incompletes” for 7301 credits will be changed to that grade.

**E. Finalize Thesis Prospectus** - The Candidate will provide all Graduation Committee Members with a formal, typed copy of the prospectus/proposal. This prospectus should include:

- **Introduction** - providing a description of the focus and rationale for the research project.

- **Review of Related Literature** - justifying the proposed research project on the basis of prior scholarship.

- **Methodology** - providing a description and explanation of the procedures to be used for conducting the research project.
Research Question(s)/Research Hypothesis(es) - providing a clearly stated Research Question(s) and/or Research Hypothesis(es) that the project is designed to answer and/or test.

F. Proposal Meeting - The Candidate will schedule a meeting of his/her committee to review and approve the proposed research project (i.e., topic, design, procedures, population, and data collection/analysis methods).
   1. All Committee members should be given ten (10) working days to review the formal prospectus.
   2. The Candidate will defend the appropriateness of his/her proposed project of this meeting.
   3. Committee members will provide constructive feedback regarding the conceptualization, research design, and methodology for the proposed project.
   4. The Candidate should address adequately all concerns voiced by the Committee.

G. Data Collection - Having received approval from the IRB and the Thesis Graduation Committee, the Candidate may begin collecting data. WARNING: The Candidate MUST NOT initiate data collection for the research project until approval has been given by the IRB and the Thesis Graduation Committee.

H. Progress Drafts/Reading Copies - In conjunction with her/his committee, the Candidate should create a calendar of deadlines for drafts and reading copies of the thesis. These deadlines should be designed to encourage/promote efficient progress toward completion of the thesis.

I. Final Draft of Thesis - The Final Draft of the Candidate’s thesis must be submitted to the Chair and members of her/his Committee NO LATER than three (3) weeks prior to the University specified deadline for filing completed, signed theses with the College Dean. For specific dates for filing See the UTRGV Graduate Catalog Thesis Manual.

J. Oral Defense of Thesis – The Chair of the Graduation Committee and the Candidate will arrange a defense date that is acceptable to all members of the Committee. No earlier than ten (10) days after the Candidate’s Committee receives the Final Draft of the Thesis.
   1. All faculty, students, and guests are permitted to attend the oral defense.
   2. The Committee Chair will be responsible for moderating the defense.
   3. The Candidate will orally present and defend his/her thesis within the School of Music.
   4. The Committee will question the Candidate regarding his/her presentation and thesis.

K. Approval of Final Draft of Thesis
   1. After the Committee members have completed their questioning of the Candidate, the floor will be opened to questions from the faculty, students, and guests.
2. When the Committee members are satisfied that the Candidate has sufficiently addressed their concerns (and audience questions have been exhausted), the Committee will excuse the Candidate and meet in executive session to render a judgment on the Candidate’s performance.

3. Each Committee member can award the Candidate an evaluation of Pass or Fail.

4. Given the individual Committee member’s evaluations, an “Overall Evaluation” of the Candidate’s thesis will be made.
   a. Consensus Evaluation - The final evaluation of the Candidate’s Thesis will be based on a Consensus of the Committee.
   b. A majority IS NOT sufficient. All Committee members must agree on the final evaluation.

5. The Committee may recommend modifications and/or additions to the Final Draft.

6. The Candidate should address adequately all concerns voiced by the Committee.

7. The Committee Chair is responsible for policing all requested modification.

Note: If the Candidate conscientiously seeks advisement from all Committee Members during the development of his/her final project, little modification should be required at this stage in the thesis process.

M. Confirmation of Successful Completion. Upon successfully completing the oral defense of her/his thesis and all requested/required modification to the final draft of the thesis, all Committee members will sign “Certification of Completion of Thesis or Dissertation” form and the Candidate will turn it in to the Graduate College office by the last day of the semester in order to fulfill graduation requirements. At this time the Graduation Committee Chair will notify the Graduate Advisor of the final decision regarding successful completion of the requirements.
SCHOOL OF MUSIC:
Dr. Kurt Martinez, Director
Norma Salinas, Administrative Associate

Cynthia Cripps, Graduate Advisor
Phone: (956) 665-3474
Office: Edinburg Campus, EPACB 2.116
E-Mail: cynthia.cripps@utrgv.edu

UTRGV School of Music Faculty

A talented and diverse faculty is a primary attraction for graduate study in the School of Music. Faculty members are nationally recognized authorities in specialized areas of music. You can reap the benefits of their expertise while in their classes, as well as in conversations outside the classroom setting.

Dr. Saul Torres, UTRGV Band Director, Student Teaching Supervisor
Mr. Albert Lo, UTRGV Band Director, Student Teaching Supervisor
Dr. David Means, UTRGV Choir Director, Student Teaching Supervisor
Dr. Sean Taylor, UTRGV Choir Director
Dr. Peter Dabrowski, UTRGV Symphony Orchestra
Mr. Francisco Loera, UTRGV Mariachi Ensembles

Dr. Justin Writer, music theory/composition
Dr. Rachel Mitchell, music theory/composition

Dr. Andres Amado, musicology/ethnomusicology/research methods
Dr. Susan Hurley-Glowa, musicology/ethnomusicology/research methods
Dr. Silvia Lazo, musicology/ethnomusicology

Dr. Virginia Davis, music education, research methods
Dr. Krissie Weimer, music education
Ms. Sally Trenfeld, music education
Mr. Gabriel Bauza, music appreciation/music education/percussion

Dr. Kurt Martinez, guitar, School of Music Director
Dr. Michael Quantz, guitar
Dr. Jason Mitchell, guitar, Technology in the Classroom, Undergraduate Advisor
Mr. Hector Rodriguez, guitar

Dr. Kenneth Saxon, piano
Dr. Brendan Kinsella, piano
Dr. Juan Pablo Andrade, piano
Dr. Shoko Kinsella, piano
Dr. Stacy Kwak, piano
Dr. Oliver Jia, piano
Dr. Lelia Sadlier, piano
Dr. Liudmilla Varlamova, class piano

Dr. Daniel Hunter-Holly, voice
Dr. Rebecca Coberly, voice
Dr. Wendell R. Davis, voice
Dr. David Sadlier, voice
Ms. Catherine Compton, voice
Ms. Nereida Garcia, voice

Dr. Tido Janssen, cello
Dr. George Amorim, double bass
Dr. Joel Pagan, viola/violin
Dr. Diana Seitz, violin

Dr. Bill O'Neil, clarinet
Dr. Jon Guist, clarinet
Dr. Krista Jobson, flute
Dr. Brielle Frost, flute
Dr. Carol McNabb Goodwin, oboe/bassoon
Ms. Yingching Jeter, oboe/bassoon
Dr. Cynthia Cripps, saxophone, graduate advisor
Dr. Art Brownlow, trumpet, music history
Dr. Jared Broussard, trumpet
Dr. Monica Martinez, horn
Dr. Scott Roeder, tuba/euphonium
Dr. Pedro Martinez, trombone/Latin band
Dr. William Haugeberg, trombone, low brass
Dr. Joe Moore III, percussion
Dr. Mark Ramirez, percussion. School of Music Associate Director
Appendices

A - Graduate Student Application Check List

B - Degree Plans

C - Sample Honor Code

D - Music Degree Plan Requirements and Music Course Descriptions - Link

E - UTRGV Graduate College Thesis Manual – Link and Process
Appendix A

GRADUATE STUDENT -- APPLICATION CHECK LIST

Application Deadline:

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<td>April 15</td>
<td>October 1</td>
<td>March 1</td>
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There is NO GRE Requirement for Admission to the School of Music.

REQUIRED MATERIALS (also see Graduate College Requirements):
- Bachelor's degree (in Music) from a regionally accredited institution in the United States or a recognized international equivalent in a similar or related field.
- Undergraduate GPA of at least 3.0
- (TOEFL Scores – if international students)
- Official transcripts from each institution attended (must be submitted directly to UTRGV).
- Submission of an essay detailing professional goals and intent detailing reasons for pursuing the graduate degree.
- Three letters of recommendation from professional or academic sources.
- Resume including educational background and work experience.
- Language Proficiency (voice performance degree and ethnomusicology)
- Diagnostic Exams in Music Theory and Music History
- Additional requirements specific to concentration selected:
- ONE of the following that is applicable:

  MM – PERFORMANCE: AUDITION: ________
  MM – MUSIC EDUCATION: TEACHING VIDEO SAMPLE: ________
  MM - ETHNOMUSICOLOGY: WRITING SAMPLE: ________
  MM – CONDUCTING VIDEO SAMPLE: ________

- Personal interview - The ORIENTATION INTERVIEW/MEETING will be scheduled upon receipt of all required materials to receive mandatory assessment and advisement.
# Appendix B: Degree Plans

## Master of Music – Performance, Non-Thesis
School of Music --- University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

Name__________________________________________ SID# ______________________
Address _________________ Phone ( ) ____________________
UG Degree: _______________ Date: __________ email _____________________________

### Master of Music – Performance (Non Thesis Option)

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German Proficiency 0 (For Vocal Performance Majors only)
French Proficiency 0 (For Vocal Performance Majors only)
Italian Proficiency 0 (For Vocal Performance Majors only)

French Proficiency 0 (For Vocal Performance Majors only)
Italian Proficiency 0 (For Vocal Performance Majors only)

French Proficiency 0 (For Vocal Performance Majors only)
Italian Proficiency 0 (For Vocal Performance Majors only)
Master of Music – Performance, with thesis

School of Music --- University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

Name___________________________________ SID# ______________________
Address _______________________________________ Phone ( ) ____________________
UG Degree: _______________ Date: __________ email _____________________________

Master of Music – Performance (Thesis Option)

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# Master of Music – Music Education (Non-Thesis)

School of Music --- University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

Name__________________________________________ SID# ______________________
Address _______________________________________ Phone ( ) ____________________
UG Degree: _______________ Date: __________ email ______________________________________

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| **Total:** | **36** | (+written and oral comprehensive exams)**
Master of Music – Music Education (Thesis Option)

School of Music --- University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

Name__________________________________________ SID# ______________________
Address _______________________________________ Phone ( ) ____________________
UG Degree: _______________ Date: __________ email _____________________________

Master of Music - Music Education (Thesis Option)

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<td>Music History and Lit - 20 &amp; 21st Centuries</td>
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<td>Music History and Lit - Vocal/Choral</td>
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<td>Music History and Lit. – Orchestra</td>
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<td>Music History and Literature - Keyboard</td>
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<td>Music History and Lit - Medieval &amp; Renaissance</td>
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<td>Music History and Lit - Baroque</td>
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<td>Music History and Literature Music for the Stage</td>
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<td>Research Methods in Music</td>
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<td>Foundations of Music Education</td>
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<td>Psychology of Music</td>
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<td>MUSI 6343</td>
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<td>MUSI 7301</td>
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<td><strong>Total:</strong></td>
<td><strong>36</strong></td>
<td>(+written and oral comprehensive exams)</td>
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**Master of Music – Ethnomusicology**

*School of Music --- University of Texas Rio Grande Valley*

Name________________________________ SID# __________________

Address ______________________________________ Phone ( ) __________________

UG Degree: _______________ Date: __________ email _____________________________

### Master of Music – Ethnomusicology

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Course</th>
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<tr>
<td>MUSI</td>
<td>6337</td>
<td>3 Foundations of Ethnomusicology</td>
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<td>MUSI</td>
<td>6338</td>
<td>3 Music Ethnography and Fieldwork Methods</td>
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<td>Music of Greater Mexico</td>
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<tr>
<td>MUSI</td>
<td>6336</td>
<td>History of Border Music and Performance</td>
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<tr>
<td>MUSI</td>
<td>6373</td>
<td>Music of Africa and the African Diaspora</td>
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<tr>
<td>MUSI</td>
<td>6374</td>
<td>Music of Latin America and the Caribbean</td>
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3-6 **Seminar in Folk Music:** (choose 1 or 2)

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<td>MUSI</td>
<td>6372</td>
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3-6 **Ethnomusicology Seminars:** (choose 1 or 2)

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<td>6378</td>
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2 **Ensemble Coursework:** (choose 2)

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<td>MUEN</td>
<td>61xx</td>
<td>Large Ensemble or Chamber Ensemble</td>
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**Music Electives:** 1-7 Credits to be chosen from MUEN, MUAP, MUSI

**Outside Electives:** 6 Credits to be chosen from: (choose 2)

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<td>US and other World Cultures</td>
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<td>ANTH</td>
<td>6345</td>
<td>Anthropological Method and Theory</td>
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<td>People and Cultures of Mexico</td>
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<td>6385</td>
<td>Topics in Anthropology (may vary)</td>
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**Capstone:**

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<td>7301</td>
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**Total:** **36 Hrs** (+written and oral comprehensive exams)
Master of Music – Conducting

School of Music --- University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

Name__________________________________________ SID# ______________________
Address _______________________________________ Phone (   ) ____________________
UG Degree: _______________ Date: __________ email _____________________________

Master of Music - Conducting

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<td>MUSI 6352</td>
<td>Music Theory - Counterpoint</td>
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<td>Music Theory - Composition/Arranging</td>
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<td>Music Theory - Analysis</td>
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<td>Instrumental Conducting/Choral Conducting Seminar</td>
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<td>Total:</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>(+written and oral comprehensive exams)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Appendix C

Sample Honor Code to be signed at the time of the written comprehensive exams:

HONOR CODE - Please read and sign below:

“I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid on this piece of work, nor have I knowingly tolerated any violation of the honor code.”

NAME: _______________________________

Signature: ___________________________

Date: _____________________________
Appendix D

UTRGV School of Music Webpage

Music Degree Plan Requirements and Course Descriptions:

http://www.utrgv.edu/graduate/for-future-students/graduate-programs/program-requirements/music-mm/index.htm#item4
Appendix E

University of Texas Rio Grande Valley Graduate College Thesis/Dissertation Manual

Visit the UTRGV Graduate College Website for current information on the Thesis Manual and requirements.