

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA
SCHOOL OF MUSIC

B.M., Emphasis in Composition

DEGREE PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Composition Program Web Site
www.music.sc.edu/ea/comp/

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Bachelor of Music Emphasis in Composition

(132 hours)

1. General Education Requirements (42 hours)

- ENGL 101, 102 (6 hours, passed with "C" or higher)
- Numerical and Analytical Reasoning (6 hours, MATH 122 or 141, plus one course selected from MATH (higher level), PHIL 110, PHIL 111, CSCE, STAT; or two courses from same field selected from PHIL 110-PHIL 111, STAT, or CSCE)
- Humanities and Social Sciences (12 hours, must include 3 hours in history and 3 hours in fine arts other than music)
- Natural Sciences (7-8 hours, Two courses selected from ASTR, BIOL, CHEM, GEOL, MSCI, or PHYS)
- Nonmusic electives (10-11 hours; must include demonstration of proficiency in one foreign language equivalent to the minimal passing grade on the exit examination in the 122 course)

2. Major Requirements (90 hours)

Composition Emphasis (90 hours)

MUSIC COURSE (HOURS)	DESCRIPTION
MUSC 115, 116, 117, 118, 215, 216, 217, 218 (16 hours)	Music theory and sight-singing/ear-training sequence
MUSC 353, 354, and 564 (9 hours)	Music history sequence
Applied music courses (8 hours)	<u>Private study in primary instrument</u> Must have at least 4 semesters of 111 and 2 semesters of 311.
Ensembles (8 hours)	6 semesters of major ensemble most closely related to applied area, 2 other
Music history or literature elective (3 hours)	
MUSC 333 Conducting (2 hours)	
MUSC 316, 416 (6 hours)	Composition Class sequence, normally begins the in the first semester of the sophomore year
MUSC 515, 518, 525, 529 or 530 (12 hours)	Upper-level music theory and orchestration
MUSC 336 and 539 (6 hours)	Music technology core sequence
MUSC 516 (12 hours)	Private study in composition
Music electives (8 hours)	
MUSC 100-Recital Class (non-credit)	Recital class, 6 semesters with grade of "S", must attend 10 seminars per semester

SUGGESTED SEMESTER BY SEMESTER BREAKDOWN

<u>Credits</u>	<u>Course Requirements</u>	<u>Sem 1</u>	<u>Sem 2</u>	<u>Sem 3</u>	<u>Sem 4</u>	<u>Sem 5</u>	<u>Sem 6</u>	<u>Sem 7</u>	<u>Sem 8</u>
18	PRINCIPLE STUDY (COMPOSITION)								
6	MUSC 316¹, 416 (Composition Class I, II)			3	3				
12	MUSC 516 (Private study in composition for 4 semesters)					3	3	3	3
18	PERFORMANCE STUDIES								
8	Applied music (Must have at least 4 semesters of 111 and 2 semesters of 311)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
8	Ensembles (6 semesters of major ensemble most closely related to applied area, 2 other)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
2	MUSC 333 (Conducting)								2
22	THEORY/HISTORY CORE								
12	MUSC 115, 116, 215, 216 (Music Theory)	3	3	3	3				
4	MUSC 117, 118, 217, 218 (Aural Skills)	1	1	1	1				
6	MUSC 353, 354 (History of Western Music)			3	3				
6	TECHNOLOGY CORE								
3	MUSC 336 (Introduction to Music Technology)					3			
3	MUSC 539 (Composing with Computers)						3		
15	UPPER-LEVEL REQUIREMENTS								
3	MUSC 564 (20th Century History)					3			
3	MUSC 518 (Form and Analysis)					3			
3	MUSC 515 (Orchestration)						3		
3	MUSC 529 or 530 (Counterpoint)								3
3	MUSC 525 (Post-Tonal Theory)							3	
11	MUSIC ELECTIVES								
8	Music Technology, Recording, Music Theory, etc.							3	5
3	Music History/Literature elective							3	
[90]	Semester Totals (Music)	6	6	13	13	14	11	13	15
42	UNIVERSITY GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS	12	12	3	3	3	3	3	3
132		18	18	16	16	17	14	17	18

¹ Students with sufficient prior training in composition may petition the composition faculty to substitute 516 for 316 and/or 416.

ADDITIONAL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Active Participation in Composition Program Activities

- ÿ *Composition Seminar* while enrolled in MUSC 516
- ÿ Performances at department-approved concerts, for example, USC Student Composers Concert, USC Computer Music Concert, and so forth.²
- ÿ Department sponsored events: e.g., master classes, lectures and performances.

Composition Jury (Due: Last day of classes, Spring term)

Students must satisfactorily pass the *Composition Jury* for each year enrolled in MUSC 516.

At the end of each academic year, all students enrolled in MUSC 516 are required to complete the composition jury process. The jury is designed to help the composition faculty track your development as a composer, and progress toward the completion of your degree. To fulfill this requirement, you are required to submit the following items:

1. **Cover Page:** Name, composition teacher(s), and summer contact information (e-mail/phone/address).
2. **Works List:** List of works composed during the past academic year (title, instrumentation, and duration). Be sure to include a list of works in progress.
3. **List of Performances/Activities:** A list of performances for the past academic year. Please be sure to include participation in performance-related activities such as reading sessions, summer festivals, and so on.
4. **Concert Programs:** You are expected to collect concert programs from all performances. Please include a program from each performance in your submission.

Please gather the items above together in a folder, and submit them to the Composition Program Coordinator on (or before) the last day of classes of the Spring term, or if you are graduating in December, before the last day of classes of the Fall term. Please note that failure to complete your composition jury could delay progress toward the completion of your degree.

Senior Thesis

Students must satisfactorily complete the *Senior Thesis* in order to graduate.

Senior Thesis:

The senior thesis consists of two parts:

- a composition for large ensemble (i.e., full orchestra, wind ensemble, or other major ensemble) at least four minutes long or longer
- a single movement, extended chamber music composition (no solo instrumental works) at least ten minutes long or longer

Proposed compositions must *first* be approved by the student's primary composition instructor. Both works must be bound, two-sided copies that have an appropriate cover (showing title/instrumentation/composer) and title page, and must be turned in to the Composition Area Coordinator no later than the last day of classes of the term in which the student plans to graduate. Time extensions will not be granted, except under the *most extreme* circumstances.

² Totaling at least 3 new works written during the **junior and senior years**.

ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

Requirements for High School Seniors and Non-Music Majors:

1. Creativity as well as musical ability and promise.
2. An official high school transcript or equivalent.
3. SAT scores; TOEFL scores are required for all non-native English speakers.
4. **Composition Portfolio** - Written musical examples from 1-3 works; recordings of those works are not necessary but would be helpful (cassette, CD, CD-ROM, DAT, VHS video).
5. 1-3 letters of recommendation from teachers or other authorities familiar with your musical and/or academic background.
6. A list that includes the following: all music courses taken; any summer music camp experience; primary musical instrument(s) including length of study and music awards or honors you've received.
7. A brief list of music you like, listen to, and play.
8. A useful, but not required item would be a recording of you playing one or two pieces on your primary instrument(s). Please label the recording with the composer, title and duration of the piece(s) you play.

Requirements for Students Already Enrolled in the School of Music:

1. **Composition Portfolio** - Written musical examples from 1-3 works; recordings of those works are not necessary but would be helpful (cassette, CD, CD-ROM, DAT, VHS video). Submit portfolio to the Composition Program Coordinator.