

The University of Alabama at Birmingham



**Handbook for Graduate
Students in Music**

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I. Introduction

Welcome to the University of Alabama at Birmingham and the Department of Music. We trust that you will encounter a professional learning atmosphere and a rich musical environment while pursuing your degree.

The purpose of this Handbook is to assist you with the many details concerning the Masters Degree. In addition to this resource, you are advised to carefully examine the following:

UAB Graduate School Handbook
UAB Student Handbook
Current Schedule of Classes

The UAB music faculty is ready to assist you in any way possible in your education. Keep in mind, however, that students bear the ultimate responsibility for completing their degree.

II. Contact Information

Department of Music: Dr. Jeff W. Reynolds, Chairman
205.934.7376 (phone) 205.975.1931 (fax)

Graduate Studies, Music: Dr. Denise Gainey
205.975.0558 (phone) 205.975.1931 (fax) clarinet@uab.edu

Graduate School
HUC 511; 1530 3rd Avenue South; Birmingham, AL 35294-1150
205.934.8227 (phone) gradschool@uab.edu

III. Degree description

Master of Arts in Arts Education with a Specialization in Music Education

This degree has two programs or tracks.

1. The *traditional*, fifth-year program is designed for those students who have a bachelor's degree in music and have successfully completed all of the State of Alabama requirements for teacher certification (including student teaching) at the undergraduate level. This degree program has been specifically designed for the student who is already teaching full or part-time and desires a graduate degree while continuing their classroom or workplace responsibilities.
2. The *alternative* program is designed for those whose bachelor's degree is in music but who have not received certification and/or have not completed the requirements for student teaching at the undergraduate level.

Both programs lead to an advanced certification (Class A) in the state of Alabama.

IV. Required Course List: Traditional and Alternative 5th Year

Traditional Masters 32-35 Hours	Hours	Hours	Alternate 5 th Year Masters 45 Hours
Music Theory MU 545, 548, 551, 555, 558	3	3	Music Theory MU 545, 548, 551, 555, 558
Music History MU 561, 564, 566	3	3	Music History MU 561, 564, 566
Music Research MU 629	3	3	Music Research MU 629
Foundations of Graduate Study MU 521	3	3	Foundations of Graduate Study MU 521
Music Technology MU 615	3	3	Music Technology MU 615
Methods of Teaching Music N-6 EMU 502, 503	4 (3, 1)	4 (3, 1)	Methods of Teaching Music N-6 EMU 502, 503
Choral Methods MU 529 Or Instrumental Methods MU 530	3	3	Choral Methods MU 529 Or Instrumental Methods MU 530
Applied Music MUP 540, 550, 560, 570, 580, 590	2	2	Applied Music MUP 540, 550, 560, 570, 580, 590
Music Ensemble MUP 520, 535, 536	2	2	Music Ensemble 520, 535, 536
Intro to Exceptional Learners ECY 600 *required if not already completed on undergraduate level	(3)	3	Intro to Exceptional Learners ECY 600
Measurement and Evaluation EPR 688	3	3	Intro Measure and Evaluation EPR 511
EPR Course: Choose from EPR 610, 611, 613, 614, 616, 622	3	3	Reading in Content Areas EDR 551
		9	EMU 690 Internship in Music Education
		1	EHS 690: Seminar during student teaching
Total	32-35	45	Total

EPR 610 Child Psychology
 EPR 611 Adolescent Psychology
 EPR 613 Advanced Educational Psychology
 EPR 614 Lifespan Human Development
 EPR 616 Personality Theories
 EPR 622 Learning Theories

V. Description of Music Courses

Music Theory

MU 545. (3) Modal Counterpoint. Characteristics of vocal polyphonic writing based on modal scales with emphasis on the style of Palestrina and other Renaissance composers.

MU 548. (3) Orchestration. Subjects covered include instrument construction and acoustics, range notation, and terminology. Basic principles and techniques of writing for orchestral and wind instruments. Guidelines are provided regarding writing for instruments for special effects. It is appropriate for students who have completed a thorough study of music theory desiring more advanced work in arranging, composing, conducting, and analyzing instrumental music.

MU 551. (3) Topics in Music Theory. Aspects of music theory and analysis. May be repeated for credit.

MU 555. (3) Analysis of Musical Structure. Principles and techniques of organization in tonal music and introduction to analytical methods. For students who have completed a thorough study of music theory desiring more advanced work in analyzing representative musical literature.

MU 558. (3) Contemporary Techniques of Composition. Techniques and materials employed in music of the present century, including nonfunctional and non-tertian harmony, poly-harmony, atonal and serial music, microtones, sound-mass composition, and contemporary notation.

Music History

MU 561. (3) Seminar in Music Literature. Examines specific topics in music history and literature.

MU 564. (3) American Music. Explores sacred music in the colonies, Anglo-American music in oral tradition, the African slave and his music in America, Stephen Foster, Shape-note hymnody, the rise of classical music in America, jazz, and the American avant-garde.

MU 566. (3) Music in World Cultures.

Music Technology

MU 615. (3) Technology in Music Instruction. Explores ongoing innovations in technology as applied to music instruction. Application of computer based technology as applied to contemporary music instruction in public schools will be examined in detail.

Music Education

MU 629. (3) Research in Music Education. A study of music research, including both qualitative and quantitative techniques. An introduction to research journals, traditional and electronic sources of information, and study development.

MU 521. (3) Foundations of Graduate Study in Music Education. Examines the history and contemporary philosophy of music education in the public schools. Curriculum development, conceptual teaching, basic bibliographic and research techniques, and evaluation of the music program, with an emphasis on psychology of music as applied to contemporary music instruction in public schools will be examined in detail.

EMU 502, 503. (3, 1) Methods of Teaching Music N-6. Teaching music in the elementary school environment. Investigation of critical elements in the teaching and learning process as related to music in grades N-6. Laboratory required (503)

MU 529. (3) Choral Methods. An advanced study of the techniques of choral conducting including appropriate gestures, score study, performance practice, choral diction (using International Phonetic Alphabet or IPA), voice building for choirs, literature selection appropriate for use in secondary education, rehearsal techniques and working with various types of instrumental accompaniment.

MU 530. (3) Instrumental Methods. A study of the instrumental music environment. This course will explore administrative topics, teaching techniques, evaluations, discipline, budgeting, and public school policies. A substantial amount of time will be devoted to materials and literature, and current trends in music education.

Applied Lessons and Ensembles

MUP 540, 550, 560, 570, 580, 590. (1-2) Applied Lessons. Must be in student's chosen field. An advanced study of the techniques of instrumental performance, including performance practice, solo literature, and performance preparation. Special emphasis on the role of the instrumentalist as teacher/artist.

MUP 520, 535, 536. Music Ensemble. (1) Must be in student's chosen field. Three courses that are cross-listed as advanced music ensemble electives for undergraduate music majors and graduate-level courses for students pursuing a masters degree in music education.

VI. Entrance Procedures: Overview

Entrance Checklist

1. _____ Apply to UAB Graduate School.
See <http://main.uab.edu/show.asp?durki=1183>
2. _____ Get a copy of your unofficial transcript of all previous undergraduate/graduate work to UAB Music Office.
3. _____ Set up initial interview with Dr. Gainey (clarinet@uab.edu) and Dr. Copeland (plc@uab.edu) (205.934.7376)
4. _____ Fill out UAB student information form in music office.
5. _____ Complete GRE or MAT. See Graduate School for scheduling information.
6. _____ Complete music placement tests in theory and history. Students must pass with at least 80% in each section to enter the program. If you make between 70-79% it is possible to take remedial classes. Any score below 70% is failure and students must wait one year to attempt entrance exams again. Students must make a “B” or higher in any designated remedial courses.
7. _____ Audition for music faculty.
8. _____ Complete piano proficiency or proof of completion of similar requirements in undergraduate degree within last five years.

VII. Entrance Procedures: Detailed

Applying to UAB Graduate School

Graduate School Contact Information:

Email: gradschool@uab.edu

Phone: 205.934.8227

Mailing Address: UAB Graduate School, HUC 511
1530 3rd Avenue South
Birmingham, AL 35294-1150

General information. From the Graduate School you will find out about additional admission requirements, including forms, fees, transcripts, and English equivalency exams if English is not your native language. In general, the Graduate School welcomes applications from students who have earned a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited academic institution, who have good letters of evaluation, and who have scored well on a recognized standardized test (usually the Graduate Record Examination General Test).

Two levels of review. Admittance to UAB Graduate School involves two levels of review. The Graduate School sets general admission requirements, and each graduate program specifies its particular requirements.

Standardized testing. The UAB Graduate School recommends a score of 500 on the GRE or 410 on the MAT for admittance to graduate programs. If space is available, programs may allow probationary admission to applicants who fall short of that standard. In addition to standardized testing, successful applicants have usually presented at least a B average on undergraduate work.

Minimum Scores:

GPA	Minimum GRE	Minimum MAT Score (old/new 11/17/06)
2.7 – 2.74	850	35/388
2.6 – 2.69	900	40/396
2.5 – 2.59	1000	50/410

Transcript Review

Each transcript submitted to the music faculty is evaluated by comparing a student's previous course work to the current UAB undergraduate degree in music education. Deficiencies in a student's transcript will result in additional courses being added to the student's course of study.

Initial Interview

The prospective graduate student should schedule a meeting with the Director of Graduate Studies (Dr. Denise Gainey) for purposes of introduction and a brief overview of the degree.
(clarinet@uab.edu)

Talking points in Initial Interview:

_____ Information gathering of student's background:

- Musical autobiography—background, teaching experience, former teachers.
- Why do you want this degree?
- Why do you want to teach—and what?
- What do you see yourself doing in 5, 10, 20 years?

_____ A student with three masters: Graduate School, Music Department, School of Education. Keep informed of all deadlines and requirements for each level of degree status.

_____ Apply as non-degree seeking student. Can take up to 12 hours (and only 12 hours) towards the degree. Student is not assured of official admission until fully admitted as a degree-seeking student.

_____ If student has not completed methods courses (brass, woodwinds, percussion, strings, voice) they must take these at the undergraduate level. These courses do not count towards the degree but are required for certification in Alabama.

_____ Graduate music classes are offered on a two-year rotation. Take the classes when they are offered.

_____ Audition for music faculty on your instrument, next audition date is: _____. At this time, your “formal interview” with the music faculty takes place. We will review your transcript, letters of recommendation, and any performance in UAB classes to date.

_____ Degree seeking process for music department.

1. _____ Apply to UAB Graduate School.
See <http://main.uab.edu/show.asp?durki=1183>
2. _____ FAX transcript of all previous undergraduate/graduate work to UAB Music Office
205.975.1931
3. _____ Set up initial interview with Dr. Gainey (clarinet@uab.edu) and Dr. Copeland (plc@uab.edu) (205.934.7376)
4. _____ Fill out UAB student information form in music office.
5. _____ Complete GRE or MAT. See Graduate School for scheduling information.
6. _____ Complete music placement tests in theory and history. Students must pass with at least 80% in each section to enter the program. Students must pass all remediation courses with a grade of “B” or higher.
7. _____ Audition for music faculty.
8. _____ Complete piano proficiency.

UAB Student Information Form

Please go by the music office to fill out a student information form. This form will be kept in the music office for contact information.

Examinations in Music History and Music Theory

Music History:

A general review of undergraduate music history is recommended.

Good resources:

Grout, Donald and Claude Palisca. *History of Western Music*, 5th ed. W.W. Norton and Company, 2000.

Poultney, David. *Studying Music History: Learning, Reasoning, and Writing About Music History and Literature*. 2nd edition. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 1996.

Music Theory:

Skills to be tested:

Aural: identifying triads, intervals, melodic and harmonic dictation

Theory: basic part-writing, chord analysis (including borrowed chords and secondary functions), and simple formal analysis.

Good resources:

Ottman, Robert W. *Advanced Harmony, Theory & Practice*, 4th ed. NJ: Prentice Hall, 1992.

Kostka, Stefan and Dorothy Payne, *Tonal Harmony*, 4th ed. revised printing, New York: McGraw-Hill, 2000.

Evaluation:

Students who show deficiencies in music history or music theory will be required to enroll in undergraduate theory or history classes to satisfy the deficiency. Students must pass with at least 80% in each section of the examinations to enter the program. Students who score between 70-79% must take remedial classes. Any score below 70% is failure. Students will not be able to enroll in graduate history or theory classes until they have satisfied the deficiency with a grade of B or better. Entrance exams are offered once in Fall and once in Spring semesters.

Performance Audition

Prospective graduate students will audition for the faculty on the same day undergraduate students audition. Graduate students are expected to meet or surpass performance levels of senior undergraduate music students who have completed a minimum of six semesters of private study. Repertoire recommendations for each area are as follows:

Vocal: Three contrasting art songs or arias in different languages.

Instrumental: Two contrasting works.

Piano: Two contrasting works.

Memorization is strongly encouraged and an accompanist will be provided.

Additional repertoire suggestions:

For percussion:

1. Two contrasting works on either marimba or vibraphone, one of which should demonstrate sufficient four-mallet technique
2. One work on either timpani, snare drum, multiple percussion, or drum set.

Piano Proficiency:

The purpose of the piano proficiency is to ensure that students, especially at the graduate level, have functional keyboard skills. The exam will last approximately fifteen minutes and will cover examples from the areas listed below. The examination may be attempted once per semester until it is passed. **If the student has completed these requirements at another accredited institution within the past five years, and documentation is provided, the piano proficiency will be considered met.**

Requirements include:

1. Sight-reading song arrangements and/or simple solo piano literature (see Chapter V, pages 195-219 in *Progressive Class Piano* by Elmer Heerema)
2. A solo selected from the following list or from similar repertoire:
J.S. Bach Little Preludes
Clementi Sonatinas
Schumann Album for the Young
3. All major and harmonic minor scales: two octaves, parallel motion, hands together.
4. All major and minor arpeggios; two octaves, hands together.
5. Functional skills:
 - Accompaniment improvisations (see *Progressive Class Piano*; each chapter contains sections on harmonization and improvisation)
 - Transpose a simple accompaniment or song at sight (see *Progressive Class Piano*, Chapter V, pages 195-204)
 - Play progression I IV I 6/4 V⁷ I hands together in all major and minor keys

Faculty interview

Prospective graduate students will meet with representatives of the graduate music faculty to discuss their goals in music and expectations of the faculty.

VIII. Levels of Admission

Admission to the Graduate Program as Non-degree seeking student:

Students can take certain graduate courses by enrolling in the Graduate School as a non-degree-seeking student. However, not all music courses are open to non-degree students. If you later decide to work toward a degree, a maximum of 12 semester hours can be counted.

Private lessons are not available to non-degree seeking students.

Contact the Graduate School to apply for non-degree seeking status.

Full Admission to the Program

Applicants must satisfy each of the following requirements to gain full admission to the program:

____ Admission to Graduate School

____ Performance audition

____ History/Theory Placement

____ Piano proficiency

____ Transcript review

____ Interview with music faculty

The music faculty will carefully consider the full picture of a candidate for the degree before granting or refusing admission. Once all of the admission requirements are completed, applicants will receive a letter from the Director of Graduate Studies regarding the decision of the faculty. In addition, the letter will detail the results of their testing, transcript review, audition, and interview. Any remedies to academic or performance deficiencies will be explained and a copy placed in the student's permanent file.

IX. Exit procedures

Exit Review

An exit review between the student and a committee will take place in the final semester before graduation. The committee will be made up of the music chairman, one music education faculty member, a representative from the School of Education, the student's applied teacher, and at least two other members of the graduate music faculty.

Comprehensive Examination

All candidates for the new degree must successfully complete the Final Comprehensive Examination. The comprehensive examinations consist of one-hour written examinations in three areas: Music History, Music Theory, and Music Education.

Updates:

Added line on April 30, 2003:

9. _____ Students interested in the Alternative Fifth Year program must schedule an interview with Dr. Angela Gray.

Dr. Angela J Gray
agray@uab.edu
School Of Education Dean's Office
(205) 934-5323 EB 100C

Updated on June 27, 2005:

- Changed MUS (an error) to MU on several courses.
- Named Dr. Denise Gainey as Director of Graduate Studies instead of Dr. Copeland.

Updated on June 29, 2005

- Added EHS 690 to Alternative 5th Year Degree
- Decreased number of hours in Ensemble to 2 hours for Traditional/Alternative.
- Decreased number of hours in Applied Lessons to 2 hours for Traditional/Alternative.
- Added this line at the piano proficiency: **If the student has completed these requirements at another accredited institution within the past five years, and documentation is provided, the piano proficiency will be considered met.**

Updated on August 8, 2006

- Deleted requirement #10: Students interested in the Alternative Fifth Year program must schedule an interview with Dr. Angela Gray.
- Changed EPR 510 requirement in Alternative Fifth Year to EPR 511 following a request from Dr. Lee Meadows

Updated on August 13, 2007

- Deleted this requirement: Interview with representatives of graduate music faculty. This formal interview was merged into the initial screening interview with the applicant.

Updated on August 28, 2007

- Changed “Interview with Graduate Faculty” to Interview with music faculty on p. 11
- Expanded Evaluation on p. 9 in “Examinations in Music History and Music Theory:” Added this text: **Students must pass with at least 80% in each section of the examinations to enter the program. Students who score between 70-79% must take remedial classes. Any score below 70% is failure and students must wait one year to attempt entrance exams again.**
- Added “**Talking points with Graduate Students**” under “Initial Interview.”

Updated on August 28, 2007

- Modified language under “Evaluation” on p. 9:
Deleted “must wait one year” and added “Entrance exams are offered once in Fall and once in Spring semesters.”

Traditional Masters Checksheet

Semester Taken	Class	Hours	Grade
	Music Theory MU 545, 548, 555, 558	3	
	Music History MU 561, 564, 566	3	
	Music Research MU 629	3	
	Foundations of Graduate Study MU 521	3	
	Music Technology MU 615	3	
	Methods of Teaching Music N-6 EMU 502, 503	4 (3, 1)	
	Choral Methods MU 529 Or Instrumental Methods MU 530	3	
	Applied Music Choose from: MUP 540, MUP 550, MUP 561, MUP 562, MUP 563, MUP 564, MUP 566, MUP 571, MUP 572, MUP 573, MUP 574, MUP 575, MUP 580, MUP 591, MUP 592, MUP 593, MUP 594, MUP 595	2	
	Music Ensemble MUP 520, 535, 536	2	
	Intro to Exceptional Learners ECY 600	3	
	Measurement and Evaluation EPR 688	3	
	EPR Course Choose from EPR 610, 611, 613, 614, 616, 622	3	
	Passed Piano Proficiency?		Yes No
	Total	32-35	

Alternative Fifth Year Checksheet

Pre-Requisite:

Semester	Class	Hours	Grade	Notes
	MUP 122 Class Voice	1		For instrumental majors.
	MUP 132 Class Woodwinds	1		
	MUP 134 Class Brass	1		
	MUP 136 Class Percussion	1		
	MUP 138 Class Strings	1		
	EHS 571 Special Ed Accommodation Lab	1		
	ECY 600 Intro to Exceptional Learners	3		ECY 300 Survey of Special Ed will count.
	EDR 551 Reading in the Content Area	3		EDR 442 Reading in Content Area will count.
	EHS 600 Secondary Ed Curriculum & Methods	3		EHS 401 Secondary Ed Curriculum & Methods I will count.
	Passed Piano Proficiency?		Yes/No	

Teaching Field: 13/39 (1/3 of program)

	Music Theory Choose From: MU 545, 548, 555, 558	3		
	Music History Choose From: MU 561, 564, 566	3		
	Applied Music. Choose from the following (All MUP): 540, 550, 561, 562, 563, 564, 566, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 580, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595	2		
	Music Ensemble MUP 520, 535, 536	2		
	MU 629 Music Research	3		

Professional Studies:

	MU 521 Foundations of Graduate Study	3		
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Curriculum and Teaching

	EMU 502, 503 Methods of Teaching Music N-6	4 (3, 1)		
	MU 529 Choral Methods Or MU 530 Instrumental Methods	3		Must take course appropriate to your area.

Technology

	MU 615 Music Technology	3		
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Evaluation of Teaching and Learning

	EPR 511 Intro Measurement and Evaluation	3		
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Internship

	EMU 690 Internship in Music Education	9		
	EHS 690	1		

Total: 39