

THEORY AREA GRADUATE COURSE OFFERINGS, 2024-2025

Updated 6/5/24 as

Below is a list of graduate theory course offerings for the upcoming academic year.

A few important points to keep in mind:

1. Every student admitted to a graduate degree program in the College of Music (other than Music Education PhD or Jazz Studies students) must take the College's graduate orientation examination in music theory, a two-part examination covering written music theory and aural skills, before the first day of classes of the student's first semester of enrollment in the degree. The examination is given before the first day of classes in the fall, spring, and summer semesters. The lowest passing score for each part is 70%.

** Music Education PhD students who desire to take graduate theory courses must first take and pass the examination as outlined above.*

Students who score below 70% on the written music theory orientation examination must take MUS 200 (Introduction to Music Theory) and complete it with a grade of 2.0 or higher before enrolling in any 800- or 900-level music theory course.

Students who score below 70% on the aural skills examination must take MUS 201 (Aural Skills) and complete it with a grade of 2.0 or higher at some point during the student's degree program.

*** MUS 200 and MUS 201 may not be used to meet the course or credit requirements of any College of Music degree program.***

2. Most graduate students will take tier-1 courses. These assume the theory knowledge gained in an undergraduate sequence of theory courses. Tier-2 courses assume further knowledge and mastery of skills, and are designed primarily for students in the Master's degree or Graduate Certificate in music theory. This tiered structure has been designed to help graduate students and their faculty advisers plan a sequence of courses appropriate to a student's background, interests, and professional aspirations. It also allows theory faculty to design courses with a more accurate sense of the level of experience and technical skill that can be assumed of students enrolled in those classes.
3. In addition to the two **required** orientation exams in basic written theory and aural skills, there are also two **optional** orientation exams in counterpoint and instrumentation/ orchestration. A score of 70% or better on the counterpoint exam removes the prerequisite that attaches to MUS 869. For example, students passing the counterpoint exam would not have to take 869 before enrolling in 870, 871, or 874. Likewise, a score of 70% or better on the instrumentation/ orchestration exam removes the prerequisite that attaches to MUS 877. That is, students passing the orchestration exam would not have to take 877 before enrolling in 878.

Every course marked with an asterisk() will have a corresponding question on the DMA comprehensive exam.*

FALL '24

REMEDIAL (does not count towards your degree):

MUS 200 - Music Theory Review | TTH 9:10 AM-10 AM | 245 MB | P. Johnson | 1 credit | By override only

TIER 1 (designed primarily for performance, conducting, and composition majors):

*MUS 868 Sec 001 - Topics in Music Analysis | M 3:00-5:50 PM | 141 MB | R. Desinord | 3 cr | Prereq.: none
Topic: Analysis of R&B and Soul Music

*MUS 868 Sec 002 - Topics in Music Analysis | TTH 4:10-5:30 PM | 419 MPB | N.Schumacher | 3 cr | Prereq.: none
Topic: Analysis of Music for Winds

*MUS 868 Sec 003 - Topics in Music Analysis | T 3:00-5:50 PM | 141 MB | Yiqing (Mitty) Ma | 3 cr | Prereq.: none
Topic: Gender and Musical Timbre

*MUS 869 - Tonal Counterpoint | WF 11:30 AM-12:20 PM | 245 MB | P. Johnson | 2 cr | Prereq.: none

*MUS 872 - Tonal Forms | TTH 8:00-8:50 AM | 245 MPB | P. Johnson | 2 cr | Prereq.: none

*MUS 873 - Post-Tonal Techniques | TTH 3:00-3:50 PM | 419 MPB | C. Stroud | 2 cr | Prereq.: none

*MUS 875 - Analysis of Musical Scores | W 3:00-5:50 PM | 419 MPB | G. Sly | 3 cr | Prereq.: none

^MUS 877 - Scoring for Orch./Band | MWF 9:10-10 AM | 219 MPB | D. Biedenbender | 2 cr | Prereq.: none

*MUS 879 - Tonal Literature and Analysis | MWF 9:10-10:00 AM | 206 MB | R. Desinord | 3 cr | Prereq.: none

*MUS 976 - Performance and Analysis | MW 9:30-10:50 AM | 419 MPB | N. Schumacher | 3 cr | Prereq.: none

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CONTINUED...

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Every course marked with an asterisk(*) will have a corresponding question on the DMA comprehensive exam.

TIER 2 (designed primarily for music theory majors):

- *MUS 876 - Keyboard Skills and Musicianship | T 1:50-2:40 PM + TH 12:50-2:40 PM | 235 MB | M. Callahan | 3 cr | **Instr. Permission Only**
- *MUS 970 - Pedagogy of Theory I | W 3:00-5:50 PM | 141 MB | R. Desinord | 3 cr | **Instr. Permission Only**
- MUS 979 - Proseminar in Music Theory | M 3:00-4:50 PM | 241 MB | J. Sullivan | 2 cr | **Instr. Permission Only**

SPRING '25 Enrollment begins Oct. 2024. Please check again later for any changes.

REMEDIAL (does not count towards your degree):

- MUS 201 Aural Skills Review | TTH 10:20-11:10 AM | 141 MB | N. Schumacher | 1 cr | By override only.

TIER 1 (designed primarily for performance, conducting, and composition majors):

- *MUS - 868 Sec 001 - Topics in Music Analysis | W 3:00-5:50 PM | 141 MB | P. Johnson | 3 cr | Prereq.: none
Topic: Analysis and Composition in the Galant Style
- *MUS - 868 Sec 002 - Topics in Music Analysis | M 3:00-5:50 PM | 241 MB | C. Stroud | 3 cr | Prereq.: none
Topic: Analysis of Pop/Rock Music
- *MUS - 978 - Analysis of Contemporary Music | Tu 3:00-4:50 PM | 219 MPB | C. Stroud | 2 cr | Prereq.: none

TIER 2 (designed primarily for music theory majors):

- *MUS 870 - Advanced Modal Counterpoint | MWF 11:30 AM -12:20 PM | 419 MPB | G. Sly | 3 cr
Prereq.: MUS 869 or 70% + on Counterpoint Orientation Exam; (Comp majors, too)
- ^MUS 878 - Adv. Scoring for Orch./Band | TTH 4:00-5:30 PM | 419 MPB | T. Zhou | 2 cr | Prereq.: 877
- *MUS 976 - Performance & Analysis | Th 3:00-5:50 PM | 241 MB | C. Stroud | 3 cr | Prereq.: 872, 875, or 879
Topic: A Narrative Approach

TIER 3 (designed primarily for music theory majors - other majors Instr.Perm.Only):

- ~MUS 971 - Pedagogy of Theory II | M 3:00-5:50 PM | 245 MB | M. Callahan | 3 cr | Prereq.: 970
- MUS 973 - Readings in Music Theory | W 3:00-4:50 PM | 419 MPB | G. Sly | 2 cr
Topic: Readings on Tonality in the Twentieth Century
- MUS 974 - Proseminar in Post-Tonal Theory and Analysis | Th 3:00-4:50 PM | 219 MPB | J. Sullivan | 2 cr

Notes:

^MUS 878 does not have a separate question on the comprehensive exam. There is a single question on orchestration, intended to be answerable by students who have taken either MUS 877 or MUS 878.

~MUS 971 does not have a separate question on the comprehensive exam. There is a single question on music theory pedagogy, intended to be answerable by students who have taken either MUS 970 or MUS 971.

Effective 2021-22:

- MUS 869 = FALL every year only MUS 871 = SPRING of EVEN years only
MUS 873 = FALL every year only MUS 874 = FALL of ODD years only

**** Anyone with questions about course offerings in music theory is welcome to contact the area chairperson of music theory, Dr. Michael Callahan (mrc@msu.edu). ****