Music (MA)

This program is offered by the Leigh Gerdine College of Fine Arts, and is only available at the St. Louis home campus.

Program Description

Webster University offers the master of arts (MA) in music for students who desire a more general course of study.

The MA in music is offered without an official area of emphasis, although any one or more of several fields within music may be studied through elective courses that meet individual needs and career goals. The area of study will be determined by the student in consultation with the graduate committee and the Director of Graduate Studies in Music.

In contrast to the performance-related master of music (MM), academic studies in music and related fields are emphasized in the MA in music degree program. Performance and creative musical endeavors, however, will be central to the course of study for many students.

Graduates of the MA program will be qualified to teach applied music in the studio, teach music in private or public school (if you have teacher certification), perform with or conduct ensembles, compose or arrange music, pursue doctoral studies in music, or establish an expertise in any one or several additional areas.

The MA program conforms to the guidelines specified by the National Association of Schools of Music for accreditation. Webster University is a full member of the National Association of Schools of Music.

Webster University also offers the master of music (MM) with a major in church music, composition, jazz studies, and performance. The MM in performance is available in three emphasis areas: orchestral instruments; piano, organ, or guitar; voice.

Admission

Students who are interested in applying to this degree program should also see the Admission section found in the front of this catalog for general requirements.

Admission Requirements

Students seeking admission to the MA in music program must submit or complete the following:

- An official transcript that documents the awarding of a baccalaureate degree in music from an accredited institution.
- A satisfactory audition/interview before an appointed faculty committee. Guidelines for audition repertoire are available upon request from the Director of Graduate Studies in Music or the specific program director (voice, piano, jazz, instrumental studies, and so forth). Please read the following section on Audition Procedures. Additional information on audition procedures and requirements may be found at the Department of Music website.
- A satisfactory performance on an entrance examination in music history and theory. Remedial studies (without credit) may be prescribed for students who have deficiencies in either or both of these areas.
- Three letters of recommendation, at least two of which should be from former music teachers.

Send all admissions materials to:

Webster University
Office of Admission

470 East Lockwood Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63119

Audition Procedures

Applicants should follow the guidelines for their instrument or interest area as listed previously. Applicants should discuss audition preparation with the Director of Graduate Studies in Music or specific program director.

Departmental Standards and Policies

Students should consult the Academic Warning, Probation, and Dismissal sections of this catalog for further information. In addition, the Department of Music Handbook, available at the Department of Music website, includes departmental policies on admission to candidacy, degree recitals, theses, applied music, and ensembles, as well as other areas that pertain to MM and MA students. This departmental policy manual constitutes an extension of the Webster University Graduate Studies Catalog.

Ensemble Requirement for Graduate Students

All graduate students in music are required to complete two semesters in a major ensemble. MA students studying jazz or conducting may fulfill this requirement through the various jazz ensembles. Graduate students studying other areas will choose choir, orchestra, or wind ensemble. Additional performing groups (such as Opera Studio or Jazz Singers) may be chosen for elective credit, or substituted for one semester of major ensemble with the approval of the Department. Specific ensemble requirements are listed with each degree and area of emphasis or study.

Graduate Oral Examinations

The Graduate Oral Examination is required of all students at the graduate level. This examination is based on the student’s program of study, and includes topics in music history and literature, music theory, and the area of emphasis or study. Students are expected to demonstrate the ability to integrate and interpret materials and issues in the major field. The exam emphasizes topics dealt with directly in the student’s thesis, recital, or other major project presented in fulfillment of the degree requirements.

This is an oral examination conducted by a committee that is appointed by the Director of Graduate Studies, in consultation with the Director of the Area of Study and other members of the faculty. The committee will include a majority of full-time faculty members. The oral examination is usually taken during the last semester of study toward the degree.

Students who fail the oral examination may retake it upon the recommendation of the committee.

Program Requirements

The MA in music will be balanced among four areas: (1) core courses in music theory and history; (2) performance courses; (3) supportive courses in music (area of study); and (4) additional coursework in music or a related field.

Suggested Areas of Study

- Piano Pedagogy/Performance
- Vocal Pedagogy/Performance
- Music Education
- Jazz Studies
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- Composition/Arranging
- Music History/Theory
- Collaborative Piano
- Chamber Music
- Other areas as approved by the Director of Graduate Studies

Required Courses

Core Music Courses
- MUSC 5100, MUSC 5110 Analytical Techniques I, II (6 hours)
- MUSC 5120 Seminar in Music Literature (3 hours)

Performance Courses

Applied Lessons
Two semesters (4 hours) to be selected from:
- MUSC 5001 Applied Piano (2 hours per semester)
- MUSC 5002 Applied Voice (2 hours per semester)
- MUSC 5003 Applied Jazz (2 hours per semester)
- MUSC 5004 Applied Instrument (2 hours per semester)
- MUSC 5005 Applied Organ (2 hours per semester)

Major Ensemble
Two semesters (2 hours) to be selected from:
- MUSC 4900 Webster University Concert Choir (1 hour per semester)
- MUSC 4910 Webster University Chamber Singers (1 hour per semester)
- MUSC 4920 Webster University Aurelia (1 hour per semester)
- MUSC 4940 Webster University Aurelia (1 hour per semester)
- MUSC 4960 Jazz Ensemble (Jazz Studies only) (1 hour per semester)
- MUSC 4980 Webster University Wind Ensemble (1 hour per semester)

Supportive Courses

- Additional Music Literature course selected from the following (2-3 hours):
  - MUSC 4080 Secondary Choral Methods and Literature (3 hours)
  - MUSIC 4150 The Art Song (3 hours)
  - MUSC 4160 Operatic Literature (3 hours)
  - MUSC 4190 Orchestral Literature (3 hours)
  - MUSC 4170, MUSC 4175, MUSC 4180 Piano Literature I, II, III (6 hours)
  - MUSC 4185 Piano in Chamber Music Literature (3 hours)
  - MUSC 5800 Advanced Studies in Music: Jazz History (2 hours)
- Music electives (9 hours)
  - Courses in music at the 4000-5000 levels to be chosen in consultation with the Director of Area of Study and/or Director of Graduate Studies (at least 6 credit hours of these courses must be academic electives).
  - Additional coursework (6 hours)
    - These courses may be in music or in another related field such as art, literature, philosophy, or history.

Final Project/Recital Program (0 hours)

Students will present a major historical, pedagogical, or analytical paper, a recital, or other appropriate demonstration. Final projects are approved by the Director of Area of Study in consultation with the Director of Graduate Studies and the Chair of the Department of Music.

Oral examination (0 hours)

Total: 32 hours

Suggested Electives

- MUSC 4040 Music of the Twentieth Century (3 hours)
- MUSC 4070 Choral Arranging (2 hours)
- MUSC 4080 Secondary Choral Methods and Literature (3 hours)
- MUSC 4140 Lyric Diction (2 hours)
- MUSC 4150 The Art Song (3 hours)
- MUSC 4160 Operatic Literature (3 hours)
- MUSC 4170, MUSC 4175, MUSC 4180 Piano Literature I, II, III (6 hours)
- MUSC 4185 Piano in Chamber Music Literature (3 hours)
- MUSC 4190 Orchestral Literature (3 hours)
- MUSC 4250, MUSC 4255 Voice Pedagogy I, II (3 hours)
- MUSC 4260, MUSC 4270 Piano Pedagogy I, II (4 hours)
- MUSC 4320 Jazz Pedagogy (3 hours)
- MUSC 4340, MUSC 4350 Jazz Scoring and Arranging I, II (6 hours)
- MUSC 4360 The Working Musician (3 hours)
- MUSC 4990 Webster University Opera Studio (1 hour)
- MUSC 5200 Independent Study (1-3 hours)
- MUSC 5320 Advanced Instrumental Conducting (1-4 hours)
- MUSC 5330 Advanced Choral Conducting (1-4 hours)

Advancement to Candidacy

Students are admitted to their graduate program upon completion of all admission requirements. Students are advanced to candidacy status after successfully completing 12 credit hours of graduate credit, with grades of B– or better. In the MBA program and other specialized programs, courses required as prerequisites to the program do not count toward the 12 credit hours required for advancement.

Library Holdings

Books, periodicals, scores, records, compact discs, and videos, as recommended for music libraries by the National Association of Schools of Music, are conveniently housed in the Emerson Library. In addition, the library subscribes to a number of significant online music-related resources including The New Grove Dictionaries of Music, the International Index of Music Periodicals, The Music Index, and RILM.

Graduate Assistantships

The Department of Music offers graduate assistantships in jazz studies, music theory, orchestra, and choral music. For further information, interested applicants should contact the Director of Graduate Studies in Music. Assistantship stipends do not include tuition remissions. Applications for assistantships must be received by April 1.

Graduate Scholarships

The Department of Music offers a limited number of scholarships to graduate students based on merit. Among these are the Buder Foundation Scholarships, the James Moroney Nigh Endowed Scholarship Fund in Opera, and the TKT Jazz Scholarship. These scholarships are available to graduate students only after the first year of study. For more information, interested applicants...
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should contact the Chair of the Department of Music. Scholarship applications are due by April 1.

Adjunct Teaching Appointments
In addition to graduate assistantships, exceptionally qualified graduate students may be considered for employment as instructors in one of the following areas: academic studies, jazz studies, orchestral instruments, piano, and voice. Employment determination is made by the Chair of the Department of Music with the Director of Graduate Studies in Music in consultation with the director of the specific academic area.

Graduate Student General Financial Aid Information
For information on non-music related sources of financial aid, including work study and loan programs, interested applicants should contact the Webster University Office of Financial Aid.