

M.M. in Music Theory • 2-paper option

- The two papers, each no longer than 40 pages, should each be regarded as a project of research and writing that will demonstrate the student's synthesis of material and application of concepts covered in coursework. The first should be a revision and expansion of a term paper from one of the seminar courses previously taken. The second may also be an expansion of a previous term paper or an independent/original project.
- The **Paper committees** (one for each of the two papers) consist of at least three faculty members, one of whom is the Theory/Composition area coordinator. Two of the faculty members *must be professors of Theory or Composition*, and one/two is/are the instructors of the course/courses from which the papers are developed. The instructor of record of 5398 and 5698 will be each of the paper class/topic instructors.
- **Proposals** for both papers will be prepared – the 1st *before the beginning of the 3rd semester*, and the 2nd *before the end of the 3rd semester*. Each must:
 1. Present a clear thesis statement that (a) formulates a main idea; (b) specifies the subordinate elements of this idea; (c) indicates how these subordinate elements relate to one another and to your main idea; (d) indicates the methodologies that you plan to use.
 2. Present a review of the literature that identifies all significant publications relevant to the topic and explains how the argument of the thesis or dissertation relates to the arguments of the publications. Students should consult with the faculty advisor for the meaning of "all" and "significant" as appropriate to the proposal.
 3. Describe how the paper will represent an expansion of the previously written term paper.
 4. Show competent use of a citation format in current use in musical scholarship. Suggested formats are the humanities style (footnotes and bibliography) for proposals in musicology and theory, and the author-date system for proposals in ethnomusicology. Consult The Chicago Manual of Style (15th ed.) and its online guide Chicago Manual of Style for models.
 5. Include a list of references and sources with full citations. The list of references should distinguish between types of sources (primary, second, etc.) as appropriate to the topic.

6. Conform to a maximum length: The main body of text, not counting references, appendices, or musical examples, must be no more than 10 double-spaced pages. Proposals must adhere to a standard format: 12-point type, 1-inch margins, black ink, and double spacing.

Submission Process for 2-paper Thesis Substitute Proposals

- The Master's 2-Paper Approval Form is available on the Music Theory area website (<http://www.uta.edu/music/areas/music-theory/index.php>). *All members of the student's advisory committee must review the student's proposal and sign the appropriate approval form. Be sure to indicate which of the two papers the form applies to (1 or 2). This signed form must be submitted to the Area Coordinator.*

2-paper general guidelines + schedule (see timeline)

- **Paper 1:** Proposal should be developed *before the first day of classes of the student's 3rd semester*, and submitted to the paper committee for approval. **Paper submitted to paper committee no later than 2 weeks before the thesis defense. Thesis defense must be scheduled no later than the last Day to hold Masters Examinations** (check Graduate School Website for deadlines). The **First-Paper Defense Form** must be signed by all committee members and submitted to the Area Coordinator. **Presentation** of this paper, 20 minutes in duration, must be scheduled and done *before the end of the 3rd semester*, with any revisions required by committee after defense incorporated.
- **Paper 2:** Proposal should be developed *before the end of the 3rd semester*, and submitted to the paper committee for approval. **Paper submitted to paper committee no later than 2 weeks before the end of the semester of graduation. Oral defense must be scheduled (using the "Masters Exam Scheduling form" – indicate Oral/Thesis option – submit to Graduate Advisor) no later than the Last Day to hold Masters Examinations, and must include members from both Paper committees**
 - *Oral defense covers not only the Paper itself, but materials from core theory courses as well (Post-Tonal, Schenkerian, Sonata Theory, etc)*

- Following the oral defense, the Paper will be evaluated according to the following scale, with the following results recorded on the **Masters Exam Report**:
 - Pass: The presentation is accepted. No revisions are necessary.
 - Pass with reservations: The presentation is acceptable with edits and/or corrections.
 - Fail: The presentation fails to meet standards of quality and format. Student will receive an “Incomplete” for the course and must fulfill the Paper requirements in the following long semester (Fall or Spring)
- **Final Presentation**: The student will present his or her analysis in a formal (conference-style; 20 minutes) setting on campus at UT Arlington and will help schedule and advertise it in advance along with other graduating MM in Theory students.
 - **Revisions** requested at time of oral defense must be incorporated into this version of the paper. These must be done in order to fulfill the “Pass with reservations” verdict on the exam.