

M.M. in Music Theory • Thesis

- The master's thesis in music theory should be regarded as a project of research and writing that will demonstrate the student's synthesis of materials and application of concepts covered in coursework to a document of no more than 80 pages.
- The **thesis committee** consists of at least three faculty members, one of whom is the Theory/Composition area coordinator. The three faculty are chosen from among the music faculty, *two of which must be professors of Theory or Composition*, and one of whom serves as the thesis advisor. The thesis advisor will be instructor of record on 5398 and 5698.
- **Proposal** for the thesis will be developed during the 5398 course. It 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 the main idea; (d) indicates the methodologies that will be used.
 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 the research tasks to be accomplished, demonstrate their feasibility (including access to sources, which may include documents, archives, field research sites, interview subjects, or copyright clearances).
 4. Present a provisional outline of the complete thesis or dissertation as an appendix. The outline should show the estimated length of each chapter.
 5. Show competent use of a citation format in current use in musical scholarship. Suggested format is the humanities style (footnotes and bibliography) for proposals in music theory. Consult *The Chicago Manual of Style* (17th ed.) and its online guide *Chicago Manual of Style* for models.
 6. Include a list of references and sources with full citations. The list of references should distinguish between types of sources (primary, secondary, etc.) as appropriate to the topic.
 7. 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 Thesis Proposals**
 - The Master's Thesis Proposal 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. This signed form must be submitted to the Area Coordinator)

- **Thesis guidelines/schedule** (see “*Timeline*” for simplified listing of the following)
- **Proposal** should be developed while student is enrolled in 5398 and submitted to the thesis committee for approval **no later than 8th week of that semester**.
- **Paper** submitted to thesis committee no later than Friday 2 weeks before the oral defense.
- **Oral defense** must be scheduled (using the “*Masters Exam Scheduling form*”) no later than the Graduate School’s deadline for Last Day to hold Masters Examinations.
 - *Oral defense covers not only the thesis itself, but materials from core theory courses as well (Post-Tonal, Schenkerian, Sonata Theory, etc)*
- Following the oral defense, the thesis 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 Thesis requirements in the following long semester (Fall or Spring)
- **Final Thesis Presentation**: The student will present his or her analysis in a formal (conference-style) setting on campus at UT Arlington, duration **30 minutes**, 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.
- The thesis document (including any revisions requested at the oral defense) should be presented to the thesis committee and submitted to the library at the end of the final term as a research paper, formatted in accordance with the Chicago Manual of Style.