

School of Music Graduate Advising Worksheet 2026-2027
Master of Music in Composition

Student name _____

BU ID _____

Academic Advisor _____

Program start date (e.g., Fall 2026) _____

REQUIREMENTS:

Students must earn a **minimum** of 36 course units with grades no lower than B- in graduate-level coursework per the [Bulletin](#) (see [Bulletin archives](#) for pre-Fall 2025 curriculum). Refer to the [Graduate Student Handbook](#) for the full complement of policies and procedures, including the following general notes:

- If MT 401 (2 units) theory review is required per the [proficiency entrance exam](#), it does not count towards the degree and must be passed with at least a B- before a student can take graduate theory
- Use of elective units: students can choose from grad courses (500 level and above) with SoM prefixes MU, ME, MP, MH, MT. MET graduate classes in Arts Administration will also satisfy elective units
- Students must register for 7 units minimum to a maximum of 11.5 units per semester
- Students are expected to register for classes on [published dates](#) and must register for classes each semester through graduation unless taking an approved [leave of absence](#)
- All students **MUST** apply to graduate before their final semester of study, complete all degree program requirements, and earn a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.00 to be awarded a degree per [CFA Graduation Policy](#).
- Useful resources: [Graduate Student Advising Tools](#), [Music Student Resources](#), and Professor Andrew Goodrich, Director of Graduate Studies, andrewg@bu.edu

Required courses:

	Semester	Grade	Units
MT 401, if required (2 units) – Fall Year 1			(no graduate units)
Reading language 0-unit course, if not taking exam (see below)			(no academic units)
MT 621 Graduate Composition (3 units each, total 9 units)			
MT 632 Advanced Orchestration (3 units)			
MT 761 Advanced Tonal Analysis (3 units)			
MT 762 Advanced Post-Tonal Analysis (3 units)			
MT 635 Electronic/Computer Music (2 units)			
Course in musicology (MH), 600-level or higher (3 units)			
Musical organizations (1 unit each, total 2 units)			
MU 795 Thesis (3 units)			
Graduate Music Electives (8 units)			

Additional requirements:
Total units (minimum of 36): _____

- Language Requirement: Reading proficiency is required in one language, chosen from German, French, and Italian. Students may demonstrate proficiency by passing its corresponding reading course at the Graduate School of Arts & Sciences: CAS LG 621, CAS LF 621, or CAS LI 621. Students may also satisfy the requirement by passing a foreign language examination, administered once each semester by the School of Music (see [DMA language exams](#) for dates and registration) ☐
- Performance of a half-hour recital of original compositions ☐ and comprehensive review exam ☐
- Thesis: Students must compose a work for orchestra or other large instrumental or vocal group of approximately 15–20 minutes duration. Permission to undertake a thesis composition is dependent upon the caliber of the student's work and recital as determined by the department. Students must be enrolled in CFA MU 795 Master's Thesis during the semester in which the work is completed ☐