



School of Music Orientation: Graduate Academics

Andrew Goodrich, Director of Graduate Studies
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Important Resources

Boston University Bulletin:

- <http://www.bu.edu/academics/cfa/programs/>

Graduate Student Handbook:

- <https://www.bu.edu/cfa/students/music/forms-resources/graduate-student-handbook-2026-2027/>

School of Music website:

- <http://www.bu.edu/cfa/music>



The Graduate Studies Committee

- Chaired by Andrew Goodrich.
- Meets monthly on Thursdays; dates may be found in the Graduate Student Handbook.
- Reviews and approves proposals for terminal projects.
- In complex cases, considers petitions for exceptions to degree program policies.

Faculty Academic Contacts

Your Departmental Faculty Advisor:

- Chair of Composition and Music Theory
Prof. Martin Amlin
- Chair of Musicology & Ethnomusicology & Historical Perf.
Prof Gregory Melchor Barz
- Chair of String Department
Prof. Michelle LaCourse
- Chair of Woodwinds
Prof. Joshua Roach
- Chair of Brass and Percussion
Prof. Terry Everson





Faculty Academic Contacts

- Your Departmental Faculty Advisor:
 - Chair of Piano and Collaborative Piano
Prof. Shiela Kibbe
 - Chair of Voice
Prof. David Guzman
 - Chair of Music Education
Prof. Diana Dansereau
- Within music education:
 - MM Initial Licensure: Prof. Kelly Bylica
 - MM Professional Track: Prof. Andrew Goodrich
 - 4+1 Track: Prof. Jackie Smith
 - DMA on campus: Prof. Tawnya Smith

Planning your program of study

- Print out a copy of the [advising worksheet](#) for your program. Make a plan for completing the program requirements in consultation with your advisor.
- Plan based on the [full-time student load](#) for each semester (7–11.5 units).

- Know the [time-to-completion limits](#) for your program:

Master of Music, Artist Diploma, and Performance Diploma: 5 years

Doctor of Musical Arts (DMA) and PhD: 7 years

- Use [the MyBuStudent portal](#) and the [Degree Progress](#) link to track progress.
- DMA Performance students will be required to [declare a track \(Dissertation or Recital\)](#) by the beginning of the second year of study.

A note about 400 level music theory and/or musicology courses

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- You can enroll in 400 level graduate review courses in music theory and/or musicology, but keep in mind you must receive a grade of B- or higher to proceed to graduate coursework. Please note that these review courses do not carry graduate credit and therefore cannot be applied toward your degree.



Academic Courses: AD and PD

- Students in the Artist Diploma (AD) and Performance Diploma (PD) programs do not take the proficiency examinations.
- AD and PD students may not take academic courses at the 600-level. This includes MT601 and MT602, as well as MT401, which is reserved for MM and DMA students.

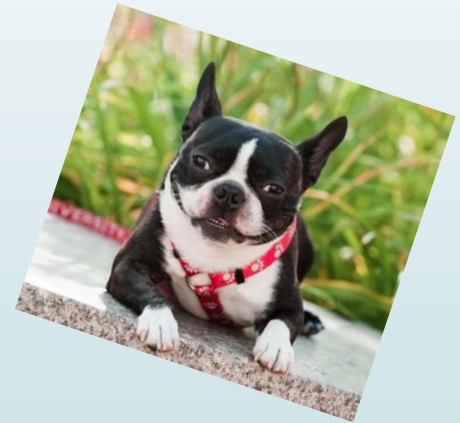


Graduate Music Electives

- Must carry number of 500 or higher.
- 100-level PDP courses and non-major music lessons do not count toward graduate degrees.
 - The flat-rate tuition allows some room for these courses.
- Must carry a music prefix: ML, MP, MH, MT, ME, MU
 - Exception: MET Entrepreneurship courses, which are pre-approved as graduate music electives.
- Applied lesson units may be applied as electives on a limited basis
 - Up to 2 credits for MM students and up to 5 credits for DMA students.

Additional Degree Requirements

- Your degree program includes **non-course requirements** (as they appear in Degree Advice). Some of these items may include:
 - Recitals
 - Terminal projects
 - Comprehensive examinations (MM)
 - Qualifying examinations (DMA)
 - You get three attempts.**
 - Language requirement (DMA)
- Know the non-course requirements for your program and include them in your timeline for completing your





Your Role

- Take ownership of your program from beginning to end.
- Your faculty advisor is critically important, but you determine the specifics of your own path.
- You are responsible for knowing requirements, prerequisites, deadlines, sequences of events, schedules of proficiency and qualifying exams, also for filing forms and applying for exams on time.
- Other students are not your best sources of information. If you don't know, ASK a faculty or staff member.

Plagiarism

- Plagiarism is representing the words or work of others as your own.
- Plagiarism is serious academic misconduct and will result in significant consequences.
- For a detailed discussion of what constitutes plagiarism, consult the University's Academic Conduct Code:
 - <http://www.bu.edu/academics/resources/academic-conduct-code/>

And finally . . .



The secret of getting
ahead is getting started.

Mark Twain
(1835–1910)