

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS COLLEGE OF MUSIC  
DIVISION OF MUSIC HISTORY, THEORY, AND ETHNOMUSICOLOGY  
[www.music.unt.edu/mhte](http://www.music.unt.edu/mhte)

# UNDERGRADUATE MUSIC THEORY STUDENT HANDBOOK

(2010-2011)

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*The Division of Music History, Theory, and Ethnomusicology is a diverse and distinguished community of musician-scholars united by a love of learning, dedicated to the highest standards of academic integrity, and committed to meeting the educational needs of our students and the larger community with exceptional teaching, scholarship, and musical activity.*



The Music Theory Handbook is an official College of Music publication that serves as an informational guide for all students in the Music Theory program. Information concerning the College of Music and degree/course descriptions may be found in the College of Music Student Handbook, the University of North Texas catalogs, and online at <http://www.unt.edu/catalogs/catsched.htm>

# Music Theory

Music theory involves studying music structures and forms, musical ideas and critical thinking. By studying music theory, you will focus on music as a form of art and gain a better understanding of how different styles and forms of music are created.

For music theory majors, a bachelor's degree from the University of North Texas could be the first step toward a teaching career at a college, university or conservatory. It also may be used to develop skills and insights for interpreting music. Combined with a major in performance, it can lead to a career as a performer or private instructor.



## MAJORING IN MUSIC THEORY

As a music theory major, you will take courses in aural and keyboard skills and theoretical concepts. You will study counterpoint by 16th- and 18th-century composers, and form and harmonic styles. You will also study Schenkerian and 20th-century analysis. You will complete a course in advanced sight reading and three courses in music composition.

You must complete two years of French or German, 12 academic hours of private lessons in voice or in your instrument and 4 academic hours of piano lessons. If your instrument is the piano, you will complete 4 academic hours of lessons in another instrument or in voice.

UNT's music theory faculty offers expert guidance in research areas of interest from deep-rooted music cultures of Asia through contemporary popular music, with in-depth study in Western music from the Renaissance through contemporary atonal practices. As a music theory senior, you will complete a research project that will help you acquire the investigative skills needed to prepare you for graduate school studies.

In addition, you will meet some of the world's top music scholars through a lecture series sponsored each year by the division of history, theory and ethnomusicology.



## GETTING HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE

As a music theory major, you will participate in a student ensemble each long semester. Instrumentalists might perform with the Concert Band, Symphonic Band, Symphony Orchestra, Wind Symphony, or one of the nine jazz lab bands. If you were in your high school marching band, you can participate in UNT's Marching Band. A smaller group performs at all home basketball games.

Ensembles in the College of Music for singers include the A Cappella Choir, Canticum Novum, Concert Choir, Jazz Singers, Men's Chorus and Women's Chorus. Members of the A Cappella and Concert choirs belong to the Recital Choir. The college also is home to the Opera Theatre.

UNT's Murchison Performing Arts Center is a major benefit for you. The center features the 1,100-seat Winspear Performance Hall designed for orchestra, choral and band concerts, and the 400-seat Lyric Theater for opera. Both performance halls, as well as the center's large rehearsal space, have state-of-the-art acoustics.

## Bachelor of Music

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This degree may be earned with a major in (1) performance; (2) general, choral and instrumental music; (3) composition; (4) music theory; (5) jazz studies; or (6) music history and literature.

The student who majors in performance may choose piano (performance), piano (pedagogy), organ (performance), organ (church music), harpsichord, voice or an orchestral instrument, including harp, classical guitar and multiple woodwinds, as the area of choice. Four-year outlines for major programs and specific instrumental specializations are listed in this section.

Each student should secure from the music office or advisor the eight-term/semester outline for the chosen major.

Instruction in each area is designed to train students for public performance and teaching in schools or private studios, to prepare them for passing barrier examinations, to develop them culturally, to develop musicianship and technical proficiency, to strengthen sight-reading and the ability to assimilate music without guidance, and to prepare them for participation in church services, orchestras, ensemble groups or graduate work. The curriculum for general, choral and instrumental music majors also leads to teacher certification by the State of Texas. Instruction is given on both group and individual bases.

## Degree Requirements

Candidates for the Bachelor of Music must meet the following requirements.

1. **Hours Required and General/College Requirements:** Completion of a minimum of 132 total semester hours (136 for Music Theory; 137 for Performance: Voice; 132 for Jazz Studies: Performance-Instrumental; 125 for Performance: Orchestral Instruments); 31 hours must be completed at UNT; 42 hours must be advanced (24 of which must be taken at UNT). Fulfillment of degree requirements for the Bachelor of Music degree as specified in the "[General University Requirements](#)" in the [Academics](#) section of this catalog and the College of Music requirements.

2. **Major Requirements:** Major of 34-63 hours in music in a prescribed field, depending on the program. See specific degree plan for exact hours.

3. **Other Course Requirements:** See individual major.

4. **Minor:** Minor of 18 hours minimum, 6 of which must be advanced. See specific degree plan for required minor.

5. **Electives:** See individual major.

6. **Other Requirements:**

- Theory Proficiency Examination.
- Piano Proficiency Examination.
- Other proficiency examinations as required in specific programs. See individual major.
- Participation in a music laboratory (MULB) each term/semester in residence, with a minimum of eight terms/semesters.

### **General Academic Requirements**

- Completion of University Core Curriculum (42 hours). See "[University Core Curriculum Requirements](#)" in the [Academics](#) section of this catalog. Some courses required on degree plans may be used to fulfill requirements under the Visual and Performing Arts and Communication categories of the core.
- Completion of College of Music Core Curriculum (50 hours): music theory, 14 hours; music history and literature, 12 hours; music laboratory, 8 hours; concentration or major instrument, 12 hours; secondary instrument, 2 hours; conducting, 2 hours.
- Completion of major program requirements and electives (see below), for a total of 125-137 hours.

General academic requirements for all music majors include completion of courses in the University Core Curriculum, which, together with other program requirements, total 125-137 hours. Consult the degree outlines for the various programs and the list of courses to satisfy University Core Curriculum Requirements available from the degree program advisor.

Majors in general, choral and instrumental music also must satisfy specific Teacher Certification course requirements, most of which are included in the University Core Curriculum (consult the degree outline). In addition to developmental reading, music theory, music history and literature, performance, conducting, and music laboratory

requirements, a general, choral and instrumental music major must complete 18 hours of professional education that include 6 hours of music education courses to complete the course requirement of 132 hours.

## Major in Music Theory

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1. **Hours Required and General/College Requirements:** A minimum of 136 hours, of which 42 must be advanced, and fulfillment of degree requirements for the Bachelor of Music degree as specified in the "General University Requirements" in the Academics section of this catalog and the College of Music requirements.

2. **Major Requirements:** 45 hours, including MUTH 1400, 1410, 1500, 1510, 2400, 2410, 2500, 2510, 3410, 3420, 3510, 3520, 3550, 4370, 4520, 4920, MUCP 3080, 4310, and 3 hours from MUCP 3090, 4080 or 4460.

3. **Other Course Requirements:** FREN or GERM 1010, 1020, 2040, 2050 (may be used to satisfy a portion of the Understanding the Human Community requirement of the University Core Curriculum); MULB (any music laboratory) (8); MUMH 1600 (may be used to satisfy the Visual and Performing Arts requirement of the University Core Curriculum); MUMH 3500, 3510; 3 hours from MUMH 4780, MUJS 4470 or MUET 4500; PHYS 1270 (may be used to satisfy the Natural Sciences requirement of the University Core Curriculum).

4. **Minor Requirements:** 18 hours in applied music, including MUAG 3800; MUAC (1000-level applied concentration; any one instrument or voice) (8); MUAC (3000-level applied concentration; any one instrument or voice) (4); MUAS or MUAG (1000-level applied secondary) (2).

5. **Electives:** 5 hours.

6. **Other Requirements:**

- All non-keyboard majors must enroll in secondary piano each long term/semester until proficiency is passed.
- Theory major candidates must complete MUTH 1400, 1410, 1500, 1510, 2400, 2410, 2500, and 2510 with a B average and no grade lower than a C, and must complete all remaining theory courses with no grade lower than a B: MUTH 3410, 3420, 3510, 3520, 3550, 4370, 4520 and 4920; MUCP 3080, 4310, 4460.
- Candidates must pass the Concentration Proficiency Examination in the principal instrument or voice.

## Music History, Theory, Ethnomusicology Lecture Series Attendance

Each graduate student with a declared major in music theory is expected to attend all lectures presented in the Division of Music History and Theory Lecture Series during each long term/semester of full-time enrollment (9 hours). Undergraduate majors in music theory are strongly encouraged to attend for intellectual exchange and networking with students and faculty.

## GAMuT: The Graduate Association of Musicologists and Theorists

All students in MHTE are encouraged to attend regularly scheduled meetings and events of GAMuT, the Graduate Association of Musicologists and Theorists ([www.unt.edu/mhte](http://www.unt.edu/mhte)). Open to all, undergraduate majors in music history and theory are also invited to attend these events for professional development and networking with ones colleagues. Faculty Advisor: Dr. Graham Phipps.

## Music Theory Faculty

**Gene Cho**, Regents Professor; Ph.D., Northwestern. Music and culture of China and Japan; pedagogy of music theory.

**Paul Dworak**, Professor; Ph.D., Carnegie Mellon. Developing models of pitch recognition; general models of music cognition.

**Joan C. Groom**, Associate Professor; Ph.D., Eastman. 20th-century analysis; principles and methods of theory pedagogy.

**Frank Heidberger**, Professor; Ph.D., Würzburg. Western music history; romantic and modern opera; music aesthetics of the 19th century; compositional techniques in the 20th century; opera-dramaturgy;

**Timothy Jackson**, Professor; Ph.D., New York. Music of the 19th and 20th centuries; Schenkerian theory.

**Laila Kteily-O'Sullivan**, Assistant Professor; Ph.D., North Texas. Pedagogy of music theory; aural skills acquisition; undergraduate music theory core.

**Graham H. Phipps**, Professor; Ph.D., Cincinnati. History of music theory from 1700 to the present; the Second Viennese School; analysis procedures for music from Gregorian chant to the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

**Stephen Slottow**, Associate Professor; Ph.D, New York. American traditional music; the American ultramodernists; atonal theory; Schenkerian analysis.

**Thomas Sovik**, Professor and Director of Central European Studies and Exchanges; Ph.D., Ohio State. History of music theory in central Europe during the Medieval and Renaissance; popular music in American culture.

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**For further information contact:**

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