Music Theory (PhD)

The University of Oregon is one of only four universities on the West Coast that offers a doctoral program in music theory. The program is distinctive in the way it prepares students for careers both as practicing theorists and as teachers of music theory.

The placement record for graduates of the doctoral program in music theory during the last twenty years has been impressive. Doctoral students have become widely known across the United States for their excellent national and regional conference presentations.

The Ph.D. program emphasizes both intellectual and practical skills while enabling students to become as broadly knowledgeable in the field as possible. Included in the course of study are classes in advanced analysis (including Schenkerian, post-tonal and Neo-Riemannian analysis), form in tonal music, analysis of popular music, history of theory, world music, pedagogy, college music teaching, composition, and electronic/computer music, among other subjects.

Each student experiences a great deal of personal attention from the faculty, and most students gain teaching experience through participation in our Graduate Employee program. There is an especially supportive relationship between the student and his or her major advisor and with members of the student's doctoral committee. The Ph.D. program culminates in a public presentation of the candidate's research, as well as a dissertation.

At the doctoral level, the basic orientation is scholarly or research activity that makes an original contribution to the chosen field. Advanced scholarship and research are intensely disciplined efforts; intuition and creativity are important in the gathering, processing, and interpretation of information.

The program most appropriately culminates in the awarding of the degree, Doctor of Philosophy.

Program Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this program, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate advanced competencies in music theory. Studies in this area comprise as much as two-thirds or at least one-third of the total curriculum.
- Gain knowledge and skills in one or more fields of music outside the major such as history and literature, composition, musicology and ethnomusicology, performance, and pedagogy. Such supportive studies in music that broaden and deepen musical competence comprise at least one-third of the total curriculum.
- As a culminating demonstration of professional capability in the major field, the student must submit a dissertation that demonstrates advanced competence in theoretical research and writing.

Doctor of Philosophy in Music Theory Requirements

Code	Title	Credits
MUS 615	Current Trends in Music Theory	3
MUE 641	College Music Teaching	3
Music in Historic Era - select two from the following:		6
MUS 660	Music in the Middle Ages	
MUS 661	Music in the Renaissance	
MUS 662	Music in the Baroque Era	
MUS 663	Music in the Classical Period	
MUS 664	Music in the Romantic Era	
MUS 665	Music in the 20th Century	
Non-Music Courses [1]		8
Research Development Courses (2 courses or 8 credits) [2]		6-8
MUE 639	Pedagogy and Practicum: [Topic]	3
Three Music Theory Seminars		12
MUS 672	Seminar: Music Theory: [Topic]	
MUS 516	Post-Tonal Theory I	3
MUS 634	Advanced Post-Tonal Theory	3
Tonal Analysis/Theory - select three from the following:		9
MUS 530	Tonal Analysis: Linear Prolongational Analysis	
MUS 531	Tonal Analysis: Form in Tonal Music	
MUS 532	Tonal Analysis: Analysis of Popular Music	
MUS 517	Post-Tonal Theory II	
MUS 533	Counterpoint	4
MUS 534	Counterpoint	4
MUS 631	History of Theory II	3
MUS 632	History of Theory III	3
Counterpoint/History of Theory - select one from the following:		3-4
MUS 535	Counterpoint	
MUS 630	History of Theory I	
Comprehensive Exam		
Dissertation		18
MUS 603	Dissertation	
Final Lecture and Oral Defense of Dissertation		
Total Credits		**91-94**

1 Chosen in consultation with faculty advisor. These courses are intended to assist with content creation of the final dissertation.

2 Chosen in consultation with faculty advisor. These courses are intended to prepare students for the research and writing/creation of the final dissertation.