

MASTER OF MUSIC, PERFORMANCE OPTION

The Master of Music, Performance Option provides students with a comprehensive approach to the study and performance of literature in all styles and idioms of music. The curriculum is designed to develop musicianship, technical proficiency, and cultural awareness in both performance and pedagogy. Regardless of degree concentration, the graduate student will maintain regular study on their applied instrument or voice and additional directed areas based on individual goals and needs. Graduate students may choose to specialize in one or more areas as they work toward degree recital requirements.

The intent of the option is to prepare students with outstanding performance potential to be competitive in performance and teaching careers and to advocate for the arts in their communities. They may help meet the needs for skilled performers of solo and small and large ensemble music, and they will be able to teach in a university and help meet the considerable community demand for excellent private studio teachers.

Performance areas include woodwinds, brass, strings, percussion, harp, guitar, voice, piano, and organ. Please visit the "Areas" section of the Music website (<https://music.colostate.edu/>) for information about each studio.

Unique performance opportunities include the Graduate String Quartet/Trio program and professional organizations in Fort Collins' thriving arts community.

Music Audition

In addition to applying to CSU through Graduate Admissions, a successful audition with CSU Music faculty is required for entrance into the M.M., Performance Option. Please visit the music website for Music Audition Information (<https://music.colostate.edu/admissions/grad-apply/>).

Bands, Orchestras, and Choirs are open to all CSU students. Ensemble audition excerpts and instructions are available at Ensemble Audition Information (<https://music.colostate.edu/auditions/>) (some ensembles do not require an audition).

[Students interested in graduate work should refer to the Graduate and Professional Bulletin.](#)

Learning Objectives

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

1. Perform music from a variety of historical/ style periods, and exhibit advanced skills for musical self-expression in juried performances. These skills include: techniques, musicianship, tone, diction/ articulation, style, interpretation, and artistry.
2. Apply advanced common elements and organizational patterns of music, including a wide variety of musical forms, processes, and structures.
3. Identify music history and repertory and representative composers and works from each on a defined evaluation instrument.
4. Analyze music through tonal and post-tonal techniques.

Music Program Fee

A music program fee is assessed with undergraduate and graduate music and musical theatre majors and music minors, per semester. Does not apply to the following students: online degree students and summers-only master's degree students. [Please visit the](https://provost.colostate.edu/student-resources/) Office of the Provost and Executive Vice President (<https://provost.colostate.edu/student-resources/>) [for special course fees.](#)

Requirements Effective Fall 2026

Code	Title	Credits
MU 517	Tonal Analytic Techniques ¹	3
or MU 518	Post-Tonal Analytic Techniques	
MU 630	Methods of Music Research	3
MU 671	Graduate Recital	1
MU 695F	Independent Study: Music Literature (Music Literature) ^{2,3,4}	2
or MU 696F	Group Study: Music Literature	
Music History: select a minimum of 3 credits from the following: ^{1,3}		3
MU 530	Music Through the Middle Ages	
MU 531	Music of the Renaissance	
MU 532	Music of the Baroque	
MU 533	Music of the Classical Era	
MU 534	Music of the Romantic Era	
MU 535	Music of the Twentieth Century	
MU 592E	Seminar: Music History ²	
Select 12 credits from the following: ^{2,3,5}		12
MU 672A	Applied Music Instruction: Euphonium	
MU 672B	Applied Music Instruction: French Horn	
MU 672C	Applied Music Instruction: Trombone	
MU 672D	Applied Music Instruction: Trumpet	
MU 672E	Applied Music Instruction: Tuba	
MU 672G	Applied Music Instruction: Harpsichord	
MU 672H	Applied Music Instruction: Organ	
MU 672I	Applied Music Instruction: Piano	
MU 672J	Applied Music Instruction: Percussion	
MU 672K	Applied Music Instruction: Guitar	
MU 672L	Applied Music Instruction: Harp	
MU 672M	Applied Music Instruction: String Bass	
MU 672N	Applied Music Instruction: Viola	
MU 672O	Applied Music Instruction: Violin	
MU 672P	Applied Music Instruction: Violoncello	
MU 672Q	Applied Music Instruction: Voice	
MU 672R	Applied Music Instruction: Bassoon	
MU 672S	Applied Music Instruction: Clarinet	
MU 672T	Applied Music Instruction: Flute	
MU 672U	Applied Music Instruction: Oboe	
MU 672V	Applied Music Instruction: Saxophone (Alto)	
Ensembles: Choose from: ^{2,3}		4
MU 302	University Orchestra	

MU 304	Symphonic Band	
MU 309	Jazz Ensemble	
MU 400	Colorado State University Chamber Choir	
MU 401	Opera Theater	
MU 404	Symphonic Wind Ensemble	
MU 608	Graduate Chamber Music	
MU 696I	Group Study: Performance	
Non-performance Music Elective: Any MU 51X, any MU 53X, or MU 592A, or MU 592E ^{1,3}		3
Elective: Any 400-level or higher course in any subject area ³		1
Program Total Credits:		32

A minimum of 32 credits are required to complete this program.

¹ Entrance diagnostic exam score may require students to take MU 412 and/or MU 439 before enrolling in 500-level music theory and/or history courses.

² Course(s) may be repeated for credit.

³ Select course(s) with approval of advisor and graduate committee.

⁴ Music literature course(s) will be in the student's major instrument or voice. Course requirements include a paper, copies of which will be distributed to the graduate committee as a sample of the student's scholarship.

⁵ Majors in vocal performance are required to be proficient in Italian, German, and French singing diction as well as the use of International Phonetic Alphabet upon entering the program, or to take the appropriate coursework to make up for deficiency as soon as possible (i.e. MU 265A, MU 265B, LFRE 100, LGER 100, LITA 100). Students take a diction proficiency exam at the start of their studies to determine whether or not they need to take these courses.

⁶ 60-minute recital typically takes place in semester 4 and serves as the final project for this Plan B program. Students, in consultation with their advisor, may include an earlier supplemental recital in their program of study.

Requirements for All Graduate Degrees

For more information, please visit Requirements for All Graduate Degrees (<https://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/graduate-bulletin/graduate-study/procedures-requirements-all-degrees/>) in the Graduate and Professional Bulletin (<https://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/graduate-bulletin/>).

Summary of Procedures for the Master's and Doctoral Degrees

NOTE: Each semester the Graduate School publishes a schedule of deadlines. Deadlines are available on the Graduate School website (<https://graduateschool.colostate.edu/deadline-dates/>). Students should consult this schedule whenever they approach important steps in their careers.

Forms (<https://graduateschool.colostate.edu/forms/>) are available online.

Step	Due Date
1. Application for admission (online)	Six months before first registration
2. Diagnostic examination when required	Before first registration
3. Appointment of advisor	Before first registration

4. Selection of graduate committee	Before the time of fourth regular semester registration
5. Filing of program of study (GS Form 6)	Before the time of fourth regular semester registration
6. Preliminary examination (Ph.D. and PD)	Two terms prior to final examination
7. Report of preliminary examination (GS Form 16) - (Ph.D. and PD)	Within two working days after results are known
8. Changes in committee (GS Form 9A)	When change is made
9. Application for Graduation (GS Form 25)	Refer to published deadlines from the Graduate School Website
9a. Reapplication for Graduation (online)	Failure to graduate requires Reapplication for Graduation (online) for the next time term for which you are applying
10. Submit thesis or dissertation to committee	At least two weeks prior to the examination or at the discretion of the graduate committee
11. Final examination	Refer to published deadlines from the Graduate School Website
12. Report of final examination (GS Form 24)	Within two working days after results are known; refer to published deadlines from the Graduate School website
13. Submit a signed Thesis/Dissertation Submission Form (GS Form 30) to the Graduate School and Submit the Survey of Earned Doctorates (Ph.D. only) prior to submitting the electronic thesis/dissertation	Refer to published deadlines from the Graduate School website.
14. Submit the thesis/dissertation electronically	Refer to published deadlines from the Graduate School website
15. Graduation	Ceremony information is available from the Graduate School website