The McLean School of Music offers a Master of Arts degree in Music with specializations in collaborative piano (instrumental emphasis), collaborative piano (vocal emphasis), conducting, jazz studies, music composition, music composition for contemporary media, music education, musicology, and performance. A minor in Music is offered at the graduate level.

Applicants seeking admission to the Master of Arts degree must have completed an undergraduate degree in music with a GPA of at least 3.00. They must also submit scores from the general Graduate Record Examination (GRE) and three letters of recommendation.

Applicants intending to specialize in collaborative piano, conducting, jazz studies, or performance must audition. Applicants who do not pass the audition may be allowed, at the discretion of the faculty, to be admitted with probationary status for one semester and must register for MUAP 5020, Private Instruction. They must reaudit at the end of their first semester of study. Students who do not pass the audition on their second attempt will be excused from the program.

Applicants intending to specialize in music composition or music composition for contemporary media must submit recordings and scores of their compositions. Those intending to specialize in music education must submit a 30-minute video recording of themselves teaching. Applicants intending to specialize in musicology must submit two research papers of at least five pages in length, one of which is on a music topic.

Requirements for the Master of Arts in Music

1. Before graduation, students must establish proficiencies in the areas required for the relevant specialization. (See curricula below for details.) Diagnostic examinations in music theory, music history, and diction will be scheduled during the first week of the first semester of study. Students who do not pass the diagnostic examinations should consult with the graduate coordinator to plan how to meet the requirements. Courses taken to meet proficiency requirements do not count toward the degree.
2. Seventy percent of the total degree hours must be at the 6000 level.

3. Prior to the completion of 24 semester hours, an Advancement to Candidacy Form must be filed with the Office of Graduate Studies.
4. No earlier than the student’s last semester of study, the student must pass both written and oral comprehensive examinations. Comprehensive examinations may be repeated once.

Areas of Specialization

Specialization 1: Collaborative Piano with an Instrumental Emphasis (32 hours)

I. Proficiencies Required
   a. Music History
   b. Music Theory
   c. Foreign Language (French or German)

II. Group A - Core Courses (9 hours)
    a. MUS 6620 Bibliography and Research
    b. MUTH 6050 Analytical Techniques
    c. MUS 6630 Music Seminar

III. Group B - Courses in Specialization (20 hours)
    a. MUAP 6682 Private Instruction (Collaborative Piano)
    b. Three semesters of MUAP 6670 Graduate Recital
       One recital with voice, two with instruments
    c. MUHL 5710 Vocal Literature
    d. MUHL 5780 Chamber Music for Keyboard
    e. One of the following instrumental literature courses
       1. MUHL 5730 Brass Literature
       2. MUHL 5750 String Literature
       3. MUHL 5760 Woodwind Literature

IV. Group C (3 hours)
   Free electives

Specialization 2: Collaborative Piano with a Vocal Emphasis (32 hours)

I. Proficiencies Required
   a. Music History
   b. Music Theory
   c. Foreign Language: French, Italian, and German

II. Group A - Core Courses (9 hours)
    a. MUS 6620 Bibliography and Research
    b. MUTH 6050 Analytical Techniques
    c. MUS 6630 Music Seminar

III. Group B - Courses in Specialization (20 hours)
    a. MUAP 6682 Private Instruction (Collaborative Piano)
    b. Three semesters of MUAP 6670 Graduate Recital
       One recital with instruments, two with voice
    c. MUHL 5710 Vocal Literature
    d. MUHL 5770 Opera Literature
    e. MUPD 5340 Techniques of Vocal Coaching

IV. Group C - Elective Courses (3 hours)

Specialization 3: Conducting (30 hours)

I. Proficiencies Required
   a. Music History
   b. Music Theory
   c. Keyboard

II. Group A - Core Courses (9 hours)
    a. MUS 6620 Bibliography and Research
    b. MUTH 6050 Analytical Techniques
    c. MUS 6630 Music Seminar
III. Group B - Courses in Specialization (18 hours)
  a. MUS 6030 Conducting Problems and Score Interpretation
  b. MUS 6060 Advanced Conducting
  c. MUAP 6709 Private Instruction - Conducting
  d. Two ensembles
  e. MUAP 6670 Graduate Recital
  For Instrumental Conductors
  f. MUHL 5790 Orchestral and Wind Ensemble Literature
  g. MUED 5240 Instrumental Rehearsal Problems
  For Choral Conductors
  f. MUHL 5680 Choral Literature
  g. MUTH 5270 Choral Arranging

IV. Group C - Elective Courses (3 hours)

Specialization 4: Jazz Studies (32 hours)
I. Proficiencies Required
  a. Music History
  b. Music Theory
II. Group A - Core Courses (9 hours)
  a. MUS 6620 Bibliography and Research
  b. MUTH 6050 Analytical Techniques
  c. MUS 6630 Music Seminar
III. Group B - Courses in Specialization (14 hours)
  a. MUAP 668 Private Instruction
  b. MUAP 669 Private Instruction
  c. MUAP 670 Private Instruction
  d. MUAP 6670 Graduate Recital
  e. Two ensembles (Jazz Ensemble or Jazz Combo)
IV. Group C - Guided Elective Courses (9 hours)
  Three courses to be selected from the following:
  a. MUHL 5530 History of Jazz
  b. MUPD 6330 Jazz Pedagogy and Program Administration
  c. MUTH 5280 Advanced Jazz Arranging
  d. MUTH 6060 Advanced Jazz Improvisation

Specialization 5: Music Composition (33 hours)
I. Proficiencies Required
  a. Performance skill on an applied instrument or voice
  b. Keyboard (may also fulfill performance-skill requirement)
  c. Music History
  d. Music Theory
II. Group A - Core Courses (9 hours)
  a. MUS 6620 Bibliography and Research
  b. MUTH 6050 Analytical Techniques
  c. MUS 6630 Music Seminar
III. Group B - Courses in Specialization (18 hours)
  a. MUAP 6140 Composition
  b. MUAP 6150 Composition
  c. MUAP 6160 Composition
  d. MUAP 6670 Graduate Recital
  e. MUHL 6040 Twentieth-Century Music
  f. MUTH 5190 Principles and Practices of Electronic Music
  g. MUTH 5290 Electronic Music II
  h. MUTH 5590 MIDI Studio Techniques
IV. Group C - Elective Courses (3 hours)
  Specialization 6: Music Composition for Contemporary Media (36 hours)
I. Proficiencies Required
  a. Performance skill on an applied instrument or voice
  b. Keyboard (may also fulfill performance-skill requirement)
  c. Music History
  d. Music Theory
II. Group A - Core Courses (9 hours)
  a. MUS 6620 Bibliography and Research
  b. MUTH 6050 Analytical Techniques
  c. MUS 6630 Music Seminar
III. Group B - Courses in Specialization (24 hours)
  a. MUAP 6140 Composition
  b. MUAP 6150 Composition
  c. MUAP 6160 Composition
  d. MUAP 6670 Graduate Recital
  e. MUHL 6040 Twentieth-Century Music
  f. MUTH 5190 Principles and Practices of Electronic Music
  g. MUTH 5290 Electronic Music II
  h. MUTH 5590 MIDI Studio Techniques
IV. Group C - Elective Courses (3 hours)
  Specialization 7: Music Education (32 hours)
I. Proficiencies Required
  a. Music History
  b. Music Theory
II. Group A - Core Courses (9 hours)
  a. MUS 6620 Bibliography and Research
  b. MUTH 6050 Analytical Techniques
  c. MUS 6630 Music Seminar
III. Group B - Courses in Specialization (20 hours)
  a. MUED 6010 Principles and Foundations of Music Education
  b. MUED 6632 Contemporary Issues and Research in Music Education
  c. MUS 6630 Music Seminar
  d. MUED 6621 Music Education Research Project
  e. Two ensembles
  f. Six (6) hours to be selected from the following:
     MUED 5210 General Music Program K-6
     MUED 5670 Music for the Young Child
     MUED 5220 Choral Music in the Middle and Senior High School
     MUED 5190 General Music in the Middle and Senior High School
     MUED 5240 Instrumental Rehearsal Problems
     MUED 5250 Advanced Marching Techniques
     MUED 5260 The Application of Technology to Music Teaching
IV. Group C - Elective Courses (3 hours)
  Specialization 8: Musicology (30 hours)
I. Proficiencies Required
  a. Music History
  b. Music Theory
  c. Foreign Language
II. Group A - Core Courses (9 hours)
  a. MUS 6620 Bibliography and Research
  b. MUTH 6050 Analytical Techniques
  c. MUS 6630 Music Seminar
III. Group B - Courses in Specialization (12 hours)
   a. Two semesters of MUS 6630 Music Seminar
   b. Course at the 6000 level in a related field
      (must be approved by the graduate coordinator)
   c. MUS 6640 Thesis Research
IV. Group C - Elective Courses (9 hours)

Specialization 9: Performance (32 hours)
I. Proficiencies Required
   a. Music History
   b. Music Theory
   Vocalists must also establish proficiency in diction and in two
   languages from among French, German, and Italian
II. Group A - Core Courses (9 hours)
   a. MUS 6620 Bibliography and Research
   b. MUTH 6050 Analytical Techniques
   c. MUS 6630 Music Seminar
III. Group B - Courses in Specialization (20 hours)
   a. MUAP 668_ Private Instruction
   b. MUAP 669_ Private Instruction
   c. MUAP 670_ Private Instruction
   d. MUAP 6670 Graduate Recital
   e. Two ensembles
   f. Six (6) hours of music literature courses
V. Group C - Elective Courses (3 hours)

Courses in Music [MUS]

5000 Special Topics in Music. One, two, or three credits. Study of a
   topic in music. Topic and prerequisites to be announced.

5100 Independent Study in Music. One, two, or three credits. Inten-
   sive study of a chosen subject. An indication of reasonable skill
   and knowledge of research techniques, writing, and creativity
   expected.

5270 Music Internship. Three to six credits. Prerequisite: Permission
   of instructor. Examination and experiences in either the area of
   music industry, music education, or instrumental or choral con-
   ducting. Three credits require 15 hours per week; six credits, 30
   hours per week. S/U grading.

5570 The Body Intelligent: A Study of the Alexander Technique.
   Two credits. (Same as THEA 5570.) For those interested in im-
   proving ease and freedom of movement, balance, support, flex-
   ibility, and coordination in daily activity.

6000 Special Topics in Music. One, two, or three credits. Study of a
   topic in music. Topic and prerequisites to be announced.

6030 Conducting Problems and Score Interpretation. Three cred-
   its. Analysis and marking of scores. Refinement of conducting
   techniques. Elimination of undesirable conducting habits. Dio-
   cion as applied to conducting.

6060 Advanced Conducting. Three credits. Techniques in advanced
   conducting of orchestral, choral, band, and chamber ensem-
   bles. Includes irregular meters, score reading, warm-up proce-
   dures, conducting patterns, attacks, and releases.

6100 Independent Study in Music. One, two, or three credits. Inten-
   sive study of a chosen subject. An indication of reasonable skill
   and knowledge of research techniques, writing, and creativity
   expected.

6500 Aesthetics of the Arts. Three credits. The place of aesthetics in
   philosophy, the properties of music and the visual arts, the alter-
   native and corollary views of the arts, the process of aesthetic
   creation, and meaning and values in music and the visual arts.

6620 Bibliography and Research. Three credits. Survey of bibliog-
   raphy and problems and methods of research. Analysis and eval-
   uation of research in the arts.

6630 Music Seminar. Three credits. Prerequisite: MUS 6620. Study
   and research of a topic in music determined by the instructor.

6640 Thesis Research. One to six credits. Types of research in music
   surveyed. A problem is selected and developed into a thesis
   report in acceptable form and style. Once enrolled, student
   should register for at least one credit hour of master's research
   each semester until completion. S/U grading.

6999 Comprehensive Examination Preparation. One credit. Open only
   to students enrolled in another graduate course who will take the
   master's comprehensive examination during the term. Contact the
   graduate advisor during the first two weeks of the term for course
   details and specifics. Credit may not be applied to degree require-
   ments.

Courses in Applied Music [MUAP]

5020 Private Instruction. Two credits. One hour lesson weekly on
   one of the various instruments or voice. Offers preparation to
   entering graduates for the graduate audition. Does not count
   toward the graduate degree; may be repeated.

5040 Service Playing. Two credits. Skills and knowledge necessary
   for playing for church services including hymn and anthem ac-
   companiments, conducting from the console, study of liturgical
   service music, solo accompaniments, and church music materials.

5100 Private Instruction. One credit. Prerequisite: Permission of in-
   structor. One half-hour private lesson weekly on one of the vari-
   ous instruments or voice. May be repeated.

5140 Composition. Two credits. Prerequisite: Permission of instruc-
   tor. Experience composing original works in numerous media
   and styles to develop technique and self-expression. May be
   repeated.

6140/6150/6160 Composition. Three credits each. Development of
   skills and ability in handling musical materials with goals of some
   individual style or expression within the framework of current
   practices. Taken in consecutive order. MUAP 6160 may be re-
   peated with no limit, but only three hours of credit may be ap-
   plied toward the degree.

6670 Graduate Recital. Three credits. Prerequisites: Completion of
   MUAP 6662 for the collaborative piano specializations; MUS
   6030, 6060, and MUAP 6709 for the conducting specialization;
   the appropriate courses from among MUAP 6681-6688, 6691-6698,
   and 6701-6708 for the jazz studies and performance specializations;
   MUAP 6140, 6150, and 6160 for the music composition and music
   composition for contemporary media specializations; and permission of the appropriate music faculty
   in all specializations. One-hour private lesson per week in the
   selected performance field and recital preparation until recital
   completed. Those specializing in collaborative piano may take
   course three times.
6680-Private Instruction. Three credits. Prerequisite: Completion of undergraduate recital. Consult graduate coordinator as to performance area availability. One-hour private lesson per week in the selected performance field. In-depth study of stylistic, technical, and musical problems in music performance and exploration of advanced repertoire in the applied area.

6690-Private Instruction. Three credits. Prerequisite: Completion of undergraduate recital. Consult graduate coordinator as to performance area availability. One-hour private lesson per week in the selected performance field. In-depth study of stylistic, technical, and musical problems in music performance and exploration of advanced repertoire in the applied area.

6700-Private Instruction. Three credits. Prerequisite: Completion of undergraduate recital. Consult graduate coordinator as to performance area availability. One-hour private lesson per week in the selected performance field. In-depth study of stylistic, technical, and musical problems in music performance and exploration of advanced repertoire in the applied area.

Courses in Music Education [MUED]

5190 General Music in the Middle and Senior High School. Two credits. Introduces graduate students in music education to methods and materials available for teaching general music to students in grades 6-12. Active student participation and observations of music teachers in the school expected.

5210 General Music Program K-6. Three credits. The role of music and music teaching in elementary education; its objectives, methods, materials, and procedures; innovative trends and exemplary practices; evaluative techniques.

5220 Choral Music in the Middle and Senior High School. Two credits. Methods for teaching music to students at the middle and senior high levels (grades 5-12). Topics include recruitment, auditioning, repertoire, programming, musical analysis and score preparation, planning rehearsals, rehearsing the choir, classroom management, vocal techniques and musicianship skills, changing voice, and overall management of a choral program. Observation and public school field experiences required.

5230 Secondary School Methods and Materials. Two credits. The role of music and music teaching in secondary education; its objectives, methods, materials, and procedures; innovative trends and exemplary practices; evaluative techniques.

5240 Instrumental Rehearsal Problems. Two credits. Improving teaching in instrumental music classes through a study of rehearsal planning and techniques; the interpretation of music to students; group dynamics.

5250 Advanced Marching Techniques. Two credits. Prerequisite: Marching band class. Further development and application of marching band techniques as utilized in half-time and contest show production. Selection and analysis of the music score.

5260 The Application of Technology to Music Teaching. Two credits. Introduction to music technology and its applications in music education. Topics include electro-acoustical generation of musical sound, synthesis equipment and MIDI networks, sequencing and scoring software, music education instructional software, and recording techniques. Application assignments in the computer lab and reading assignments in references and software and hardware manuals. Students will search for, examine, and log relevant World Wide Web and other Internet sites.

5670 Music for the Young Child. Four credits. Music fundamentals, materials, and methods appropriate for preschool through grades three; pantomime, role playing, improvisation, rhythm, movement, listening, and singing.

6010 Foundations of Music Education. Three credits. Philosophies of music education; meaning in music and aesthetic theories; principles of learning; objectives for music education.

6621 Music Education Research Project. Three credits. Prerequisite: MUS 6620 and completed candidacy form. Study and research of a topic in music education determined by the student.

6632 Contemporary Issues and Research in Music Education. Three credits. Focuses on contemporary issues and research in music education, the current educational landscape, learning theory and music education, curriculum design and assessment, and accountability in music education.

Courses in Music Ensemble [MUEN]

5000-Ensemble. One credit each semester. Study and public performance of music literature appropriate to the ensemble.

5750-580 Accompanying. One credit each semester. Study and public performance of music literature appropriate to the ensemble.
Courses in Music History and Literature [MUHL]

5050 Church Music. Two credits. Survey of church music and various denominational worship traditions, hymnology, graded choir programs, handbell choirs, materials and methods of church music, and administration and organization of church music.

5060 Guitar Literature. Three credits. Basic literature for the guitar from the Renaissance to the present. Analysis, listening, research, performance.


5130 Survey of World Music. Three credits. A study of selected music of cultures from around the world and here at home. Listening, watching, reading, research, and concert attendance required.

5350 History of Jazz. Three credits. Study of the history and literature of jazz music including African roots, developments, and aspects of style periods, and the contemporary state of jazz. Listening and analysis.

5630 Seventeenth- and Eighteenth-Century Music. Three credits. Prerequisite: Permission of instructor. A survey of Western classical music during the Baroque and Classical periods; emphasis on topics selected by the instructor.

5640 Nineteenth-Century Music. Three credits. Prerequisite: Permission of instructor. A survey of Western classical music during the Romantic period; emphasis on topics selected by the instructor.

5660 American Music. Three credits. Prerequisite: Permission of instructor. A survey of American music from the colonial era to the present; added emphasis on topics selected by the instructor. Examines folk, popular, and art, as well as sacred and secular traditions within their cultural contexts.

5680 Choral Literature. Two credits. Examination of choral literature from the Renaissance to the present. Program selection. Analysis of choral pieces.

5690 Piano Literature. Three credits. Survey of the basic literature of the harpsichord and piano from the eighteenth century to the present. Live performance; analysis and research.

5710 Vocal Literature. Three credits. Basic repertory of Italian airs, German lieder, French art song, and solo vocal works of nationalistic schools, as well as English and American song literature.

5720 Organ Literature. Two credits. A chronological study of organ literature from the Medieval period to the present. Objectives include knowledge of the repertoire and composers and historical perspective of styles and organ building.

5730 Brass Literature. Two credits. A chronological study of brass literature from the Renaissance period to the present. Objectives include knowledge of the repertoire and composers, historical perspective of styles, types, and common performance practice.

5740 Percussion Literature. Two credits. A chronological study of percussion literature from the nineteenth century to the present. Objectives include knowledge of the repertoire and composers, historical perspective of styles, types, and common performance practice.

5750 String Literature. Two credits. A chronological study of string literature from the nineteenth century to the present. Objectives include knowledge of the repertoire and its composers, historical perspective of styles, types, and common performance practice.

5760 Woodwind Literature. Two credits. A chronological study of woodwind literature from the Renaissance period to the present. Objectives include knowledge of the repertoire and composers, historical perspective of types and common performance practice.

5770 Opera Literature. Three credits. A study of major operatic works and styles. Focuses on composers, librettists, and performers as well as the vocal, musical, and dramatic resources necessary for performance. Listening and analysis of select pieces will be included in student projects.

5780 Chamber Music for Keyboard. Three credits. A study of chamber music written for the piano. Emphasis will be placed on music written during the eighteenth, nineteenth, and twentieth centuries. Listening and analysis of select pieces will be included in student projects.

5790 Orchestral and Wind Ensemble Literature. Two credits. An in-depth study of orchestral and wind ensemble repertoire.

5800 Art Music and African Americans. Two credits. A chronological and topical overview of African American musicians and composers and the primary genres of African American art music from slavery to the present.

6040 Twentieth Century Music. Three credits. Styles and compositional techniques found in representative masterworks of the twentieth century from Debussy to present. Analysis, listening, and research.

Courses in Music Pedagogy [MUPD]

5110 Advanced Brass Pedagogy. Two credits. Advanced study of conceptual, physiological, acoustical, pedagogical methods and materials used in the teaching of beginning, intermediate, and advanced brass students.

5120 Advanced Percussion Pedagogy. Two credits. Advanced study of conceptual, physiological, acoustical, pedagogical methods and materials used in the teaching of beginning, intermediate, and advanced percussion students.

5130 Advanced String Pedagogy. Two credits. Advanced study of conceptual, physiological, acoustical, pedagogical methods and materials used in the teaching of beginning, intermediate, and advanced string students.

5320 Piano Pedagogy. Two credits. Various technical and philosophical approaches in teaching piano. Examination of teaching repertoire through intermediate level. Supervised teaching through intermediate level.

5330 Organ Pedagogy. Two credits. The principles of teaching organ: manual and pedal techniques, organ methods, and organ repertoire of varying degrees of difficulty and of all period-styles from pre-Bach through twentieth century.

5340 Techniques of Vocal Coaching. Two credits. Methods and techniques necessary for vocal coaching in a professional setting. Topics include the German Fach system, effective rehearsal techniques, playing of orchestral reductions, sight-reading, and repertoire building. Listening and in-class coaching sessions included.

5350 Guitar Pedagogy. Two credits. Study of the theoretical and practical bases of teaching guitar.

6310 Advanced Woodwind Pedagogy. Two credits. Advanced study of conceptual, physiological, acoustical, pedagogical methods and materials used in the teaching of beginning, intermediate, and advanced woodwind students.

6320 Diction for Singers II. Three credits. Lecture demonstration course for familiarization of the International Phonetic Alphabet and correct pronunciation of a variety of texts in English, Italian, German, and French.

6330 Jazz Pedagogy and Program Administration. Three credits. In-depth study of materials and techniques for teaching jazz at the high school and college level. Rehearsal techniques and identification of and solutions to performance problems. Study of the development and implementation of a successful jazz studies program including educational jazz festival administration.


6350 Brass Teaching. Two credits. Teaching materials for trumpet, cornet, horn, trombone, baritone, and tuba; elementary and advanced exercises, etudes; methods for class and private instruction, clef and transposition studies, orchestral and band repertoire. Survey of sources providing announcement and evaluation of new materials.

Courses in Music Theory [MUTH]

5010 Theory Survey. Three credits. A review of musicianship skills and knowledge of musical theory to the degree necessary for the candidate to pursue work at the graduate level. Does not count toward the M.A. in Music. S/U grading.

5180 Improvisation. Two credits. Lecture demonstration course exploring improvisation, musical vocabularies, and shorthands including figured bass, Nashville shorthand, and other contemporary styles of writing and performing.

5190 Principles and Practices of Electronic Music. Three credits. Includes history and techniques, acoustics, electronic sound generation, recording, operation of audio equipment, basic principles of composition, and experience with tape recorders and a music synthesizer. Open to nonmusic majors with permission of instructor.

5270 Choral Arranging. Two credits. The fundamentals of arranging musical works for vocal ensembles of various sizes, combinations, and skill levels.

5280 Advanced Jazz Arranging. Three credits. Prerequisite: MUTH 4170. Advanced analysis and arranging for various combinations of instruments and voice for small and large jazz ensembles. Periods, performance practices, stylistic features, and artists.

5290 Electronic Music II. Three credits. Prerequisite: MUTH 5190. Advanced principles of digital sound synthesis, programming the digital synthesizer, electronic composition, contemporary trends in digital music, and programming with a MIDI work station.

5590 MIDI Studio Techniques. Three credits. Prerequisites: RIM/MUTH 4290 and RIM 4400 or permission of instructor. MIDI systems design and the total integration of all MIDI-controllable devices. SMPTE and MIDI Time Code and their application to tape synchronization. A continuation of advanced techniques for digital sampling, sequencing, sound manipulation, and use of alternate controllers. Other topics include sound effects and music scoring for film and video, and the MIDI Machine Control and MIDI Show Control specifications. Laboratory required.

6050 Analytical Techniques. Three credits. Prerequisite: MUTH 5010 or permission of instructor. Skills and procedures of musical analysis as they apply to all periods through analysis of representative compositions. Evaluation of work from all standpoints: craftsmanship, expression, and stylistic correctness.

6060 Advanced Improvisation. Three credits. Exploration of the art of improvisation. Emphasis on advanced harmonic and melodic principles and on the development of a personal style. Listening and analysis of solos by great jazz artists and in-class performances of student projects and improvisations.