



MIDDLE TENNESSEE

STATE UNIVERSITY

The Master of Music in Conducting

Refine your skills with individual mentorship from faculty and podium time with our esteemed Orchestra, Wind or Choral ensembles.



The MTSU School of Music Graduate Program



Description

The Master of Music in Conducting is an advanced course of study for musicians who hold the bachelor's degree and seek advanced instruction in choral or orchestral and wind ensemble conducting. The program features studies in literature, arrangement and interpretation with ensemble experience designed to maximize podium time. Students study with a distinguished faculty of experienced artists who mentor students towards an individual artistic voice and its expression in the direction of an ensemble. Graduate teaching assistantship opportunities are available to qualified students.

Program Structure

A common set of core courses provides students with comprehensive insights into the basic expectations, problems and methods of research in music. These courses introduce topics in Music History, Music Theory and Analysis. Courses for the specialization include private instruction as well as focused study on Conducting Problems and Score Interpretation. Additional coursework includes literature studies and free electives.

Core Studies (9 Credits)

- Bibliography and Research
- Music History & Analytical Techniques

Electives (3 Credits)

- Guided Elective in related field

Specialization Courses (15 Credits)

- Private Instruction
- Graduate Recital
- Conducting Problems and Score Interpretation
- Principles and Practices of Electronic Music
- Literature (Choral or Orch. and Wind Ensemble)
- Instrumental Rehearsal Problems/Choral Arranging
- Two Ensembles



How to Apply

Applicants must apply and be admitted to the College of Graduate Studies at MTSU. Complete the application process online at <https://mtsu.edu/graduate>

Visit the program website at

<https://www.mtsu.edu/music/graduate.php>

Dr. Chris Combest, Director
Graduate Program in Music
MTSU Box 47
1301 E. Main St.
Murfreesboro, TN 37132
GradMusic@mtsu.edu



0120-8662 / Middle Tennessee State University does not discriminate against students, employees, or applicants for admission or employment on the basis of race, color, religion, creed, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, disability, age, status as a protected veteran, genetic information, or against any other legally protected class with respect to all employment, programs, and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries related to nondiscrimination policies for MTSU: Assistant to the President for Institutional Equity and Compliance. For additional information about these policies and the procedures for resolution, please contact Marian V. Wilson, assistant to the president and Title IX Coordinator, Institutional Equity and Compliance, Middle Tennessee State University, Cope Administration Building 116, 1301 East Main Street, Murfreesboro, TN 37132; Marian.Wilson@mtsu.edu; or call (615) 898-2185. MTSU's policy on nondiscrimination can be found at <http://www.mtsu.edu/iec>.

The Details

The Curriculum

The Master of Music in Conducting is a 30 credit hour degree consisting of 9 hours in core coursework, 6 hours in guided electives and 15 hours in courses for the specialization (Private Instruction and Specialized Coursework).

Time to Completion

Full-time: typically two years

Part-time: approximately three to four years

Maximum: 10 years (MTSU Policy)

Cost of Attendance

Instate credit hours cost \$497 + \$78 Program Fee

Regional Scholars (<250 miles) \$785 + \$78

Out of State: \$1,376 + \$78

Typical Fulltime Schedule is 9 to 12 credits

Proficiencies

Depending upon the result of diagnostic examinations in music theory and history, students may be required to complete additional course work in Music Theory and Music History. Before they graduate, students must also demonstrate keyboard proficiency which will be evaluated by the student's primary conducting professor.



Conducting Faculty

Professor Raphael Bundage is the Director of Choral activities at Middle Tennessee State University. He is the former Chorus Master of the Nashville Opera Association and Nashville Symphony Chorus. He holds bachelor degrees from Texas Christian University and graduate degrees from the Eastman Conservatory of Music.

Professor Carol Nies is director of the MTSU Symphony Orchestra and Chamber Orchestra. She has served as conducting assistant for the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra and as associate conductor of the Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra, guest conductor of the Rome Festival Orchestra and Opera.

Professor Reed Thomas is the Director of Bands and Professor of Music and Conducting at Middle Tennessee State University. His responsibilities include conducting the Wind Ensemble and University Chamber Winds, teaching undergraduate courses in conducting and instrumental methods, graduate courses in conducting and wind and orchestral repertoire, and he guides all aspects of the MTSU band program.

Facilities

In addition to the excellent facilities at MTSU, including the School of Music and the James E. Walker Library (a four story, 250,000-square-foot building with over 1 million volumes and more than 33,000 periodicals).

Large Ensembles

Bands: MTSU is the host to five band ensembles including the 350 person Band of Blue and the Wind Ensemble, the premiere, auditioned performing ensemble for wind, brass and percussion students at the university.

More Band info at: <https://www.mtsu.edu/bands/index.php>

Orchestras: MTSU hosts three Orchestra ensembles, the Symphony Orchestra, the Chamber Orchestra and the Concert Orchestra. The Chamber Orchestra is composed of the leading members of the Symphony Orchestra, and the Concert Orchestra offers the opportunity for all MTSU students, faculty and staff to enjoy participation in an orchestral ensemble.

Choral, Opera & Musical Theater: MTSU also host five vocal ensembles including the renowned touring ensemble, Schola Cantorum, which is designed for upper division vocal majors and graduate students .

For More information on ensembles at MTSU see:

<https://www.mtsu.edu/music/pdf/ensemblebrochure.pdf>

Admission Requirements

Admission to the program requires an earned bachelor's degree in music from an accredited university or college and a grade point average in all college work of at least 3.0).

To apply, a student should:

- submit application with the appropriate application fee (online at www.mtsu.edu/graduate/apply.php)



- submit official transcripts of all previous college work
- submit three letters of recommendation
- An audition which includes prescreening demonstration video.

For more info see:

Insert Conducting Page here!

Deadlines

Students are admitted on a rolling basis, but to be considered for a Graduate Teaching Assistantship their application including prescreening video must be completed by **March 1**.

Graduate Assistantships

The Master of Music program offers a limited number of graduate teaching assistantships to qualified applicants. Two types are available: 20-hour and 10-hour. The 20-hour assistantship covers full tuition plus a stipend of \$6,500 per year and requires 20 hours of work. The 10-hour assistantship covers 50% tuition plus a stipend of \$3,250 per year and requires 10 hours work per week.

