

Guidelines for the Master of Music Comprehensive Examination

Required for graduation by all specializations in the Master of Music, the Comprehensive Exam is typically taken by the student in their last semester of study.

Content

The comprehensive examination is a demonstration of knowledge attained during the course of study leading to the Master's degree. The questions on the exam will be drawn from courses taken to fulfill the Core, Elective and Specialization requirements of the degree program. Typically, the exam will include 7-8 questions. Importantly, satisfactory performance in coursework does not necessarily guarantee successful performance on the comprehensive examination; the student is expected to review concepts from each class throughout their time here in preparation for this exam.

Process

File your intent to Graduate (at the beginning of your last semester of study)

Forms are located here: <https://www.mtsu.edu/graduate/forms.php>

Create your committee (at the beginning of your last semester of study)

In consultation with the Director of Graduate Studies, create a committee of three Graduate Faculty (they **must** be graduate faculty and are listed here: <https://www.mtsu.edu/programs/music-mm/faculty>). These faculty members will oversee both your written exam and oral exam.

Begin studying (Six weeks before the exam)

Six weeks before the day of the exam, the Director of Graduate Studies will email you a packet of all possible questions that might appear on the exam. Each student is encouraged to thoroughly review all of the questions on this exam and, if necessary, reach out to individual instructors for assistance with unclear questions.

Take the Written Exam

The written portion of the Comprehensive Exam is scheduled by the Director of Graduate Studies (typically, around April 1). The written portion is scheduled for a four-hour window of time. You receive your personalized written exam of 7-8 questions when you report for your written comprehensive exam.

Schedule the Oral Exam

In the week following the written exam, the chair of your comprehensive exam committee will schedule the oral portion, typically one hour long, with you and your committee members.

Take the Oral Exam (must be completed before Fall: December 1, Spring: May 1, Summer: August 1)

This session is typically one hour during which your committee will question you on any portion of your field and specialization, seeking to discover the broad and deep knowledge typical of a Master of Music. At the end of this examination, you will receive your result: Pass with Distinction, Pass, Pass with Reservations, or Fail. If you fail the examination, you must wait until the next semester before you may retake it.