Master of Music - Music Education

Non-Thesis Option (Summer)

Students may select one of two options: with Thesis (Option A) or without Thesis (Option B). Upon entering the program all students are placed in the Option B (without thesis) program. If a student would like to transfer to the Option A (with thesis) program they should request the change after taking Introduction to Graduate Study.

Summer Program, Option B: Music Education without Thesis

The 30 credit hours are divided as follows (All courses are 3 credits unless noted)

Format:
Two six-week sessions in two consecutive summers plus two on-line courses typically taken between the two summers. Summer sessions typically begin the Monday after most NY public K-12 school years end, around the end of June. Details are posted on-line around the first of the year at https://bit.ly/3bx2IYC.

Required courses:
- MUCE 601 Philosophies & Issues in Music Education (odd-year summers)
- MUCE 608 Curriculum Development in the School Music Program (even-year summers)
- MUCH 611 Introduction to Graduate Study (first summer)

Required areas of study:
- Music History course (MUCH 6xx) (odd-year summers)
- Music Theory course (MUCT 6xx) (even-year summers)
- Music Performance course (MUCP 6xx) (even-year summers)

Music Education and Education Electives
- Advanced Issues in Music Education (topics vary) (second summer)
- Music Education Elective (usually with a technology focus) (odd-year summers)
- Two online courses, options vary, but typically include
  - MUCE 646 Psychology of Music (Fall only)
  - GRED 516 Diversity & Advocacy in Education (Fall or Spring)
  - GRED 530 Classroom Management & Discipline (Fall or Spring)
  - MUCE 560 Peacebuilding Through Music Education (Summer 1 session)
Final Oral Exam for Music Education Majors

Each student in a Master of Music degree program must complete a final oral exam. The format of the oral exam for Master of Music - Music Education majors will depend on which option the student is in: Option A (Thesis option) or Option B (Non-thesis option).

For Non-Thesis Options students, an outline of their final presentation, along with a bibliography, must be submitted to the student’s committee no later than four weeks before the final oral exam.

Non-Thesis Option Oral Exam Presentation

Upon entering the program, students in Non-Thesis Option (Option B) will create a list of 3 questions; one question based on curriculum work, one question based on historical/philosophical influences and one question self-generated. See below for some sample ideas.

These questions will frame the graduate learning experiences and culminate with a presentation during the final oral exam. Four weeks before the final oral exam, students will submit an outline of their final oral presentation along with a bibliography. For the final oral meeting, students will create a half-hour presentation which highlights how their graduate journey has answered the questions posed in the beginning of the degree work and illustrate how the student has synthesized their learning. The presentation will end with the student’s vision for future learning. Following the presentation, committee members will have 45 minutes to question the candidate about the presentation or any aspect of their degree program.

Presentation and documentation will be evaluated on the following:

- Thoroughness in addressing the questions submitted.
- Synthesis of understanding through application of learning to future teaching and a plan for implementation of new ideas.
- Artistry in presentation so that what is presented is synthesized and artfully arranged.
- General scholarship and organization.

The three-person oral examination committee will confer immediately following the examination and announce the results to the student.

- For the student whose performance during the final examination is satisfactory, each committee member will sign the Final Oral Examination Completion form. The recommendation of the committee must be unanimous in order for a student to pass the final oral examination.
- For the student whose performance during the final examination is unsatisfactory, the committee has two options:
  - The student must retake the oral examination, presenting the entire oral presentation or the portion(s) of the presentation that the committee found to be unsatisfactory followed by the questions from the
committee. A student is allowed one rehearing. A third examination will not be given.

- The student must prepare a formal paper focusing on the portion(s) of the examination that the committee found to be unsatisfactory. The paper will be evaluated either by the full committee or by one designated member of the committee. The paper must be submitted within two semesters of the original examination date. A student is only allowed one opportunity to submit a paper. A second paper will not be considered.
- Students who do not pass the final oral exam in their first attempt will need to make a request in writing to the Crane Music Graduate Program Coordinator.

Graduate Committee

Each student in a Master of Music degree program will have a three-member committee who will evaluate their capstone work (the recital, thesis, or final presentation, depending on major and option). This committee will also administer the student’s final oral examination.

Students in the Master of Music – Music Education degree, Option B (Non-Thesis Option) should establish their committee around the beginning of their final semester. Summer students are advised to begin in the spring semester prior to their final summer or around the time their final summer classes start.

For each music education student, the committee will consist of two faculty members whose primary appointment is in the Music Education Department and one member from within or outside the Music Education Department. Only tenured or tenure-track faculty will be asked to serve on oral examination committees, barring extenuating circumstances.

Students in the Master of Music – Music Education degree, Option B (Non-Thesis Option) should inform the Crane Music Graduate Program Coordinator at this time if they wish to have an open or closed oral exam (see below). Student in this program who are in the summer-only program will also inform the Crane Music Graduate Program Coordinator at this time if they wish to choose to have their exam remotely rather than in-person (see below).

If the student is setting their committee during the same semester during which they will be taking their final oral exam, they should also include proposed days and times for their final oral exam. Exams are typically given during finals week in the fall and spring semesters. Final oral exams will not normally be conducted outside of the fall and spring semesters.

The Crane Music Graduate Program Coordinator will approve all proposed committees, communicate with the faculty regarding their willingness to serve, and inform the student and faculty of the final committee make-up. The Music Graduate Program Coordinator will also work with the student and faculty members to schedule the final oral exam time and place and communicate the details to everyone involved.
Option of Open or Closed Final Oral Examination

Students in the Master of Music – Music Education degree, Option B (Non-Thesis Option) will have the option of an open final oral examination (a session attended by the student/presenter and a three-member faculty committee, and audience) or a closed session (a session attended by the student/presenter and a three-member faculty committee). If the presenter elects to have an open session, the audience will be in attendance for the full examination, including both the presentation and question period that follows. The presenter will be questioned by the committee but not the audience. Upon completion of the examination, the presenter and audience will be asked to leave the room, the committee will confer, and the presenter will be brought back into the room and notified as to whether they have passed the examination. The selection of an open or closed examination format will be made prior to the section of the faculty committee so that each faculty member will be notified of the examination format at the time they are invited to serve on the committee.

Option of Remote Final Oral Examination for Summer Students

Each student in the Master of Music – Music Education degree, Option B (Non-Thesis Option) – summers only, will have the option of taking the final oral examination via the tradition on-campus format or via a synchronous video conferencing system. The selection of the video conference examination option will be made prior to the selection of the faculty committee so that each faculty member will be notified of the examination format at the time they are invited to serve on the committee. This option is limited to final oral examinations taken in conjunction with summer-term only study.

Students choosing to take their final oral examination remotely must adhere to the following technical requirements.

- Exams will take place using the Skype or MS Teams platform
- The committee member designated the technical coordinator for the committee will create the Skype or MS Teams meeting invitation
- It is the student’s responsibility to take care of all technical requirements.
- Student must use a computer with a microphone and web camera so they may interact visually with faculty during the exam.
- Student should wear headphones or earbuds during the exam to reduce echo and feedback.
- Student will need to share their screen through Zoom to present their slides during the exam.
- Students are responsible for knowing how to turn this feature on, and how to return to a regular video conference.
- Information about using Teams can be found at https://www.potsdam.edu/faculty/center-creative-instruction/techtools.
It is strongly recommended that student do a practice call with another person prior to the exam. During this practice call they should verify that they are being heard clearly, that they can engage and disengage screen sharing, that their video can be clearly seen, and that their audio can be clearly heard by others.

Examples of Oral Examination Questions & Categories
For those in the Non-Thesis Option, below are some examples of questions, intended to assist the student in coming up with their own ideas. This is not intended to be a list to choose a topic from.

Curriculum:
- How can curriculum be organized so that students are motivated to learn?
- What should be included in culturally relevant teaching/learning?
- How do music and teaching standards impact curriculum?
- What are 21st century skills and how are they related to the music curriculum?
- What criteria are used to assess musical experiences?
- What are different ways to organize curriculum?
- What is a balanced curriculum?
- In what ways can we organize curriculum to be relevant to a greater number of students?

Philosophy
- How is learning theory used in curriculum theory?
- What is important to teach in music class?
- What points of view inform teachers’ thinking?
- What does teaching for musical understanding mean?
- What are short and long-term goals of education?
- What are goals and dispositions that are relevant for the music classroom?
- Who are current philosophers in music/education and what do they say?
- What are the many facets of the musical experience? How are they experienced?
- How vital is the role of music in culture and society?
- Why teach music?
- How does music function in society and culture?

“Other” Question
- How do people learn?
- In what diverse ways are students interacting with music?
- What does educational reform mean?
- What teaching strategies promote inquiry?
- What does a teacher need to know about diverse learners?
- What are the short/long-term effects of reward systems?