

Master of Music in Popular Music Teaching and Learning
2026 Catalogue Year

Requirements

Record of Progress
☒ when complete)

PROGRAM INTENSIVE COURSES – minimum of 11 units

Core Academic Courses (9 units):

MTAL 500	Research Foundations in Music Teaching and Learning (Fall)	3 units	___
MTAL 505	Teaching and Learning Music	2 units	___
MTAL 516	Popular Music Teaching and Learning	2 units	___
<i>* Select one course from the following:</i>			
MTAL 517	Teaching and Learning Popular Songwriting	2 units	___
MTAL 518	Teaching and Learning Music Technology	2 units	___
MTAL 520	Coaching the Popular Music Ensemble	2 units	___
MTAL 521	Coaching the Popular Music Vocalist	2 units	___

Music History Course (2 units):

MUHL 5xx	500-level music history courses	2 units	___
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MUSIC ELECTIVES – minimum of 13 units (courses not on this list could be applicable with department approval)

MPVA 438	Foundations of Vocology	2 units	___
MTAL 477	Cultural Diversity in Music Teaching and Learning	2 units	___
MTAL 502	Sociological Foundations of Music Teaching and Learning	3 units	___
MTAL 503	Philosophical Foundations of Music Teaching and Learning	3 units	___
MTAL 504	Psychological Foundations of Music	3 units	___
MTAL 517	Teaching and Learning Popular Songwriting	2 units	___
MTAL 518	Teaching and Learning Music Technology	2 units	___
MTAL 520	Coaching the Popular Music Ensemble	2 units	___
MTAL 521	Coaching the Popular Music Vocalist	2 units	___
MTAL 576	Using Technology in the Classroom	2 units	___
MTAL 607	Alternative Models in Music Teaching and Learning	2 units	___
MTAL 608	Creative Thinking in Music	3 units	___
MTAL 615	Assessment and Reflective Practice	2 units	___
MTAL 653	World Music Pedagogy	2 units	___
MUJZ 443	Jazz Pedagogy	2 units	___

APPLIED MUSIC COURSES - 4 units

Select four units from the following areas of musical study: Courses in popular music performance, songwriting, music production or individual instruction in popular music. Courses must be at the 400-level or higher.

4 units ___ _ _ _

CAPSTONE COURSES - 2 units

MTAL 592	Final Project*	2 units	___
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NON-COURSE REQUIREMENT

Comprehensive Review*	0 units
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Total: 30 units**

* A final project is required for candidates as a capstone for the Master of Music in Popular Music Teaching and Learning. The project will consist of a scholarly document written on a topic approved by the MTAL department and include elements of supervised applied teaching. Candidates must also submit a comprehensive portfolio of representative work product consistent with their work in classes and in the field. Before registering for MTAL 592, a student must establish a guidance committee composed of three members of the faculty, approved by the department chair, of which at least two are from the home department. The chair of the guidance committee directly supervises the preparation of the project. The final acceptance of the project and portfolio is based upon the unanimous recommendation of all three members of the committee.

** If a student does not pass the Music Graduate Entrance Exams, they must take the appropriate review courses recommended by the faculty during the first two semesters of the program. As some of these courses are at the 300 level (e.g., MPPM 325AB), they are not considered graduate courses and cannot be used to fulfill elective credit toward the MM degree. Therefore, they will add units to the total number of units you will need to take to complete your degree. Students who hold a Bachelor of Music or a Bachelor of Arts degree from the Thornton School of Music are exempt from any examinations in fields in which they have taken comparable coursework.

Your advisor is Nancy Wong, (213)740-4721 or nanwong@usc.edu