

Masters of Music in Composition **2026 Catalogue Year**

Requirements	Units	Semester	Progress Record (☑ when completed)			
ENSEMBLE COURSES (MUEN)-2 units						
5 __ 500-level elective ensembles	2	Fall/Sp	__(1)	__(1)		
Note: all ensembles are 1 unit per semester. Many ensembles require that you participate for the entire academic year (fall and spring).						
MUSIC HISTORY COURSES (MUHL)-2 units						
570 Research Materials and Techniques	2	Fall/Sp	__			
INDIVIDUAL INSTRUCTION IN PERFORMANCE, CONDUCTING or MUSIC TECHNOLOGY - 4 units						
501 Individual Instruction in Performance	4	Varies	__	__		
Note: this can be in any musical medium or applicable Conducting (MUCD) or Music Technology (MTEC) instruction						
MUSIC THEORY AND COMPOSITION COURSES-12 units						
537 Advanced Composition I (2 units x 4)	8	Fall/Spring	__	__	__	__
592 Selected Topics in Graduate Composition	2	Varies	__			
536 Advanced Orchestration I	2	Fall/Spring	__			
MUSIC THEORY AND COMPOSITION or MUSIC HISTORY ELECTIVES—6 units						
500-level Music History (MUHL) or Composition (MUCO) elective	6	Fa/Sp/Sm	__	__	__	
ELECTIVES and ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS-4 units						
Electives (any course at >400 level)	4	Varies	__			
Graduate Recital*	0	Varies	__			
Comprehensive Review	0	Varies	__			
M.M. Composition Portfolio	0					
Total Units:	30**					

* Your required recital may not be performed until the semester after all entrance exam requirements have been met, whether that involves passing all exams, successfully completing review courses, or any combination thereof. In order to receive "degree progress" credit for recitals, you must make sure that Music Student Affairs receives a signed recital report card along with a copy of the recital program for each recital. Check with your Department Coordinator for more specifics on this process. To begin scheduling a recital, see Music Operations.

** Entrance exams and their corresponding review courses for this major are as follows:

Aural Skills (MUCO 333-1 unit)	__
Theory/Analysis (MUCO 300-1 unit)	__
Orchestration (MUCO 339-1 unit)	__
Instrumental Conducting I (MUCD 343, 2 units)	__
Choral Conducting I (MUCD 340, 2 units)	__

If a student does not pass the entrance exams in these areas, they must take the appropriate review courses during the first two semesters of the program. As these courses are at the 300 level (e.g., MUCO 333), they are not considered graduate courses and cannot be used to fulfill elective credit toward the M.M. 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.

Time to Degree

The degree is set up so that a student may earn the M.M. in 4 semesters at 8 units each semester, for a total of 32 units. Because the degree only requires 30 units, this allows for 2 units of review courses to be taken with these 4 full-time semesters. If a student passes all of the required entrance exams, they may obtain the degree with only 30 units, and will not be required to be at 8 units all four semesters. If, however, a student has to take more than 2 units of review courses, s/he will need to register for more than 8 units during one or more of the four semesters.

Your Academic Advisor is: Dr. Viet Bui, (213)740-4721, or vietbui@usc.edu