

Masters of Music in Jazz Studies – Composition Track **2026 Catalogue Year**

Requirements

Record of Progress

MUEN--Music Ensembles-4 units

529	Jazz Ensemble <i>or</i>						
505	Vocal Jazz Ensemble <i>or</i>	4 units	___ (1)	___ (1)	___ (1)	___ (1)	
532	Jazz Chamber Music (Combo)						

Note: all ensembles are 1 unit per semester. Many ensembles require that you participate for the entire academic year (fall and spring).

MUHL-Music History-6 units

570	Research Materials and Techniques	2 units	___				
5__	500-level music history electives (2 courses)	4 units	___	___			

MUJZ-Jazz Studies-12 units

547	Jazz Composition	2 units (Fall)	___				
536	Jazz Composition for Orchestra	2 units (Spring)	___				
553	Individual Instruction (2 units per semester)	8 units	___ (2)	___ (2)	___ (2)	___ (2)	

MUCO/MTEC/MUCD – Composition, Music Technology, and Conducting – 6 units

MUCO 536	Advanced Orchestration I	2 units (Spring)	___				
MTEC 443	Desktop Music Production (Logic Pro)	2 units	___				
MUCD 443	Instrumental Conducting II	2 units	___				

Electives-2 units

General Electives (400 or 500 level music or non-music)	2 units	___					
---	---------	-----	--	--	--	--	--

Non-course requirements

Two graduate recitals*	0 units	___	___				
Comprehensive review	0 units						
Total:	30 units**						

* You are required to perform two recitals, the first of which may occur at any time in your program that you and your instructor agree upon. The final 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 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.

** Note about review courses:

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)	___
Instrumental Conducting (MUCD 343-2 units)	___
Orchestration (MUCO 339- 1 unit)	___

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 can 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 within 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.

Advisor Contact Information:

Dr. Viet Bui
(213)740-4721
vietbui@usc.edu