Thesis and Graduate Project

Students pursuing a Master of Science Degree may elect coursework in one of two areas: Plan A, which requires a Thesis in Music (MUSC 898-6 hrs.) or Plan B, which requires a Graduate Project in Music (MUSC 880-1 hr.). Each option provides a different focus for study.

Thesis in Music: musc 898

DESCRIPTION: Completing a Thesis in Music requires a student to focus on and demonstrate a high degree of independence in the study of an area of interest identified by the student in consultation with the Program Director and a Thesis Committee. Students electing this option have selected Plan A, and as such, have generally chosen to pursue additional academic oriented graduate study.

NATURE: The Graduate Thesis must be such that a high level of student-directed application of graduate level experiences is evident throughout and in the completed project. Students are expected to work closely with a faculty member of graduate standing or a qualified individual demonstrating significant knowledge, understandings, or skills in a particular area of study. At the same time they will be expected to function with a high degree of independence throughout the Thesis process.

PROCEDURES: Procedures for completing a Thesis in Music will vary with individuals. However, the following outlines general aspects connected with proposing, developing, and completing a Thesis:

1. Upon enrolling in the MS Program, a student should confer with the Program Director regarding the nature and expectations of a Thesis in Music. This may take place during the initial advisory session;
2. While enrolled in graduate studies, a student should be sensitive to and identify possible areas of interest to pursue in completing a Thesis;
3. After completing a minimum of twenty (20) hours of studies, a student should meet with the Program Director to discuss and plan future action;
4. After completion of thirty (30) hours of studies, a student must meet with the Program Director to develop a GRADUATE PROJECT/THESIS PROPOSAL, and to identify and contact an appropriate faculty member to guide the Thesis;
5. A student should begin the Project a minimum of one (1) term before the Graduate Project will be completed;
6. A student may enroll in MUSC 898 while working on a Thesis, but must be enrolled during the term the Thesis is completed;
7. A student, in conjunction with the main advisor and Program Director, must complete and provide an appropriate COMPLETION REPORT (see below) upon final approval of a Thesis;
8. As part of the final PRESENTATION FORMAT, a student must provide three (3) bound and labeled copies of a completed document.

THESIS PROPOSAL: Prior to beginning work on a Thesis in Music, a student must meet with the Program Director to identify an area of study. In conjunction with this process, a student must submit a GRADUATE THESIS PROPOSAL outlining at minimum:

1. Nature and/or purpose of the study;
2. Rationale for the Project;
3. Procedures to be followed in completing the Project; and
4. Anticipated outcomes or benefits for the student as a result of pursuing this area for the Thesis in Music.

The GRADUATE THESIS PROPOSAL must be presented in the format on the following page.
**Thesis and Graduate Project**

(Place Title of PROJECT/THESIS in capital letters at top-center of page)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROPOSED TITLE OF PROJECT/THESIS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&quot;GRADUATE PROJECT/THESIS PROPOSAL&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submitted for Consideration by</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide name</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date submitted</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**I. PURPOSE:** In no more than one-half (1/2) page double spaced, 12 pt. type, describe:
- What is to be accomplished through this experience?
- Why is this important?
- How do you expect to grow and develop as a music educator as a result of completing this experience?
- How will your students benefit?

**II. PROCEDURES:** In no more than one (1) page, identify and describe the specifics of how you anticipate achieving the PURPOSE as stated and described above.
- Where will you find . . . . ?
- How will you . . . . ?
- What resources have you secured at this time?
- How are you going to accomplish what it is you desire to do?

**III. ANTICIPATED OUTCOME(S):** In no more than one (1) page, identify, describe and elaborate on what will happen as a result of achieving the Purpose as described above.
- What do you anticipate achieving?
- In what form will the outcomes be presented?
- How does this...?

**IV. PROPOSED TIME-LINE:** In no more than one (1) page, provide a time-line for accomplishing your Purpose. Include all dates, month/year, as appropriate for your PROJECT, i.e. A. 3/08. Meet with . . . . Include dates for all of the following (additional items may be added as appropriate to a PROJECT or THESIS but these must be included):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE(S)</th>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. ___</td>
<td>Meet with Program Director/Faculty about possible topic(s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. ___</td>
<td>Develop DRAFT of Graduate Project Proposal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. ___</td>
<td>Meet with Program Director/Faculty with DRAFT of a topic(s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. ___</td>
<td>Submit revised PROJECT/THESIS Proposal to Program Director in appropriate format</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E. ___</td>
<td>Proposal accepted/faculty Mentor identified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F. ___</td>
<td>Project/Thesis activity begins with faculty Mentor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G. ___</td>
<td>Status report #1 to Mentoring Faculty and/or Program Director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H. ___</td>
<td>Status report #2 to Mentoring Faculty and/or Program Director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I. ___</td>
<td>Meet with Program Director for status report on progress with Project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. ___</td>
<td>Faculty Mentor informs Program Director “80% now done, OK to enroll in MUSC 880/898 for following term”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K. ___</td>
<td>Program Director provides permit to enroll in MUSC 880/898 for following term</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L. ___</td>
<td>Draft #1 of Final Document submitted to faculty Mentor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M. ___</td>
<td>Draft #2 of Final Document submitted to Faculty Mentor and Program Director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N. ___</td>
<td>Final Document submitted to Mentor and Program Director for approval</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O. ___</td>
<td>Three (3) copies submitted to Program Director upon completion</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Thesis and Graduate Project

GRADUATE PROJECT/THESIS OUTCOMES: A student will be expected to demonstrate the ability, knowledge, understanding, and confidence to develop, refine, and complete a Graduate Project or Thesis in a highly professional manner, consistent with that of being a scholar in music education. Further, each candidate will be expected to organize and present a written Final Document to this effect.

FINAL PROJECT or THESIS PRESENTATION FORMAT: The presentation of a Final Document will serve to demonstrate successful completion of the Graduate Project or Thesis. The document must be presented to the Program Director prior to the final examination schedule at the end of the term in which a student is enrolled in MUSC 880 or MUSC 898. The following outlines the nature of the document:

1. A minimum of three (3) complete copies must be submitted;
2. Each copy must be in a black binder, notebook, or an appropriately agreed upon binding of a width appropriate for the content. (Determined by Graduate Program Director).
3. The submitted documents(s) must have a securely attached, inserted, or protected type written label, containing the title of the document and the name of the author. For example:

   Psychology in the Rehearsal Setting: Applying Principles of Flow and Remediation
   By J. B. Natural

4. Each document submitted must have a cover page in the following format:
5. Although the content of a Document will vary depending on the topic pursued, the general organizational format should be as follows: (*ALL items listed must be in Final Document) (NOTE: The Graduate School establishes guidelines for Thesis)

SCHOLARLY STUDY
A. COMPLETION REPORT' (available from Program Director-see page 19)
B. Cover page (see page 16)
C. Abstract no longer than three (3) to four (4) pages
D. Table of Contents
E. Chapter I: Introduction, Purpose, Problem, Significance, Rationale and Terms (this is an ‘expansion’ of the Graduate Project Proposal, see page 15)
F. Chapter II: Related literature
G. Chapter III: Method/Description/project
H. Chapter IV: Presentation of results
I. Chapter V: Application: Provide a narrative of three (4) pages minimum addressing "As a result of completing this experience my teaching will be different ... and the students that I encounter will ... " Describe how this experience will be good for your students, classroom/rehearsal, and you as a professional music educator.
J. Appendix*: Figures/Examples/etc.
K. Bibliography
L. Professional Vitae (see example, page 21)

RECITAL
A. COMPLETION REPORT' (available from Program Director-see page 19)
B. Cover page (see page 16)
C. Abstract
D. Table of Contents
E. Section I: Introduction, Purpose, Significance, Rationale for Recital (this is an ‘expansion’ of the Graduate Project Proposal, see page 15)
F. ‘expansion’ of the Graduate Project Proposal, see page 15)
G. Section II: Copy of Recital Program and Program Notes
H. Section III: Faculty Evaluations (Performance Recital Assessment-see page 20)
I. Section IV: Application (see ‘Scholarly Study’, I above)
J. Bibliography of materials consulted
K. Professional Vitae (see example, page 21)

COMPOSITION
A. COMPLETION REPORT' (available from Program Director-see page 19)
B. Cover page (see page 16)
C. Abstract
D. Table of Contents
E. Section I: Introduction, Purpose, Problem, Significance, Rationale and Terms (this is an ‘expansion’ of the Graduate Project Proposal, see page 15)
F. (this is an ‘expansion’ of the Graduate Project Proposal, see page 15)
G. Section II: Related literature
H. Section III: Presentation of Musical Score, recordings
I. Application (see ‘Scholarly Study’, I above)
J. Appendix*: bibliography of materials
K. Professional Vitae (see example, page 21)

PRACTICUM
A. COMPLETION REPORT' (available from Program Director-see page 19)
B. Cover page (see page 16)
C. Abstract
Thesis and Graduate Project

D. Table of Contents
E. Chapter I: Introduction, Purpose, Problem, Significance, Rationale
F. and Terms (your Graduate Project Proposal expanded-see page 15)
G. Chapter II: Related literature
H. Chapter III: Method/Description/project
I. Chapter IV: Application (see ‘Scholarly Study’, I above)
J. Appendix*: Figures/Examples/etc.
K. Bibliography
L. Professional Vitae (see example, page 21)