

ENROLLMENT FAQ for new graduate music degree students (MM)

1. How do I register?

Kate Heston assists all new graduate students to register for their first semester in residence. If you are a MM (except for music education) student, you will register for most of one of the class schedules below (see under Note below), unless a special circumstance applies to you. (See also your curriculum sheet. For more information, see #5 below.) If you are a MM (music education) student, please contact Susan Raponi to discuss your class schedule.

composition majors

57721 Major Studio

57947 Sound Recording

57893 Introduction to Conducting or 57791 Keyboard Studies

57901 Music Research Methods⁵

12 units of music support and/or elective courses

orchestral instrument majors

577xx Major Studio

57818 Major Instrumental Ensemble

*Chamber Music*¹

*literature and repertoire course*¹

57901 Music Research Methods⁵

12 units of music support and/or elective courses

voice majors

57700 Major Studio

57723 Vocal Coaching

*performance courses (Production and/or Support)*²

57901 Music Research Methods⁵

12 units of music support and/or elective courses

piano majors

57701 Major Studio

57881 or 57883 Literature and Repertoire: Piano I or Piano III

57973 Piano Pedagogy I

*collaborative course (Chamber Music or Sonatas or Collaborative)*³

57901 Music Research Methods⁵

9 units of music support and/or elective courses

collaborative piano majors

57724 Major Studio

57741 or 57743 Sonatas/Songs I or III

*combined or instrumental or vocal courses*⁴

57901 Music Research Methods⁵

9 units of music support and/or elective courses

¹ Orchestral Instrument majors: Kate Heston will register you for Chamber Music and for the literature and repertoire course(s) applicable to you.

² Voice majors: Please contact Kate about these courses.

³ Piano majors: Kate Heston will register you for Chamber Music unless she hears from you otherwise.

⁴ Collaborative Piano majors: Please contact Kate Heston about this requirement.

⁵ Music Research Methods may be taken during the first half of the fall semester (section A1) or during the second half of the semester (section A2) or during the spring semester. If you prefer to take this class during the spring semester, please contact Kate Heston.

Note:

You can register yourself for classes on Student Information Online <https://acis.as.cmu.edu/sio/>. See <https://www.cmu.edu/hub/registrar/docs/4-easy-steps.pdf> Kate Heston will register you for the classes listed above that are not highlighted or footnoted, if you have not registered yourself for them when she registers graduate students.

a. **All graduate MM (not MS) degree music majors** are required to attend *Graduate Forum* (periodic Thursdays from 1:30 p.m. to 2:20 p.m.), the School of Music meeting for graduate music students, and if applicable, the *Seminar* for his/her applied area. You will also be registered for *Graduate Forum* and for any *Seminar* applicable to you.

b. **All graduate MM (not MS) degree music majors** are required to take placement tests at the beginning of the first semester and complete the placement requirements by the end of the first year. (For more information about the placement tests, see below.) You will also be registered for the placement test course numbers applicable to you.

MM students (except for music education): To register for the classes listed above that are highlighted, you will need to choose a music support course and/or an elective course or courses.

To select a music support (a graduate history or theory) course, see information about them on the Current Students website: <https://www.cmu.edu/cfa/music/current-students/index.html>. Look under *Registration/Music Course Schedules* especially at the information under *Music Support* and *Schedule of Music Support Classes (Two Year Rotation)* and under *Registration/Registration Instructions* especially at the information under *Music Support Classes*. You will register yourself for your preferred course or courses. Note that it or they may be 6 or 9 units. (See your curriculum sheet for more details about your music support requirement. For more information, see #5 below.)

To select an elective (any music or non-music graduate) course or courses, see information about them on the CMU Schedule of Classes: <https://enr-apps.as.cmu.edu/open/SOC/SOCServlet>. You will register yourself for your preferred course or courses. Note that you may take up to 12 units of undergraduate credit (restrictions apply) towards your elective requirement.

You must register for the required number of units (36) by the 10th day of the semester in order to be considered full-time. Dropping to part-time status will reduce your financial aid proportionally and may reduce your loan eligibility. You may take more units than is required without an additional charge; however, our graduate programs are designed to allow a significant amount of time for private practice and preparation for the profession. So, overloading (more than 48 units) is discouraged.

2. How do I register for Major Studio?

Register for the course number for your area of study [for example, 57705, Major Studio (Violin)] and the section letter for your studio teacher. If your studio teacher has not yet been confirmed, contact Sharon Johnston.

3. How do I register for a major ensemble?

All graduate instrumental music majors will be assigned to Major Instrumental Ensemble [Orchestra/Wind Ensemble/Contemporary Ensemble]. All positions will be assigned by faculty. Some instrumental areas will have ensemble auditions. If your area will have an audition, you will be informed. Principal strings and Concertmaster auditions will take place after the opening concert.

If you are not an instrumental major, you may choose to audition for Chorus for elective credit. If you wish to be considered for assignment to Major Instrumental Ensemble, please inform Sharon Johnston.

4. How can I register for Chamber Music or Sonatas?

All graduate instrumental and piano music majors will be placed in and registered for a Chamber Music group. You don't need to do anything to be registered for Chamber Music; the School of Music will register you for Chamber Music.

If you are not an instrumental or piano major, you may choose to audition for Chamber Music for elective credit. If you wish to do so, please inform Sharon Johnston.

Note that instrumental majors must be registered for Chamber Music every semester. Piano majors must be registered for a collaborative course every semester. Sharon Johnston will assume that you will be registered for Chamber Music unless she hears from you otherwise.

5. How can I know if a special circumstance applies to me?

See the list below, or contact Sharon Johnston if you have questions about your class schedule.

a. **If you are a music education student**, your class schedule will be determined individually. Please contact Sharon Johnston during July.

b. **If you are a transfer student**, your class schedule will be based on a tentative assessment of the eligibility of your previous graduate credit for transfer to Carnegie Mellon. Please plan to see Sharon Johnston as soon as possible after you arrive on campus to discuss your schedule and the procedures for a final confirmation of the transfer of your credit.

c. **If you are interested in taking more than 48 units**, your class schedule will need to be approved. You will need to discuss your schedule and the procedures for requesting an overload with Sharon Johnston. Please contact her during July.

6. Where can I find more information about the requirements for my major?

See the latest curriculum checklist for your major on the Current Students website: <https://www.cmu.edu/cfa/music/current-students/index.html> in the Graduate column. **Note that some checklists are available by category and by semester.** 3 units equal 1 credit.

7. Where can I find more information about the class schedule?

See the university class schedule at <https://enr-apps.as.cmu.edu/open/SOC/SOCServlet>

See the School of Music class schedule, music support courses, course descriptions, and course syllabi information on the Current Students website: <https://www.cmu.edu/cfa/music/current-students/index.html> under *Registration*.

8. How can I see my class schedule?

See your class schedule on Student Information Online <https://acis.as.cmu.edu/sio/>.

9. MM (not MS) degree music majors: What do I need to know about the graduate placement tests?

All new graduate degree students must take placement tests in music history and music theory (harmony and counterpoint) before the beginning of the fall (or their first) semester. Voice majors must also take placement tests in French, German, and/or Italian and a Piano Proficiency exam. Pending the results of these tests, register for a full-time (36-unit) class schedule. If deficiencies exist, you will be asked to take the applicable course or courses during your first and/or second semester(s). Your class schedule can be modified as needed. **These courses do not count towards your degree requirements.**

If you wish to do independent work this summer to review for these tests, especially note the following:

History. This test determines whether new graduate degree students possess sufficient knowledge of music history at the undergraduate level to successfully pursue their graduate curricula, to be completed in 90 minutes. Students who fail are required to enroll in Music History for Graduate Students I, Music History for Graduate Students II, or both. Results of the test will be emailed to each student.

Listening IDs: You will hear six excerpts of music characteristic of a composer or style and be asked for 1) the first and last name of the composer, 2) date of composition, and 3) stylistic reasons for your answer. Each excerpt will be played only once. 2 points each, 12 points total.

Score IDs: You will be shown four score excerpts and asked for 1) the first and last name of the composer, 2) date of composition, and 3) stylistic reasons for your answer. 2 points each, 8 points total.

Essays: You will write two brief essays, selected from given essay topics and write detailed responses. Budget 10 minutes per essay (20 minutes total). 10 points each, 20 points total.

Multiple Choice: You will answer 60 multiple choice questions that test composers' stylistic characteristics, musical innovations, common compositional techniques, basic repertory and genres, terms associated with all of these, and broader knowledge of history and culture in which these musical developments occurred. Budget 1 hour. 1 point each, 60 points total.

For review, studying Richard Taruskin and Christopher Gibbs, *The Oxford History of Western Music (College Edition)* and/or another major music history textbook and/or online resources, is suggested.

Theory. This test determines whether new graduate degree students possess sufficient knowledge of music theory at the undergraduate level to successfully pursue their graduate curricula, to be completed in two hours. Students who fail are required to enroll in Music Theory and Analysis for Graduate Students. Results of the test will be emailed to each student.

You will be asked for a complete harmonic analysis of a piece of tonal music. Knowledge of types of non-harmonic tones and of standard chromatic harmonies will be important.

For review, focus on the following:

- * Proper Roman numeral analysis (including inversion symbols)
- * The different types of cadences
- * The different types of nonharmonic tones
- * Chromatic chords - including secondary chords (i.e., tonicizations, "applied chords"), augmented sixth chords, Neapolitan chord
- * Types of modulation - pivot chord modulation, direct (or phrase) modulation
- * The typical forms of the common practice period

Consulting *The Music Theory Handbook* by Marjorie Merryman is recommended. It is a concise book that efficiently covers all of the items listed above. It can be a useful tool for people seeking to review material that they have learned

previously. Alternatively, standard undergraduate harmony textbooks (e.g., Aldwell Schachter, Laitz, Clendenning Marvin, Kostka Payne Almén, etc.) are suggested.

Language. (voice majors only) These tests determine whether new graduate voice degree students possess sufficient knowledge of French, German, and/or Italian, to be completed in two hours for each test. You must take the tests for the languages (French, German, Italian) that you have not chosen to take during your graduate program. Students who fail are required to enroll in the applicable language course. Results of the test will be emailed to each student.

Each test contains a translation exercise. Dictionaries may be used.

For review, practicing with texts of your choice is suggested.

10. How can I find out what financial assistance is available from Carnegie Mellon for graduate students?

If you need financial aid or student account counseling or assistance, please contact the Assistant Directors in the HUB. The HUB is located in the basement of Warner Hall. The Assistant Directors can be reached via phone at 412-268-8186 or via email at thehub@andrew.cmu.edu. You can also go to the HUB Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8:30-4:30 and Tuesday and Thursday from 10:30-4:30 for walk-in assistance.

Please note the graduate website links listed below:

Enrollment & Finances for New Graduate Students: <http://www.cmu.edu/hub/new-grad/index.html>

Graduate Student Financial Aid Basics: <http://www.cmu.edu/finaid/basics/graduate/index.html>