

## Music Major Capstone Projects – pre-requisites, proposal development, schedule for completion

### **What to include for a successful proposal:**

#### **Proposal for a Senior Composition Project:**

1. The proposal must be accompanied by a portfolio representing the strongest compositions you have composed during college, including:
  - a) scores of at least two completed works in different media, with brief explanation (just a few sentences) of the artistic concept shaping each work. A recording of a live performance, a studio performance, or a computer performance of at least one of these works must be submitted (on an Audio CD or emailed as an MP3 if not too large for the campus email system.)
  - b) sketches and/or drafts of the work completed during the fall semester on the proposed senior composition project
2. A two- to three-page proposal (typewritten, double-spaced), signed by the advisor:
  - a) describing the nature of the proposed composition/s, including such information as the number of pieces or movements planned, the approximate length in minutes, the medium or media involved, particular stylistic, formal, or aesthetic ideas shaping pre-compositional planning for the composition, etc.;
  - b) summarizing the preparations involved thus far for the project, including consultations with the advisor;
  - c) outlining a plan for completion of the project, including a schedule of composition and, if relevant, a schedule for rehearsals and performance;
  - d) describing the format in which the final project will be submitted for evaluation

#### **Proposal for a Senior Music Technology Project:**

1. A two- to three-page proposal (typewritten, double-spaced), signed by the advisor:
  - a) describing the nature of the proposed project in terms of the problems to be solved, the equipment, technologies, languages, etc.
  - b) summarizing the preparations already completed for the project, including consultations with the advisor;
  - c) outlining a plan for completion of the project, including a schedule of work;
  - d) describing the format in which the final project will be submitted for evaluation

#### **Proposal for a Senior Thesis:**

1. A two- to three-page proposal (typewritten, double-spaced), signed by the advisor, :
  - a) describing the nature of the proposed project in terms of the problems or questions to be explored, the methodologies or theoretical perspectives to be employed, and, if appropriate, a working hypothesis;
  - b) summarizing the preparations completed thus far for the project, including consultation with the advisor
  - c) outlining a plan for completion of the project, including a schedule of work which allows for a submission of a complete draft the beginning of the spring break;
  - d) summarizing the format of the final thesis (including projected length or number of chapters as well as possible types of illustrative materials);

2) The proposal should be accompanied by a detailed working bibliography for the proposed topic.

### Summary of the Requirements and Timetable for Proposing and Completing a Senior Project

	Senior Composition Project (MU 374)	Senior Music Technology Project (MU 376)	Senior Recital (MP 375)	Senior Thesis (MU 373)
Planning during junior year	highly desirable – consult with faculty	highly desirable – consult with faculty	highly desirable – consult with faculty	highly desirable – consult with faculty
Required preparatory courses:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MU 241, MU242, MU243 – Materials &amp; Structures</li> <li>• At least two semesters of composition - MU357 and MU358 or through independent study, a) one of which must be taken by the end of the junior year; b) one of which must be taken during the fall semester of the Senior year.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MU255 &amp; MU353</li> <li>• During the fall semester of the senior year, the student must be enrolled in one of the following courses in music technology: MU353, MU361, MU371 (Independent Study)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• During the fall semester of the senior year, the student must be enrolled in MP 281 or 381.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• at least three 300-level seminars should be taken by the end of the fall semester</li> </ul>
Recommended preparatory courses:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MU 345: 20th Century seminar [strongly recommended]</li> <li>• MU 355: Orchestration [strongly recommended]</li> <li>• MU 356: Tonal Counterpoint</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MU 345: 20th Century seminar</li> <li>• MU361: Topics in Recording Engineering &amp; Computer Music Technology</li> <li>• MU371/372: Independent Study in Music Tech.</li> </ul>		
Developing a Proposal: Early deadlines	<p>September (or during Junior year) – identify a project advisor &amp; discuss possible projects with her/him</p> <p>Oct 1 – submit to the Chair a 100-word project concept, signed by your project advisor</p>	<p>September (or during Junior year) – identify a project advisor &amp; discuss possible projects with her/him</p> <p>Oct 1 – submit to the Chair a 100-word project concept, signed by your project advisor</p>	See the <i>Performance Handbook</i> regarding audition preparations and procedures	<p>September (or during Junior year) – identify a project advisor &amp; discuss possible projects with her/him</p> <p>Oct 1 – submit to the Chair a 100-word project concept, signed by your project advisor</p>

Developing a Proposal: Draft proposal	Oct 31 – submit a 2-3 page draft proposal to the project advisor and the Chair.	Oct 31 – submit a 2-3 page draft proposal to the project advisor and the Chair.	See the <i>Performance Handbook</i> regarding audition preparations and procedures	Oct 31 – submit a 2-3 page draft proposal to the project advisor and the Chair.
Developing a Proposal: Final proposal	Nov 15 – submit the composition portfolio and the final 2-3 page proposal, signed by the project advisor, to the Chair (see below for detailed portfolio and proposal guidelines)	Nov 15 – submit final proposal, signed by the project advisor, to the Chair (see below for detailed proposal guidelines)	See the <i>Performance Handbook</i> regarding audition preparations and procedures	Nov 15 – submit final proposal, signed by the project advisor, to the Chair (see below for detailed proposal guidelines)
Project advisor recommendation	Nov 15 - the project advisor will provide the Chair with a letter assessing the proposed project.	Nov 15 - the project advisor will provide the Chair with a letter assessing the proposed project.		Nov 15 - the project advisor will provide the Chair with a letter assessing the proposed project.
Decision	early December – the student will attend a department meeting to explain the proposal and address questions and concerns	early December – the student will attend a department meeting to explain the proposal and address questions and concerns	early December – recital auditions	early December – the student will attend a department meeting to explain the proposal and address questions and concerns
Continued work	Enroll in MU-363 (Senior Coda) for Spring	Enroll in MU-363 (Senior Coda) for Spring	Enroll in MU-363 (Senior Coda) for Spring	Enroll in MU-363 (Senior Coda) for Spring

Spring Enrollment	MU 374	MU 376	MP 375	MU 373
Spring deadlines: Early deadlines -	Feb 1 – The student and the project advisor will jointly decide on two other readers to form a Project Review Committee [PRC]. The student should meet with these proposed readers to request their participation.	Feb 1 – The student and the project advisor will jointly decide on two other readers to form a Project Review Committee [PRC]. The student should meet with these proposed readers to request their participation.	Feb 1 – The student and the studio teacher should identify the faculty who will represent the department at the recital	Feb 1 – The student and the project advisor will jointly decide on two other readers to form a Project Review Committee [PRC]. The student should meet with these proposed readers to request their participation.
Spring deadlines: Draft project:	beginning of Spring break – submit completed draft project to advisor and the readers on the PRC for feedback April 1 - The student will meet each reader to discuss the draft and to gain guidance for the final weeks of preparation.	beginning of Spring break – submit completed draft project to advisor and the readers on the PRC for feedback April 1 - The student will meet each reader to discuss the draft and to gain guidance for the final weeks of preparation.		beginning of Spring break – submit completed draft project to advisor and the readers on the PRC for feedback April 1 - The student will meet each reader to discuss the draft and to gain guidance for the final weeks of preparation.
Spring deadlines:	April 15 <sup>a</sup> – submit final project to advisor, the readers, and Chair	April 15 <sup>a</sup> – submit final project to advisor, the readers, and Chair	Recital performance by April 15 <sup>a</sup>	April 15 <sup>a</sup> – submit final project to advisor, the readers, and Chair

<sup>a</sup> – This conforms to the Periclean award deadline, allowing any senior project of sufficient quality to be eligible for that distinction. It also allows the readers ample time to evaluate the project, in order to make recommendations to the faculty