

Tulane University

Newcomb Department of Music Master of Arts Degree (M.A.) in Musicology with a concentration in New Orleans Music

The M.A. program allows students to take advantage of the unique musical culture of New Orleans while pursuing a rigorous curriculum in musicology. Study is focused on music and culture of the American South, the Caribbean, Latin America, Africa, and Europe and especially their interrelation in New Orleans. Methods of historical musicology, ethnomusicology, and musical theory are utilized in the interpretation and analysis of jazz, ragtime, classical, blues, funk, hip-hop, and other forms, while emphasizing the geographic and social context in which the music has been produced. Resources include the Hogan Archive of New Orleans Jazz, the Maxwell Music Library, the Louisiana Collection, the Amistad Research Center, the Stone Center for Latin American Studies, and the seemingly limitless possibilities of interacting with local musicians and institutions.

Eligibility and Requirements

- The program is open to applicants who have completed their Bachelor's or equivalent degree and have at least a reading-knowledge comprehension of musical notation.
- The applicants must include a brief writing sample. Undergraduate papers are acceptable, as long as the sample demonstrates fundamental research and writing skills.
- A minimum GRE score of 1,000 (combined) is expected of all applicants.
- There is no performance requirement.
- Students must pass a reading-knowledge comprehension of one modern foreign language (French, Spanish, or other with approval) by the end of first year of study.
- International students are expected to have a basic knowledge of U.S. history.
- Students are required to complete 24 CREDITS of coursework before writing the thesis.
- After completion of coursework, students write an acceptable thesis, and defend it in an oral examination (MUSC 998, "Master's Research").
- Tuition waivers and a limited number of teaching assistantships are available.

The following courses are required (15 credits):

- MUSC 631, "Seminar in Music of the United States" (3 credits)
- MUSC 634, "Seminar in Jazz" (3 credits)
- MUSC 703, "Introduction to Graduate Studies" (3 credits)
- MUSC 706, "Introduction to New Orleans Music and Resources" (3 credits)
- MUSC 707, "Music of New Orleans and the Americas" (3 credits)

Choose from the following courses (or another with approval) to complete the degree (9 credits):

- MUSC 601-602, "Advanced Theory" (6 credits)
- MUSC 660, "Theory of American Music" (3 credits)
- MUSC 661, "Analysis of American Music" (3 credits)
- MUSC 684, "Caribbean Music" (3 credits)
- MUSC 693, "Independent Study" (1-6 credits)
- MUSC 794, "Special Topics" (3 credits)

Program contact: Matt Sakakeeny, Assistant Professor of Music, mattsak@tulane.edu