Comprehensive Exams

Graduate comprehensive examinations are administered only once per fall and spring semester. Comps will be given on the Tuesday and Wednesday immediately preceding the first full day of fall break (mid-semester study break) and on the Tuesday and Wednesday preceding the first full day of spring break. Please plan accordingly.

The comprehensive examination is a four-part test. Each of the four components lasts three hours and is scheduled as follows:

TUESDAY
9:00–12:00 Part One
2:00–5:00 Part Two

WEDNESDAY
9:00–12:00 Part Three
2:00–5:00 Part Four

Oral Exams for MM Thesis Students (Theory/Composition/Musicology)

MM students who write a thesis will take the oral exam at the meeting for defense of the thesis. (See the following page for details.)

Oral Exams for MM Non-Thesis Students (Performance, Conducting, etc.)

MM students who do not write a thesis meet with the advisory committee for the Oral Examination, which serves as the culminating event at the School of Music. By this date, all coursework, recitals, and lecture/recitals must have been completed. Oral Exams are scheduled in late November and in early April.

Fall 2015: November 16–19
Spring 2016: April 4–8
MM Thesis Deadlines

Submission by the following deadlines DOES NOT guarantee graduation by the term indicated. Earlier submissions are strongly encouraged, as a required rewrite of any component of the thesis project (proposal, first draft, or final version) may necessitate an extension into the following semester. Late submissions will not be considered for the graduation term indicated.

MM Thesis proposal:
- Anticipated spring graduation: proposal due by Nov. 01 of preceding fall semester
- Anticipated fall graduation: proposal due by Apr. 1 of preceding spring semester

MM Thesis draft for defense:
- Anticipated spring graduation: draft due Feb. 15 of that same spring semester
- Anticipated fall graduation: draft due Oct. 01 of that same fall semester

MM Thesis defense and oral exam:
Defense to be scheduled pending acceptance of the draft by the committee.

NOTE: MM comps, recital, lecture or lecture-recital, and thesis must be completed by the defense. Defense dates will be set no later than three days before the date for submission of documents and manuscripts set by the Graduate School. In fall semesters, this date is usually near Nov. 1; in spring, near mid-March; for the $41 option*, the last day to turn in semester grades. These dates are available, usually one year in advance, at http://graduate.ua.edu/calendar/ Unfortunately, they often fail to take into account fall or spring break, and defenses must be scheduled earlier in some semesters than in others.

Ex. 1 MM anticipated Fall 2015 graduation
- MM thesis proposal due Apr. 1, 2015
- MM draft for defense due Oct. 1, 2015
- Recital, lecture or lecture-recital, defense, final project submission to Graduate School: all completed by Oct. 30, 2015

Ex. 2 MM anticipated Spring 2016 graduation
- MM thesis proposal due Nov. 01, 2015
- MM draft for defense due Feb. 15, 2016
- Recital, lecture or lecture-recital, defense, thesis submission to Graduate School:
  all completed by Mar. 25, 2016

*$41 option: Students who complete all requirements for the degree, including the defense and submission of the thesis, by the last day to turn in grades for any semester may graduate in the following semester without registering for classes and paying tuition. Graduation fees and a fee for reapplying for graduation online usually total c. $41.
DMA Project Deadlines

Submission by the following deadlines DOES NOT guarantee graduation by the term indicated. Earlier submissions are strongly encouraged, as a required rewrite of any component of the final project (proposal, first draft, or final version) may necessitate an extension into the following semester. Late submissions will not be considered for the graduation term indicated.

DMA final project proposal:
Anticipated spring graduation: proposal due by Oct. 01 of preceding fall semester
Anticipated fall graduation: proposal due by Feb. 15 of preceding spring semester

DMA first draft:
Anticipated spring graduation: first draft due Jan. 15 of that same spring semester
Anticipated spring $41 option: first draft due Feb. 15 of that same spring semester
Anticipated fall graduation: first draft due Sept. 01 of that same fall semester
Anticipated fall $41 option: first draft due by Oct. 01.

DMA draft for defense and oral exam:
At the first-draft meeting, the committee will set two dates:
1. date by which the student must present the defense draft to the DGS for committee consideration
2. tentative defense date, pending committee approval

NOTE: DMA comps, recitals, lecture or lecture-recital, and project must be completed by the defense. Defense dates will be set no later than three days before the date for submission of documents and manuscripts set by the Graduate School. In fall semesters, this date is usually near Nov. 1; in spring, near mid-March; for the $41 option*, the last day to turn in semester grades. These dates are available, usually one year in advance, at http://graduate.ua.edu/calendar/. Unfortunately, they often fail to take into account fall or spring break, and defenses must be scheduled earlier in some semesters than in others.

Ex. 1 DMA anticipated Fall 2015 graduation
DMA final project proposal due Feb. 15, 2015
DMA first draft due Sept. 01, 2015
Final recital, lecture or lecture-recital, defense, final project submission to Graduate School: all completed by Oct. 30, 2015

Ex. 1 DMA anticipated Spring 2016 graduation
DMA final project proposal due Oct. 01, 2015
DMA first draft due Jan. 15, 2016.
Final recital, lecture or lecture-recital, defense, final project submission to Graduate School: all completed by Mar. 25, 2016

*$41 option: Students who complete all requirements for the degree, including the defense and submission of the final document or essay, by the last day to turn in grades for any semester may graduate in the following semester without registering for classes and paying tuition. Graduation fees and a fee for reapplying for graduation online usually total c. $41. International students should know that OPT begins on the last day to turn in grades, not on the date of graduation for the following term. For example, if you turn in your document on May 3 to graduate in August, your OPT will begin on May 3.