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 check the UA Academic Calendar for dates of fall and spring breaks.

Fall 2020 Comps: October 27 & 28, 2020
Spring 2021 Comps: March 9 & 10, 2021

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

TUESDAY [Fall 2020, October 27] [Spring 2021, March 9]
9:00–12:00 Part One
2:00–5:00 Part Two

WEDNESDAY [Fall 2020, October 28] [Spring 2021, March 10]
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 2020: November 16–20 (November 25 is the last day to report results.)
Spring 2021: April 5–16 (April 16 is the last day to report results.)

Please check the Graduate School’s “Student Deadlines” calendar (https://graduate.ua.edu/current-students/student-deadlines/) for other important dates.
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 or summer graduation: proposal due by November 01 of preceding fall semester
Anticipated fall graduation: proposal due by April 01 of preceding spring semester

MM Thesis draft for defense:
Anticipated spring graduation: draft due February 15 of that same spring semester
Anticipated fall graduation: draft due October 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. For Fall 2020, this date is Wednesday, October 28; in Spring, Wednesday, March 10; for the $61 option*, the last day to turn in semester grades. These dates are available, usually one year in advance, at https://graduate.ua.edu/current-students/student-deadlines/. Unfortunately, they often fail to factor the fall or spring break, and defenses must be scheduled earlier in some semesters than in others.

Ex. 1 - MM anticipated Fall 2020 graduation
MM thesis proposal due April 1, 2020
Submit online Application for Degree August 26, 2020 via myBama/Student Tab
MM draft for defense due October 1, 2020
Recital, lecture or lecture-recital, defense, final project submission to Graduate School: all completed by and approved for upload by October 30, 2020

Ex. 2 - MM anticipated Spring 2021 graduation
MM thesis proposal due November 1, 2020
Submit online Application for Degree January 13, 2021 via myBama/Student Tab
MM draft for defense due February 15, 2021
Recital, lecture or lecture-recital, defense, thesis submission to Graduate School: all completed and approved for upload by March 12, 2021

*$61 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 (December 15, 2020; May 4, 2021) 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. $61.
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 or summer graduation: proposal due by October 01 of preceding fall semester
Anticipated fall graduation: proposal due by February 15 of preceding spring semester

DMA final project first draft:
Anticipated spring graduation: first draft due January 15 of that same spring semester
Anticipated spring $61 option: first draft due February 15 of that same spring semester

Anticipated fall graduation: first draft due September 01 of that same fall semester
Anticipated fall $61 option: first draft due October 01 of that same fall semester

DMA final project 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. a 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 October 25; in spring, near March 13; for the $61 option*, the last day to turn in semester grades. These dates are available, usually one year in advance, at https://graduate.ua.edu/current-students/student-deadlines/. 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 2020 graduation
DMA final project proposal due February 15, 2020
Submit online Application for Degree August 26, 2020 via myBama/Student Tab
DMA first draft due September 01, 2020
Final recital, lecture or lecture-recital, defense, final project submission to Graduate School: all completed and approved for upload by October 30, 2020

Ex. 2 DMA anticipated Spring 2021 graduation
DMA final project proposal due by October 01, 2020
Submit online Application for Degree January 13, 2021 via myBama/Student Tab
DMA first draft due by January 15, 2021
Final recital, lecture or lecture-recital, defense, final project submission to Graduate School: all completed by and approved for upload by March 12, 2021

*$61 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 (December 15, 2020; May 4, 2021) 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. $61. 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.