Master of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy Program

Degree Offered
MA and PhD in Music, with emphasis in Integrated Composition, Improvisation, and Technology (ICIT).

Please note that the new deadline is December 1.

Admission
In addition to meeting all general requirements for admission to graduate study, applicants should hold a B.A. in Music or a B.Mus. Applicants must demonstrate proficiency in vocal or instrumental performance commensurate with at least two years of individual undergraduate instruction, including exposure to improvisation and non-notated music.

The online application must be submitted and all supporting materials must be received by January 15. Supporting materials must include the following: Composition portfolio; Academic writing sample; Performance audition (live or video); Personal statement; and Curriculum vitae.

Applicants are expected to have good general knowledge of music history and music theory and competence in basic musicianship skills. Entering students will be given diagnostic tests in these areas prior to the beginning of classes and will be expected to remedy any evident deficiencies during the first year in residence.

Required Courses
For students entering at the Masters level, the normative time to degree is six quarters (two years) for the Master’s Degree, and an additional six quarters (two years) for the PhD program. For students who enter at the PhD level with a masters degree from another institution, normative time for advancement to candidacy is 5 quarters, and normative time for completion of the degree is 8 quarters.

Required courses for the MA:
- Bibliography and Research (MUS 200), one quarter for 4 units
- Seminar in Creative Practices (MUS 209), two quarters for 4 units each
- Computer Music Composition and Production (MUS 215A), one quarter for 4 units
- Computer Music Programming (MUS 215B), one quarter for 4 units
- Critical Studies in Music (MUS 235), one quarter for 4 units
- Theoretical ICIT seminars (MUS 236), two quarters for 4 units each; May satisfy one quarter (4 units) with a seminar chosen from the 201, 220, or 230 series or an approved comparable graduate seminar in another department
- Practical ICIT seminars (MUS 237), two quarters for 4 units each
- Graduate Ensemble (MUS 276), two quarters for 2 units each
- Composition Lessons (MUS 212), two quarters for 4 units each
- ICIT Colloquium (MUS 239), two quarters for 1 unit each

Required courses for the PhD (for continuing ICIT students)
- Composition Lessons (MUS 212), two quarters for 4 units each
- Theoretical ICIT Seminars (MUS 236), two quarters for 4 units each; May satisfy one quarter (4 units) with a seminar chosen from the 201, 220, or 230 series or an approved comparable graduate seminar in another department
- Practical ICIT Seminars (MUS 237), one quarter for 4 units
Graduate Ensemble (MUS 276), one quarter for 2 units
Directed Research (MUS 250), one quarter for 4 units
ICIT Colloquium (MUS 239), one quarter for 2 units

Required courses for the PhD (for students entering with a non-ICIT Masters degree)

- Bibliography and Research (MUS 200), one quarter for 4 units
- Computer Music Composition and Production (MUS 215A), one quarter for 4 units
- Computer Music Programming (MUS 215B), one quarter for 4 units
- Critical Studies in Music (MUS 235), one quarter for 4 units
- Theoretical Seminars (MUS 236), two quarters for 4 units each; May satisfy one quarter (4 units) with a seminar chosen from the 201, 220, or 230 series or comparable approved graduate seminar in another department
- Practical Seminars (MUS 237), two quarters for 4 units each
- Lessons (MUS 212), two quarters for 4 units each*. One quarter may be replaced by Music 209 Creative Practices, at the discretion of the faculty.
- Graduate Ensemble (MUS 276), one quarter for 2 units each*
- Directed Research (MUS 250), one quarter for 4 units*
- ICIT Colloquium (MUS 239), one quarter for 2 units*

* Not eligible for equivalency from another institution

Language Requirement

Before advancing to candidacy, PhD students must demonstrate a reading knowledge of a language other than English, at a level sufficient to conduct research in that language. This requirement may be met either by attaining a passing score in a translation examination administered by the department or by earning a grade of B or higher in level 2C (representing ability equivalent to two full years) of an approved undergraduate language course.

Advancement to Candidacy

Candidacy Committee chairs are assigned in the spring quarter of the first year of PhD study. When nearly finished with coursework, the student signs up for Qualifying Exam Study with the Candidacy Committee chair, designates the remaining four committee members, and submits to the chair a dissertation prospectus. The candidacy exam consists of a response of roughly 20 pages to a set of questions provided by the committee, followed by an oral examination with the Candidacy Committee.

Dissertation

The dissertation committee is chaired by a member of the core ICIT faculty and must include at least one other member of the Senate faculty in Music. A third committee member must be a UC Senate faculty from outside the UCI Music Department, and a fourth member must be a qualified faculty from any department including Music.

The PhD dissertation in ICIT combines innovative creative activity with scholarly research. The goal of the dissertation is to address a major intellectual issue in the integration of composition, improvisation, and technology, and to make an original contribution to existing knowledge of that issue through research and new artistic work. The tangible product will be a written dissertation that presents and contextualizes substantial innovative work in integrated composition/improvisation/technology, and music of significant scope that clearly demonstrates that work.