

MU 4310 Senior Project in COMPOSITION

A Senior Project in Composition will be an original work of a size and scope that constitute a substantial challenge to the student, accompanied by an analytic essay that describes the work's structure and compositional process.

During the semester in which the student will complete the work, the student must enroll for 1 credit hour in MU 4310 Sr Composition/Theory Project. Students should consult with their intended Senior Project instructor during the semester prior to registering for MU 4310, and are expected to have an approved project plan in place at the start of the MU 4310 semester. Students embarking on a compositional Senior Project will normally have taken beforehand at least two classes from among MU 2319 Composition, MU 3319 Advanced Composition, MU 3320 Arranging for Jazz Orchestra, and MU 3325 Jazz Small Group Composition.

The exact nature of the work, including instrumentation and duration, will depend on the interests and experience of the student, and will be determined in advance and with the approval of the MU 4310 instructor. A public performance and/or studio recording of the work are highly desirable, but not required unless so stipulated in the approved project plan. If performance or recording is not practicable, a live rehearsal reading of the project or a lecture-demonstration presenting the finished composition is encouraged instead.

Preview Examination for the Senior Project in COMPOSITION

Successful completion of the Preview Examination is required for all students enrolled in MU 4310. This examination must be taken 4-6 weeks prior to the date of the recording, performance, rehearsal read-through, or other possible public presentation of the project. Passing the Preview Examination signifies that the faculty is confident the project can be completed satisfactorily within the time frame of the MU 4310 course, and (where applicable) constitutes permission to proceed with a Department-sponsored performance or lecture-demonstration. The examination will be heard by full-time faculty (as with a Solo Recital Audition).

For the Preview, the student will prepare an oral presentation of approximately fifteen minutes demonstrating substantial work on the Senior Project. The presentation may take the form of a comprehensive outline of the entire project, a finished section with an outline or compositional strategy for completion of the project, or a preliminary draft of a complete document.

Appropriate means include:

- Score or diagrams on blackboard, projector, and/or handouts
- Demonstration of material at the keyboard or other appropriate instrument
- Digital realizations of work in progress
- Performance of sections (performance should be sufficiently prepared to be informative, but will not be assessed on its merits as performance)

Students should also be prepared to provide brief oral answers to questions posed by the faculty.

Preview Examinations are scheduled as needed by the Department Office. Please contact the office for schedule information.

Reviewed by Department faculty Jan. 25, 2022