Music Therapy M.M.E. Program

Master of Music Education

With a Major in Music Therapy

The division’s graduate programs include advanced professional and scholarly study for music educators and music therapists, licensure/certification programs for those with baccalaureate degrees in other fields who plan to enter the music education or music therapy professions (these initial licensure/certification programs typically also require collateral undergraduate study), and advanced study for individuals in related disciplines. Areas of emphasis, curricula, examinations, and regulations and procedures are described in the MEMT Master’s Graduate Handbook available in the division office and online (https://music.ku.edu/graduate-handbooks/).

M.M.E. in Music Education or M.M.E. in Music Therapy Admission

Admission requirements are as follows:

1. Undergraduate grade-point average of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale.
2. An appropriate baccalaureate degree to support the individual’s goals for master’s study. Students seeking entrance into the graduate licensure program in music education or the graduate equivalency program in music therapy should have substantial backgrounds in music regardless of undergraduate major.
3. Three (3) letters of recommendation regarding applicant’s qualifications for graduate study in their selected program.
4. Submission of a video recording appropriate to degree of application.
5. Submission of resume.
6. Other supporting materials are required.

Additional detailed admission requirements and information are found online (https://music.ku.edu/graduate-programs/).

Graduate Admission to the School of Music

Application procedures and program requirements can change. Please visit the School of Music Admissions webpage (https://music.ku.edu/graduate-programs/) for current information.

Graduate programs in the School of Music are open to students with acceptable baccalaureate degrees, as specified by the admitting areas, whose academic records indicate that they can do successful work at the graduate level. Regular admission requires a bachelor’s degree and a grade-point average of at least a B (3.0 on a 4.0 scale), from KU or from another regionally accredited institution or foreign university with substantially equivalent bachelor’s degree requirements.

Programs of study leading to the Master of Music (M.M.), Master of Music Education (M.M.E.), Doctor of Musical Arts (D.M.A.), and Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) are offered through the School of Music. Specific admission procedures and degree requirements for the M.M. and M.M.E. programs are described under division headings. Specific admission procedures and degree requirements for the D.M.A., Ph.D. (musicology/music theory), and Ph.D. (music education/music therapy) are listed in the appropriate sections.

Program Areas

Graduate study in the School of Music is organized into program areas within 2 units:

- Music includes programs in composition, conducting, musicology, music theory, and areas of performance.
- Music Education and Music Therapy (MEMT) includes programs in music education or music therapy.

At least a 3.0 grade-point average, overall and in the major area, is required for all course work counted toward any graduate degree in the School of Music. If the overall grade-point average falls below 3.0, the student is placed on probation for one semester; if the cumulative average is not 3.0 or higher after the next semester, the student is dismissed from the program. Students must also achieve at least a grade of B or better in thesis, lecture-recital, document or dissertation, and on each recital for satisfactory completion of degree requirements.

M.M.E. with a Major in Music Therapy

Course and Proficiency Requirements

The degree requires a minimum of 30 hours of graduate credit. At least one half of the required credit hours must be in courses open only to graduate students. At least 20 of the hours must be in regularly scheduled classes excluding directed study, research, and thesis or comprehensive examination (as applicable).

Course Distribution

- The program must include at least 17 hours of graduate work in the division, including MEMT 812 Research in Music Education and Music Therapy (3 hours), MEMT 864 Philosophy and Theory of Music Therapy (3 hours), MEMT 890 Practicum in Music Therapy (2 hours), MEMT 899 Master’s Thesis (3 hours if thesis option) or MEMT 898 Comprehensive Examination (1 hour if nonthesis option), and additional hours to reach the minimum elected from 700- and 800-level MEMT courses, subject to the advisor’s approval. At least 2 courses must be at the 800 level. At least 9 of these hours must be in regularly scheduled courses.
- At least 10 hours in supportive studies outside MEMT.
- Proficiency as a performing musician must be demonstrated before the degree may be awarded.

The work is distributed as indicated in the categories on the appropriate Degree Program Plan found online (https://music.ku.edu/mme/). All of these selections are subject to the advisor’s approval.

The M.M.E. with a major in music therapy may be earned only by individuals eligible to sit for the national examination offered by the Certification Board for Music Therapists (CBMT).

Final Master's Examination (Thesis)

The student must be enrolled at the time the final master’s exam is held. The exam will be scheduled for a period of 2 hours. The examination committee shall be comprised of the student’s major advisor and 2 other graduate faculty members jointly selected by the student and major advisor. It is the student’s responsibility to present the final thesis copy
to each committee member 2 weeks in advance of the scheduled exam date.

The candidate will begin by giving a twenty-minute oral presentation on his or her thesis, but the exam is not confined to that topic. Thereafter, the candidate will address questions posed by the committee arising from the candidate’s presentation and the thesis document.

**Final Master’s Examination (Non-Thesis)**

The non-thesis option typically functions as a terminal degree and the work must be distributed as indicated in the categories shown on the appropriate Degree Program Plan. This option culminates with enrollment in a 1-credit hour comprehensive final examination (MEMT 898 Comprehensive Examination) and the subsequent portfolio and presentation.

The student must be enrolled at the time the final non-thesis master’s exam is held. The non-thesis master’s exam includes presenting a portfolio and will be scheduled for a period of 1 hour. The examination committee shall be comprised of the student’s major advisor and 2 other graduate faculty members jointly selected by the student and major advisor. It is the student’s responsibility to present the final portfolio to each committee member 2 weeks in advance of the scheduled examination date.

More information about the thesis or non-thesis option is available online (http://music.ku.edu/MME/requirements/) in the MEMT Graduate Handbook.

**Plan of Study**

The Master of Music Education with a major in music therapy program plan is available online (https://music.ku.edu/mme/).