

Proposal for Distinguished Major Project in Music

The Distinguished Major Program allows outstanding music majors to work on large-scale projects during their last two semesters at the University. The project may consist of a thesis, a composition (or set of compositions), a formal recital with program notes, another type of performance or written work, or a combination project subject to approval. Each spring, the Director of Undergraduate Programs for Music (DUP) announces application procedures and a deadline.

Majors normally apply to the program during their sixth semester. After a preliminary communication with the (DUP), a student will determine a main advisor and one other faculty committee member with whom they consult about the proposal, then submit a signed proposal to the DUP and Department Chair (as below). Those applying to prepare a formal DMP recital will be admitted by audition (administered by the Director of Music Performance), scheduled after we have received your initial application.

Coursework for Distinguished Major projects is normally arranged through **three credits per semester** of Independent Study with a faculty advisor in *each of the last two semesters* at the University. **These credits do not count toward music major requirements** but do count as College credits:

A student working on a thesis or composition normally takes MUSI 4993, at three credits each semester.

A student preparing a recital normally takes honors-level private performance lessons, MUPF 4930 and MUPF 4940, at two credits per semester, as well as two semesters of academic independent study pertinent to the recital program, MUSI 4993, at one or more credits per semester. **Note:** students in the Performance Concentration take MUPF 4950 and MUPF 4960, Performance Concentration III-IV, instead of 4930 and 4940.

For a combination or alternatively conceived project, the Independent Study courses will be determined in consultation with the DUP and the DMP advisors at the time of application.

Projects are **due by the last day of classes** in the second semester of the 4th year; a student's committee may set an earlier date of completion. The committee evaluates the completed project and submits a report to the Music faculty for consideration. Completed projects may receive the B.A. in Music with Distinction, High Distinction, or Highest Distinction, provided the cumulative GPA at graduation is 3.4 or above (a CLAS rule). Any level of distinction is an unusual honor, showing strong Department admiration for a student's work. The Department awards Highest Distinction only rarely. A completed project that is less than excellent will receive no distinction.

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Please complete this form (with signatures, either electronic or scanned) and email as attachment to the DUP.

Student name: _____

Brief title/description of project: _____

Please attach a detailed description of the project (about one page).

Expected date of completion of project: _____

Names and signatures of the two faculty advisors for the project.

Each project is supervised by a committee of **two** faculty members – a main advisor for the project and a secondary advisor -- who will together submit a final confidential evaluative report to the faculty. At least one of these two committee members must be on the full-time academic faculty. (An additional performance faculty member is assigned each year by the Department to also evaluate recitals independently).

The signatures below indicate that these instructors have read and approved the attached description of the proposed project and have agreed to advise the student during the year and to participate in evaluation of the completed project.

Names
Main advisor (print name):

Signature:

Second advisor (print name):

Signature:

All projects must be approved by the Chair and the Director of Undergraduate Programs:

Signature of Chair: _____

Signature of DUP: _____

DMP Recitals additionally must be approved by the Director of Performance:

Signature of Director of Performance: _____

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The student should read the following statement and sign to indicate acceptance of these policies:

I undertake to complete the project described on the accompanying page. I understand that the members of my committee will evaluate the completed project and report to pertinent members of the Department, who will decide on my level of honors. I will keep committee members, the Director of Undergraduate Studies and the Director of Performance (as applicable) informed about the progress of the project throughout the year and will arrange meetings with my advisor(s) as appropriate, including at least one meeting at the beginning of the year when I work on the project and one in the semester in which I complete the project. On completion, I will give committee members copies of written material to evaluate and will inform them well in advance of any performance that is part of my project. At the end of the year, I will deposit in the Music Library a recording and/or written materials to document my project.

Signature of student: _____

Date: _____

Please return the signed form to the Director of Undergraduate Programs