

MUSIC (M.A.): THEORY (THESIS) (45 CREDITS)

Offered by: Music (Schulich School of Music)

Degree: Master of Arts

Program credit weight: 45

Program Description

The M.A. in Music; Theory explores how specific pieces of music are put together and how this may be generalized to relate to the way other pieces of music are composed, including music theory, various analytical models and the critical issues that define the discipline. The thesis can be submitted in one of two formats: in-depth monograph-style thesis, or a research-paper-based thesis. Students who prefer to write an in-depth monograph-style thesis will take MUGS 684 Master's Thesis Research 2. as a complementary course. Students who prefer to write a research-paper-based thesis will take two more seminars.

Depending on their background, students admitted to the M.A. Music; Theory may be required to successfully complete one or more undergraduate course(s) before completion of the Master's program.

Note: For information about Fall 2025 and Winter 2026 course offerings, please check back on May 8, 2025. Until then, the "Terms offered" field will appear blank for most courses while the class schedule is being finalized.

Thesis Courses (24 credits)

Expand allContract all

Course	Title	Credits
MUGS 683	Master's Thesis Research 1.	3
MUGS 685	Master's Thesis Research 3.	9
MUGS 686	Master's Thesis Research 4.	12

Complementary Courses (21 credits)

9 credits from the following:

Expand allContract all

Course	Title	Credits
MUTH 652	Seminar in Music Theory 1.	3
MUTH 653	Seminar in Music Theory 2.	3
MUTH 654	Seminar in Music Theory 3.	3
MUTH 655	Seminar in Music Theory 4.	3
MUTH 656	Seminar in Music Theory 5.	3
MUTH 657	Seminar in Music Theory 6.	3

3-6 credits will be from the following:

Expand allContract all

Course	Title	Credits
MUTH 658	History of Music Theory 1.	3
MUTH 659	History of Music Theory 2.	3

0-6 credits from the following:

Expand allContract all

Course	Title	Credits
MUGS 684	Master's Thesis Research 2.	6

0-9 credits at the 600 level or higher, approved by the Schulich School of Music.