

MA in Music Theory

MA Research Project Guidelines

The MA Research Project will result in a scholarly research paper of approximately 40 pages (exclusive of bibliography) or an equivalent creative project.

In either form, the MA Research Project is a scholarly inquiry into a particular topic in music theory situated in relation to a current academic context. The project may emerge from a course paper, but it should encompass a new research avenue or substantively develop an existing area of scholarship.

As a creative project, the MA Research Project will typically combine scholarly investigation with a creative process or production. The creative project must include an essay related to the project, discussing the conditions of its production and its implications for academic scholarship. The proportion of the written component in a creative project will be determined in consultation with the project director.

The project director will be appointed by the Department Chair upon consultation with the student at the beginning of the program. The MA Research Project will be graded by the project director, and another faculty music theorist appointed by the Department Chair will also provide a grade. The average of these two grades will be the final grade for the project.

The MA Research Project must demonstrate the highest scholarly standards of research and writing. There is no formal defense of the MA Research Project.

MA Research Project Proposal

The proposal for the MA Research Project must be approved by the project director and submitted to Department chair no later than April 1. The proposal should include the following:

- Tentative title for the project
- Student's name and name of project director
- Description of approximately 500 words outlining the main argument, scope, goals, and significance of the project, with a general description of the methods to be used
- Working bibliography

The project director will respond in a timely manner with one of the following decisions:

1. The proposal is approved.
2. The proposal requires revisions, which will be communicated to the student. The proposal should be revised and resubmitted within two weeks.

**MA in Music Theory Timeline
(including MA Research Project)**

Fall	Winter	Summer
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 0.5 half courses, including Introduction to Music Research • Preliminary planning for MA Research Project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 0.5 courses • Dept. Chair assigns project director for MA Research Project • Meeting with project director • April 1: proposal for MA Research Project submitted to project director for feedback and approval • Proposal submitted to department Chair 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May 15: student meets with project director with an outline for the MA Research Project to the project director for discussion • June 15: student provides full draft of MA Research Project to project director for feedback • August 15 or sooner: final submission of MA Research Project to project director • Director and second faculty member (appointed by Chair) submit a project grade • MA Research Project and grade submitted to Associate Dean for final approval