

Master's in Music Education Program Major Research Project Guidelines and Milestones

The Master's Major Research Project (MRP) in Music Education provides an opportunity for students to engage in high-level inquiry focusing on an area of specialization within the profession that is of interest to the student. Projects may take their inspiration from assignments and experiences related to coursework in the degree program. However, projects must illuminate how the student has researched, developed, extended, or applied the ideas and strategies under investigation. Students must demonstrate the ability to gather materials, review current literature, and examine sufficient background material to inform the development of original work. The final product may integrate a variety of formats (e.g., video, web, traditional text, media) and may be, but is not limited to, the investigation of teaching practices and educational ideas or the development of curricular materials. Projects should aim to bridge theory and practice and impact the student's professional life.

MRP Format

Projects may be conceived in three parts:

1. A Project Proposal (10%)
2. A Literature Review (45%)
3. A Knowledge Mobilization Strategy or Project (45%)

Project Proposal

- Develop a two to three-page detailed outline of your project
 - a. Introduction – Explain the interest in the topic and situate the project in a scholarly and/or practical context.
 - b. Goals and Process—Describe the project's goals and purpose. This section will detail the activities that will take place during the project, including who will be involved and the role the student will play.
 - c. Timeline – Outline the timeline for the project.
- Worth 10% of the final grade

Literature Review

- Write a review of the relevant extant literature on your topic of interest that demonstrates original thought and contributes new insights to the field.
- Cited sources should be credible, up-to-date, and taken from reputable academic journals or publishers.
- The review should be logically organized and have a clear structure (e.g., thematic, chronological, methodological).
- The paper should go beyond simply summarizing individual studies and instead synthesize information from multiple sources, highlighting relationships and trends and providing a critical analysis that identifies gaps in the existing literature, providing a rationale for your proposed Knowledge Mobilization Project.
- All sources should be properly cited, and a complete and accurate reference list included. The length should be approximately 20 to 25 pages, inclusive of references.

Knowledge Mobilization Strategy

- Create a Knowledge Mobilization Strategy aimed at communicating the potential impacts of your research for an area of music education. Identify your target audience and select appropriate media for communication of the project. Potential formats include:
 - Workshop/Seminar
 - Create a workshop or seminar for educators and administrators to present your research findings and discuss their applications.
 - Conference/Symposium Presentation
 - Create a presentation suitable for presenting research findings at an educational conference or symposium. Such a presentation may take the form of a research poster.
 - Online Platforms and Social Media:
 - Develop a project website to host all research-related content, including reports, summaries, and multimedia presentations.
 - Create a social media plan for sharing key findings, suggestions for practice, updates, etc.
 - Educational Resources
 - Develop toolkits, guidelines, and instructional materials based on the research findings.
 - Create video tutorials and online courses to help educators implement the recommendations.
 - Policy Briefs
 - Prepare a policy brief or position paper targeted at policymakers, highlighting the implications of the research for educational policy.
 - Collaborative Networks
 - Create a plan to establish partnerships with educational institutions, professional associations, non-profits, community organizations, etc. to promote the research findings.

Timeline for the Major Research Project

- The Department Chair will appoint a project director for each student after consulting with them during the student's first term of enrollment in the program.
- The Project Proposal must be approved by the Project Director and submitted to the Department Chair by the conclusion of the second term of enrollment for full-time students (April 15), or the third term of enrollment for part-time students. The Department Chair 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.
- An Initial Draft of the final project will be submitted to the Project Director for feedback by the middle of the third term of enrollment for full-time students (July 15), or the 5th term of enrollment for part-time students.
- The Final Draft of the MRP will be submitted to the Project Director by the end of the third term of enrollment (August 15) for full-time students or the end of the fifth term of enrollment for part-time students. The Project Director and a second faculty member appointed by the Chair will evaluate the project and submit a project grade to the Associate Dean for final approval.