COMPOSITION EMPHASIS: FINAL PROJECT

The undergraduate Composition Emphasis requires completion of a final project in the last year of enrollment. The project is an original composition, together with a supportive paper about the composition, as well as a live performance of the work; since genres and instrumentation for this project can vary widely from student to student, it is difficult to prescribe a specific length for the finished product.

Completion of the project will require regular and frequent consultation with an advisor throughout the last year of enrollment. An approximate timeline for the student’s work on this project during this year follows. (If a December graduation is planned, consult with your advisor to develop a parallel timeline.) Substantial deviations (more than a day or two) from this timeline are highly discouraged and may prevent the student from finishing the project and having it reviewed in time for graduation.

By September 30: Select an advisor for the project. The advisor may be any Butler professor who teaches coursework in composition. After your advisor has agreed to work with you on this project, notify the Coordinator of Composition, Dr. Michael Schelle.

By April 1: Submit the completed score for review, together with a supportive paper. There also needs to be a live performance (School of Music Convocation Hour recital, JCA Composers Orchestra concert, other official JCA concert, non-Butler professional concert, etc.). Consult with your advisor early and frequently to discuss the project. There also needs to be a live performance.

The project will be reviewed and returned to the student within two weeks of its submission so as to allow time for revisions if required.

By the beginning of the spring semester’s finals week: Submit the revised project (if revisions were required). The final version of the project must be reviewed and approved by the composition faculty by the end of finals for the Composition Emphasis to be awarded. If the revised project is submitted late, or if substantial revisions are still required after this submission, there will likely not be enough time remaining for the student to earn the Emphasis.