

MUSIC THEORY EMPHASIS: FINAL PAPER

The undergraduate Music Theory Emphasis requires completion of a final paper in the last year of enrollment. This paper may be on any theoretical or analytical topic of the student's choice, pending approval by the music theory faculty. The paper should not be biographical or historical in nature. Proposals or papers focusing on a composer's biographical background will not be accepted. Try instead to develop a topic focusing on a musical work or group of works and the analysis of them. Any research paper in the School of Music may be repurposed for one succeeding paper. However, under the faculty advisor's guidance, the second paper must be expanded or reconsidered appreciably according to the level and purpose of the paper.

The *Chicago Manual of Style*, current edition, will be the reference for matters of style and bibliography for all School of Music writing; it is available online through the Irwin Library homepage at http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html. Students may also consult two style guides that derive from the Chicago Manual, Kate L. Turabian's *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses and Dissertations* (available in Irwin Library: PN203 .T8 1996) or Richard Wingell's *Writing About Music: An Introductory Guide* (ML3797.W54 2002), as resources to assist in the preparation of all research papers. The authority on spelling and usage is the Oxford English Dictionary, available through the Irwin Library homepage at <http://www.oed.com>.

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 paper 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 course work in music theory. After your advisor has agreed to work with you on this project, notify the Coordinator of Music Theory, Dr Jeff Gillespie.

By November 15: Submit a one- to two-page proposal outlining the projected thrust of the paper. This proposal should identify musical work(s) to be analyzed, other authors' work to be consulted, and/or musical theories or analytical approaches to be used as appropriate. Depending on the specific topic, each of these areas may not apply to every proposal and/or other crucial information falling outside these areas may also be essential to include. Include annotations and a bibliography with the proposal if appropriate to the topic.

By April 10: Submit the completed paper for review. The paper must be typed, double-spaced, and include annotations and a bibliography as appropriate. Musical examples, tables, and analytic illustrations should be carefully formatted and included in the body of the paper. Since topics for this project can vary widely from student to student, it is difficult to prescribe a specific length for the finished product. The paper should be approximately twenty pages (not including bibliography), but this guideline should not be considered a concrete requirement for finishing the Music Theory Emphasis. Consult with your advisor early and frequently to discuss the length, organization, and content of the paper.

The paper 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 paper (if revisions were required). The final version of the paper must be reviewed and approved by the music theory faculty by the end of finals for the Music Theory Emphasis to be awarded. If the revised paper 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.