

### MMD Timeline:

- **October 15** - Committee Members are selected
- **November 1** - Advisor provides Committee Members a List of Coursework and Topics for Examination
- **November 15** - Questions from Committee are delivered to Candidate
- **December 1-20** - Master of Music Defense takes place



Date: October 2, 2017  
To: School of Music Graduate Students - graduating Fall 2017  
From: School of Music Graduate Committee  
Re: Master of Music Defense (MMD)

### Master of Music Defense (MMD) process for Fall 2017

- 1) Each master's degree program must include a specific component of research or creative work and a comprehensive evaluation over the content of the discipline. In programs requiring a thesis or professional paper, these requirements are typically combined and overseen by the thesis/professional paper examining committee (C6.000). All master's degree students must pass a comprehensive evaluation. Examples of the comprehensive evaluation include but are not limited to a comprehensive oral or written exam, thesis/professional paper defense, portfolio assessment, or integrated project evaluation. (C8.000)
- 2) Student will contact members of their Graduate Committee (see timeline) to secure their commitment to defense and project evaluations (when possible). This should be done during the penultimate semester of study but no later than **October 15, 2017** for Fall 2017 candidates.
  - a. Committees are comprised of a minimum of 3 faculty members and must include (C6.100):
    - i. The student's Graduate Advisor
    - ii. An academic faculty member from the School of Music
    - iii. A qualified UM faculty member or adjunct from a program or unit other than the one granting the degree
    - iv. The student's Applied Studio Teacher (if applicable)
  - b. The names of confirmed committee members will be reported to the Graduate Advisor for the graduate student's program by deadline.
- 3) MMD Committee Members will receive a list of coursework, taken from the Candidate's transcript, as well as topics selected by the Candidate by **November 1, 2017**.
- 4) The Committee will send the Graduate Advisor suggested questions for the Candidate to review (MM Performance, MM Musical Theater). Questions should be submitted to the advisor by **November 15, 2017**. The Committee should formulate 3-5 questions for the Candidate to prepare in advance of the Defense. The questions will be broad in nature to allow the student

the opportunity to provide answers that are both thoughtful and specific to the aspects and areas. Master of Music in Music Education Candidates follow a slightly different procedure – the Candidate submits talking points related to his/her coursework and thesis/project.

- 5) The Candidate or the Graduate Advisor will schedule a MMD to take place between **December 1 and 20, 2017**. The Defense will be 60-90 minutes in length and will be scheduled at a time convenient for the Committee and the Candidate.
- 6) Students prepare topics for the Master of Music Defense.
- 7) **The Master of Music Defense:**
  - The Candidate presents answers to the questions proposed by the Committee, or in the case of Music Education candidates, comes prepared to discuss their talking points.
  - Candidates may bring outlines, audio/visual examples and handouts for the Committee if needed. Candidates may not bring detailed notes to the examination.
  - During the MMD the Candidate may be asked to clarify and expand answers, defend answers, or be given a chance to change answers. The intent is to provoke thought and discussion. The goal is to (a) have a positive capstone discussion with the Committee regarding the Candidate's work at UM, and (b) discuss how the Candidate's course of study met goals and inspired the Candidate toward further study and discovery.