

**School of Music
Illinois State University**

Master of Music in Composition

Program Objectives

The objectives of the MM in Composition degree program are intended to assist students to:

- Develop compositional talents to the highest possible level;
 - Become composers, arrangers, music technologists and teachers;
 - Develop musical, theoretical, historical, and aesthetic perspectives relating to the discipline;
 - Continue their studies at the doctoral level.
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Assessment of Student Outcomes

The following are specific assessment items for the MM in Composition.

- Students desiring admission to this program must submit two their recently composed works, a taped or live entrance audition, and an on-campus audition.
 - All entering graduate students in this program are required to take a written examination in Music Theory. Those students performing below the expected level must improve their music theory skills using programmed texts, computer drills, Web sites, and possible auditing appropriate undergraduate courses. The students who do not pass the examination will meet with a Theory faculty member during the first week of classes to determine what approach should be taken to prepare the student to re-take the examination.
 - All entering graduate students in this program must also take a written Music History examination. The test is designed to reveal weaknesses in specific historical periods so a plan of remediation might be instituted.
 - Students must successfully complete each course in the curriculum, demonstrating the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values of the program.
 - The capstone experience for this program is the completion of an original composition of sufficient magnitude and scope and meeting the approval of the composition faculty.
 - An exit requirement for the composition program includes a written comprehensive examination taken during the semester of graduation.
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