

SCHOOL OF MUSIC

San José State University

GRADUATE MUSIC STUDENT HANDBOOK 2026-27

COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES AND THE ARTS
SAN JOSE STATE UNIVERSITY
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MISSION STATEMENT

San José State University School of Music Mission Statement

Music is an essential expression of human experience. The purpose of the School of Music is to:

- Prepare, inspire, and motivate students to achieve excellence in professional careers in teaching, performance, composition, musicology, and related fields;
- Engage a diverse university population in experiences that foster life-long learning and a greater understanding of music in all its forms;
- Provide and sustain a unique performing arts culture for the University, Silicon Valley, and the Greater Bay Area communities;
- Generate creative activities and scholarship in music that have local, national, and international significance,

INFORMATION FOR PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS

Degrees Offered

Master of Music Degrees

The **Master of Music in Composition** is a two-year, 30-unit program designed for students who wish to pursue advanced study and practice in the art of musical composition. The program emphasizes the development of an individual compositional voice supported by a strong technical foundation in theory, analysis, orchestration, and contemporary techniques. Students work closely with faculty mentors in private composition lessons and seminar settings, while also benefiting from regular opportunities to hear their music rehearsed and performed by university ensembles, soloists, and visiting professional musicians. The program encourages engagement with a wide range of musical styles and media, including chamber music, large ensemble works, and electro-acoustic composition, providing the resources and experiences necessary to prepare students for careers as composers, educators, and creative professionals, or for further advanced study at the doctoral level.

The **Master of Music in Conducting** is a rigorous two-year, 30-unit graduate program designed for musicians seeking intensive training in ensemble leadership and artistic interpretation. The curriculum combines advanced instruction in conducting technique, score study, and rehearsal strategies with in-depth exploration of music theory, history, and literature. Students receive regular podium time with university ensembles and benefit from ongoing mentorship by faculty artists, culminating in public performances and a comprehensive graduate recital. Through individualized lessons, seminars, and collaborative performance projects, students develop the skills needed for professional success as conductors, educators, and leaders in the musical community.

The **Master of Music in Performance (instrumental)** is a 30-unit graduate program designed for advanced instrumentalists seeking to refine their artistry and prepare for professional careers in music. The program offers intensive applied study with faculty artist-teachers, emphasizing technical mastery, interpretive depth, and comprehensive musical knowledge. Students receive individualized instruction, participate in ensembles, and engage in coursework in music pedagogy, analysis, literature, and history, complemented by elective options tailored to students' interests. Regular performance opportunities—including solo recitals, chamber music, and ensemble concerts—develop students' skills as compelling performers across a wide range of repertoire.

The **Master of Music in Vocal Performance** is a 30-unit graduate program designed for advanced singers pursuing the refinement of their performance skills and the preparation necessary for professional careers in music. The curriculum provides intensive applied study with faculty artist-teachers, with emphasis on vocal technique, stylistic interpretation, diction, and the study of vocal repertoire and literature. Students receive individualized instruction, perform in ensembles and opera productions, and complete coursework in pedagogy, analysis, history, and related areas, with elective options available to support individual interests.

Performance requirements include solo recitals, chamber music, opera, and ensemble work to ensure comprehensive development as a performer.

The **Master of Music in Music Education** is a 30-unit graduate program designed for experienced music educators seeking to deepen their pedagogical expertise, strengthen their musicianship, and advance their professional credentials. The curriculum integrates advanced study in music teaching and learning with coursework in analysis, history, literature, and performance, supported by elective options that align with individual interests and career objectives. Students work closely with faculty in seminars and applied settings, engaging with contemporary research, curriculum design, and instructional strategies for diverse educational contexts.

The **Master of Music in Musicology** is a 30-unit graduate program designed for students seeking advanced training in the scholarly study of music. The program emphasizes historical research, analytical methods, critical inquiry, and the exploration of diverse musical traditions and cultural contexts. Core coursework includes seminars in musicology and ethnomusicology, research methods, and analytical approaches, supplemented by electives that allow students to pursue specialized areas of interest. Students engage in extensive reading, discussion, and writing, while developing skills for independent scholarship and professional presentation. Applicants must hold a bachelor's degree in music or an equivalent degree from an accredited institution. Admission is determined through the review of academic transcripts, writing samples, letters of recommendation, a statement of scholarly goals, and, where applicable, diagnostic examinations in music history and theory.

The **Master of Music in Jazz Studies** is a 30-unit graduate program designed for advanced instrumentalists seeking to refine their artistry and prepare for professional careers in music. The program offers intensive applied study with faculty artist-teachers, emphasizing technical mastery, interpretive depth, and comprehensive musical knowledge. Students receive individualized instruction, participate in ensembles, and engage in coursework in jazz arranging, orchestrating and improvising alongside core coursework in music history and theory complemented by elective options tailored to students' interests. Regular performance opportunities—including solo recitals and ensemble concerts—develop students' skills as compelling performers across a wide range of jazz styles.

Admission Requirements

Students need to apply separately to the university to obtain approval for university-level admission and to the department to obtain admission into the Master of Music Program. All required transcripts and supporting documents should be sent directly to the university.
The School of Music graduate program requires applicants to:

1. Have a **bachelor's degree in Music** (or equivalent) from a regionally accredited institution;

2. Be in **good academic standing** at the last college or university attended;

3. Have a minimum **GPA** of 3.00 in the last 60 units of undergraduate coursework;
4. Students from a country where the **official language is not English** are required to submit a TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language), PTE (Pearson Test of English), or International English Language Testing System (IELTS) score. The minimum entrance score for the TOEFL is 590 (paper-based), 243 (computer-based), or 96 (internet-based), with a score of 5 in the Writing Section. The minimum score for the PTE is 68; for the IELTS, the minimum score is 7.0. All test scores must be less than 2 years old. Test scores must be sent directly from the Educational Testing Service office (institution code 4687), Pearson Office, or IELTS office directly to SJSU.
5. **Audition, Portfolio, Interview**
    1. Conducting and Performance: a live (preferred) or unedited recorded audition is required for conducting and performance specializations. Please see the School of Music website for specific requirements of individual performance areas.
    2. Composition, Education, History, Systems/Theory: the submission of a portfolio of work is required for all academic specializations. Please see the School of Music website for specific requirements of individual academic areas.
    3. Individual areas may also require an interview.
    4. Auditions are scheduled by the area coordinators and usually take place in late spring. Applicants should coordinate directly with the relevant area coordinator to arrange an audition date.
6. Submit three **letters of recommendation** addressing the applicant's potential for graduate-level work in music to be sent to the appropriate performance area advisor.

The School of Music does not require the GRE (Graduate Record Exam).

Entrance Qualifying Examinations

Graduate students admitted to the School of Music are usually admitted in "conditionally classified" status. This status is normal for all entering graduate students, who must demonstrate a bachelor's level competence in music history and music theory by passing the Graduate Entrance Evaluations given during Pre-Instruction before the start of the fall semester. Students who pass their Entrance Evaluations may then become "graduate classified" and are eligible to take all 200-level graduate seminars after completing MUSC 200. Students who fail one or more portions of the Evaluation will remain conditionally classified and will be required to remediate with the appropriate coursework before taking graduate seminars beyond MUSC 200. Coursework taken as remediation is not applied to the Master's degree requirement units. Students who fail the entire Entrance Evaluation will not be admitted into the program.

Students who completed their undergraduate music degree at SJSU and who received a grade of B or above in their undergraduate theory and history classes are exempt from taking the entrance qualifying examinations.

Music History Examination
The goal of the music history entrance examination is to ensure that all entering students have the requisite writing and analytical skills to begin work at master's level. The examination consists of a selection of essay prompts covering different historical periods in Western music (Medieval, Renaissance, Baroque, Classical, Romantic and Modern). Students choose one prompt and write an essay of 2-3 pages to demonstrate their understanding of core repertoire and their broader historical context.

Music Theory Examination
The goal of the music theory entrance examination is to ensure that all entering students have a sufficient level of understanding of music theory to begin work at master's level. The examination covers aural skills (dictation), form and analysis (Roman numeral analysis, identifying modulations), harmony and part-writing (realizing a chord progression in four-part harmony), counterpoint (analyzing a four-part fugue), and orchestration (identifying ranges and transpositions of orchestral instruments, identifying technical terms).

DEGREE PLANS

Core courses (12 units)

All graduate students must enroll in the following classes that meet from 4:00–6:30pm once a week:

- MUSC 200: Methods of Music Writing and Research (3 units)
- MUSC 201A-D: Seminar in Music History (3 units)
- MUSC 202: Seminar in Music Systems and Theory (3 units)
- MUSC 203: Seminar in Style and Performance Practice (3 units)

Students in the Music Education and Jazz Studies concentrations may also take MUSC 221 (Improvisational Traditions) instead of MUSC 203.

MUSC 200 and 203 are normally given each fall.
MUSC 201 and 202 are normally given each spring.
MUSC 221 is offered according to faculty staffing schedules.

Concentration requirements and electives (15 units)

Each concentration has a different plan for the 15 units of Area of Concentration Requirements and electives as described below. See Appendix 1 for Degree Roadmaps for each concentration.

MM, Composition

Concentration requirements:

- MUSC 224A: Supervised Graduate Study, Composition (2 units taken 3 times = 6 units)

3 units from:

- MUSC 167: Electro-Acoustic Music I (3 units)
- MUSC 168: Electro-Acoustic Music II (3 units)
- MUSC 169: Electro-Acoustic Music III (3 units)

Electives: 9 units by advisement

MM, Conducting

Concentration requirements:

- MUSC 224B: Supervised Graduate Study, Conducting (2 units taken 3 times = 6 units)

6 units from:

- Ensemble (1 unit, 3X = 3 units). Instrumental conducting students should take Wind Ensemble or Symphony Orchestra as assigned by the area coordinator. Choral conducting students should take Concert Choir or Choraliers as assigned by the area coordinator.
- MUSC 220: Studies in Advanced Conducting (3 units)

Electives: 3 units by advisement

MM, Performance (Instrumental)

Concentration requirements:

- MUSC 224C: Supervised Graduate Study, Instrumental Performance (2 units taken 3 times = 6 units)

6 units from:

- Ensemble (1 unit, 3X = 3 units): Wind Ensemble or Symphony Orchestra assigned by area coordinator
- MUSC 232: Advanced Field Experience (1 unit, 3X = 3 units)

Electives: 3 units by advisement

MM, Performance (Vocal)

Concentration requirements:

- MUSC 224D: Supervised Graduate Study, Vocal Performance (2 units taken 3 times = 6 units)

6 units from:

- MUSC 242: Art Song Repertoire (1 unit, repeatable for up to 2 units)
- MUSC 144: Solo Literature and Performance Practice and Pedagogy (1 unit, repeatable for up to 4 units)
- MUSC 252: Opera Theater (1 unit, must enroll 4 times)

Electives: 3 units by advisement

MM, Music Education

Concentration requirements

11 units from:

- MUED 221: Foundations of Music Education (3 units)
- MUED 232: Directions and Issues in Music Education (3 units)
- MUED 370A/B: Methodology for Music Educators K-8/Secondary (2 units each)
- MUSC 232: Advanced Field Experience (1 unit)

Electives: 4 units by advisement

MM, Musicology

Concentration requirements

- MUSC 224E: Supervised Graduate Study, Musicology (2 units taken 3 times = 6 units)

6 units from:

- MUSC 201: Seminar in Music History (different topic than core; 3 units)
- MUSC 205: Seminar in Ethnomusicology

Electives: 3 units by advisement

MM, Jazz Studies

Concentration requirements

- MUSC 224F: Supervised Graduate Study, Jazz Studies (2 units taken 3 times = 6 units)

6 units from:

- MUSC 257: Jazz Orchestra (1 unit)
- MUSC 158: Gospel (1 unit)
- MUSC 259: Afro-Latin Jazz Ensemble (1 unit)

- MUSC 260F: Small Jazz Ensemble (1 unit)

Electives: 3 units by advisement

Culminating Experience (3 units)

All graduate students complete a Culminating Experience, either as Plan A (Thesis) or Plan B (Composition, Project or Recital).

The Culminating Experience is normally taken in the final semester, and students enroll in 3 units as follows:

- MM, Composition: Plan B (Master's Composition), MUSC 297 (3 units)
- MM, Conducting: Plan B (Master's Recital), MUSC 297 (3 units)
- MM, Performance (Instrumental): Plan B (Master's Recital), MUSC 297 (3 units)
- MM, Performance (Vocal): Plan B (Master's Recital), MUSC 297 (3 units)
- MM, Music Education: Plan A (Master's Thesis), MUSC 299 (3 units)
- MM, Musicology: Plan A (Master's Thesis), MUSC 299 (3 units)
- MM, Jazz Studies: Plan B (Master's Recital), MUSC 297 (3 units)

THE CULMINATING EXPERIENCE

Culminating Exam

At the end of their studies, all MM students must demonstrate their thorough grasp of their area of concentration through the culminating exam which takes place in the final semester of study. For students taking the Musicology concentration this will take the form of an oral defense of the thesis research. The format of other culminating exams will be determined by the area coordinators.

UNIVERSITY GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Students must complete all residency, curriculum, unit, GPA, and culminating experience requirements as outlined in the Graduation Requirements section of the Graduate Policies and Procedures. All students must satisfy Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement (GWAR) and culminating experience as outlined in the degree requirements.

Advancement to Candidacy
Candidacy denotes that the student is fully qualified to complete the final stages of the MM. In order to achieve candidacy, students must meet the university requirements for candidacy. General university requirements for advancement to candidacy for the Master's degree are detailed in the Graduate Policies and Procedures section. Advancement to candidacy requires that the student be in good standing with a 3.0 GPA or better in a minimum of 9 units of letter-graded coursework as a graduate student in 100- or 200-level courses in the degree program as

indicated by all courses on the Petition for Advancement to Graduate Candidacy. These courses must conform to university and departmental requirements, and the area and graduate advisors must approve the proposed program. The proposed program must list a total of 30 semester units, including the appropriate number of "core" courses, area of specialization courses, required ensembles, and supervised graduate study.
The student must be "graduate classified" and have met and cleared their conditions for admission to the program indicated by their results in the Graduate Entrance Evaluation in music history and music systems/theory. Candidacy also includes successful completion of the Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement (GWAR), which in the School of Music is MUSC 200.

PROCESSES AND FORMS

Enrolling in classes

1. Use the general catalog search to find course numbers and descriptions: https://catalog.sjsu.edu/.

2. Use "Class Schedules" website to find out when classes run and whether there are open seats: https://www.sjsu.edu/classes/schedules/index.php.

3. Use "Class Search" (accessible through one.SJSU) to find class codes.

4. Once you have the class code, enroll via MySJSU

The Candidacy Form

The candidacy form serves as a contract between the following parties:

- Graduate Admissions and Program Evaluations Office (GAPE)
  Graduate Department
  Graduate Student

Approval of the candidacy form indicates that by successfully completing coursework as listed on your form, you will be awarded a graduate degree. Once you have met the *Criteria for Candidacy Advancement*, you will want to complete each section of your candidacy form as accurately as possible.

Steps to filling out the Candidacy Form:

1. Download the form from https://www.sjsu.edu/gape/forms/.

2. **Student Information**
   The information in this section should reflect what is currently listed in your MySJSU account. Should you need to update any of your personal information, please visit the Registrar's Office Update Personal Information webpage for instructions.

3. **Degree Information**
   The information in this section pertains to the degree you are currently seeking and the program you are working on completing. Here you will also indicate your means of satisfying the Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement (GWAR) and which Culminating Experience (Plan A, B, or C) you plan to complete. For the Master in Music, MUSC 200 fulfils the GWAR.

4. **Section A – Courses**
   To begin, list each course in correspondence with your degree program requirements in the chronological semester order for which you plan to complete them. Then, while referencing your unofficial transcript, list the grade you have earned thus far for the associated course. Refrain from including grades for courses which have not been listed in your unofficial transcript. "In-progress" coursework grades should not be listed.

5. **Section B – Culminating Experience**
   Indicate which culminating experience you plan to complete in reference with your degree program requirements by utilizing the appropriate "checkbox" on the form. Your selection should mirror what you had previously listed in the Degree Information section of your form. Here you will also indicate the culminating experience course you plan to complete and the anticipated semester you plan to complete it in.

6. **Section C – Transfer Courses/Total Program Units**
   For students who have not previously received an advanced evaluation of their transfer credits, you may indicate that coursework in this section of the form (if applicable). Please review the *Validate Any Eligible Graduate Transfer Credits* section of the Academic Planning webpage for information on how many units may be transferred in and which types of units qualify to be transferred in. Do not complete the "Sub. for SJSU course" portion, as it should be completed by your Graduate Program Coordinator, if applicable. This section of the form is also used to summarize the total number of units you will be required to complete in order to earn your degree. Under the portion titled "Unit" to the right-hand side of the document, enter the total number of units associated with sections A, B, and C of the form.
   Note: If you do not require review of any transfer coursework, only enter your total program units and then skip to the next section of the form.

7. **Required Signatures**
   Complete one final review of the information you have provided. It is vital that you sign your candidacy form as it certifies the accuracy of the information provided. You will then submit your form to your Graduate Program Coordinator and additionally, if required, your Project/Thesis Advisor for approval. Finally, once the required signatures are acquired, your form will need to be submitted to GAPE for review.

See Appendix 2 for a sample completed candidacy form.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND FINANCIAL AID

There are various forms of financial aid available for graduate students. Visit SJSU's Financial Aid and Scholarship Office webpage to find out what kinds of financial support you might be eligible for. Additionally, the School of Music has various scholarships that are open to both undergraduate and graduate students. Any student who auditions for the School of Music is automatically considered for a scholarship.

Teaching associate fee waiver info: https://www.sjsu.edu/up/mybenefits/tuition-fee-waiver/teaching-associate-fee-waiver.php

RESOURCES —Helpful Websites

SJSU School of Music: https://www.sjsu.edu/music

SJSU Campus Map: https://www.sjsu.edu/map/

SJSU/SM 2026-27 Catalog: https://catalog.sjsu.edu

SJSU Accessible Education Center: https://www.sjsu.edu/aec/

SJSU Graduate Admissions and Program Evaluations: https://www.sjsu.edu/gape/

SJSU Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: https://www.sjsu.edu/diversity/office/
(access to multiple websites for student resources across the University)

GENERAL INFORMATION

Music Use Fee

All music majors may pay a $30 Music Use Fee each semester. This fee is used to pay for the specialized equipment in the building: musical instruments, audio & visual equipment, and so forth. The fund is also used to pay for piano tuning for the Practice Room pianos, for the purchase and rental for ensemble music, and other musical activities.

Students who pay their Music Use Fee receive free admission to all School of Music performances.

You may pay the Music Use Fee via link on the Music Website, dropdown menu, "Current Students": https://www.sjsu.edu/music/current-students/forms_procedures/music-use-fee.php

Building Hours

Music Building hours are:
7:00AM-10:30PM, Monday-Friday;
8:00AM-7:00PM Saturday.
Closed Sunday —except for registered Music Majors who can access the building 8:00AM-7:00PM
Students who are enrolled in classes that meet in the Music Building are granted external access to the Music Building on their Tower Cards during regular hours. Students who pay their Music Use Fee each semester may apply for extended access; see Ms. Caro.

Graduate Common Room

Graduate music students may use Room 108 as a common room when it is not being used by faculty for teaching or meetings. To request a key for Room 108, please contact Cece Caro: cece.caro@sjsu.edu

General Practice And Practice Room Policies

The Music Building has 41 practice rooms for individual use. Several of the rooms contain grand pianos and are reserved for piano majors, some of the rooms are designated for percussion majors' use and two are for drum set students. Unless specifically assigned to use one of these specialized rooms, students should not enter them.
Any of the remaining practice rooms may be used by any student at any hour the building is open. A room may be considered unoccupied if left vacant for ten minutes regardless of personal equipment left therein.
Classrooms, rehearsal rooms, stairwells, lobbies, other common areas, and performance halls are not considered open practice areas.

School Of Music Student Communication

Email

All SJSU students are assigned a college email address and those addresses are available to all members of the college community. Students are strongly encouraged to check their college email *at least once a day* for messages from faculty, staff and other students even if they maintain a private email address.

Messages

Notes and other materials from students to be placed in faculty mailboxes can be left with the Student Receptionist in M179.

GENERAL POLICIES

Student Credit Load

Full-time	Three-quarter time	Half-time	Part-time
*8.0 or more units **or** Any combination of weighted graduate units and undergraduate units equal to 12.0 or more units.	*6.0-7.0 units **or** Any combination of weighted graduate units and undergraduate units equal to 9.0.	*4.0-5.0 units **or** Any combination of weighted graduate units and undergraduate units equal to 6.0.	*3.0 or less units

*All graduate courses (200 level) are weighted 1.5 units.

Grade Requirements

A grade of C or above is required in each music course for it to count toward the graduate degree.

All required prerequisite course work must be passed with a grade of "B" or better and a minimum 3.0 GPA must be maintained in order to continue with the graduate program.

APPLIED LESSONS POLICIES

Ensemble participation

ALL graduate music students must be enrolled in a major ensemble that is directly related to the area in which they are receiving lessons in order to receive private instruction. Students must take an audition for approved ensembles at the start of each semester.

Wind and Percussion majors must be enrolled in the Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, Orchestra, or a jazz ensemble.
String majors must be enrolled in the Orchestra.
Vocal majors must be enrolled in Opera Theatre.
Keyboard majors may enroll in MUSC 260C (Chamber Music) as a substitution for the major ensemble requirement, with advisor approval.

Lessons in secondary instrument/voice

MM students may take up to 3 units of individual lessons in their secondary instrument or voice as electives (three semesters at 1 unit per semester).

STUDENT EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENTS

The faculty of the School of Music expect each student to develop professionalism and aspire to outstanding accomplishment in one's endeavors. The faculty also encourages the pursuit of artistic and scholarly opportunities beyond the SJSU campus.
Professionalism is an important trait for all music students, and it includes meeting the requirements of each class in which they are enrolled. Maintaining one's professionalism is especially important in collaborative art forms such as Music, where the contributions of each student are integral to the educational experience of every other student.

To that end the following expectations will be followed whenever a student chooses to perform in an event that conflicts with a course in which they are enrolled.

Expectations For External Engagements

Students will not accept or pursue external performances or engagements that conflict with posted exams, class meetings, rehearsals, lessons, dress rehearsals, or concerts unless they have obtained advance approval from the instructor(s) of each course where a conflict exists;
It is the student's responsibility to communicate with their applied instructor if they will be missing any lessons due to off-campus events;
If no approval is granted, the curricular requirements and expectations of the course take precedence in all situations;
Faculty will include in all course syllabi an outline of the schedule, learning outcomes, and grading criteria for students;
Faculty must exercise caution when adding additional class meetings, rehearsals, performances, or other expectation once the course syllabus has been distributed on the first day of each semester;
Faculty involved in promoting student professional activities such as conference presentations, performances, tours, or any off-campus appearances must notify and consult with their faculty colleagues and studio faculty whose courses or lessons may be impacted before engaging students in such activities at the earliest possible time;
Faculty members are encouraged to provide reasonable accommodations for significant professional activities that will benefit the student and the School of Music.

CLASS/COURSE INFORMATION AND POLICIES

Music Course Subject Codes

All music courses are identified by a course reference number (CRN), a course subject code and course number. The subject code has the following meaning:
The first four letters "MUSC" indicate it is a music course.
The first four letters "MUED" indicate it is a music education course
Lower-division courses are numbered 1-99;
Upper-division courses are numbered 100-199
Graduate level courses are numbered 200-299

Supervised Graduate Study courses for all MM concentrations use the code MUSC 224 followed by a letter for each concentration, as follows:

MUSC 224A: Supervised Graduate Study, Composition
MUSC 224B: Supervised Graduate Study, Conducting
MUSC 224C: Supervised Graduate Study, Instrumental Performance
MUSC 224D: Supervised Graduate Study, Vocal Performance
MUSC 224E: Supervised Graduate Study, Musicology
MUSC 224F: Supervised Graduate Study, Jazz Studies

Course Enrollment Policies

Registration in the appropriate courses is each student's responsibility. This includes registration for studio and ensembles. Students not properly enrolled in these courses will not be eligible to receive lessons and participate in ensembles.

Registration instructions and rules can be found on the SJSU Registrar's website at http://www.sjsu.edu/registrar. Students can also find information about late registration, add/drop procedures, and withdrawal policies using the links on that site. Please keep in mind that late registration typically ends around the third week of classes. Students cannot add a course after the third week of classes without paying an additional fee. See this site for further information: https://www.sjsu.edu/ue/student-petitions/drops/index.php

Also note that dropping below 8 units of courses may have an effect on your financial aid eligibility. Students should check with the Financial Aid Office prior to withdrawing from a course if the rest of their course load is less than 8 credit hours.

Withdrawing from a course for medical or emergency reasons is possible up until the final day of classes. Forms for medical/emergency withdrawal are available here: https://www.sjsu.edu/ue/student-petitions/drops/index.php.

Credit And Time Requirements

SJSU defines a credit hour in accordance with the CSU's accreditor, the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC), which publishes its own definition of student credit hour and related accreditation processes.

The CSU defines a credit hour as an amount of work represented in stated learning outcomes and verified by evidence of student achievement. Such evidence is an institutionally established equivalency that:

Approximates not less than:
One hour of direct faculty instruction and a minimum of two hours of out-of-class student work each week for approximately 15 weeks for one semester or equivalent amount of work over a different amount of time; or
At least an equivalent amount of work as required above for other academic activities as established by the institution including practica, studio work and other academic work leading to the award of credit hours;

A credit hour is assumed to be a 50-minute (not 60-minute) period. In some courses, such as those offered online, in which "seat time" does not apply, a credit hour may be measured by an equivalent amount of work, as demonstrated by student achievement.

SCHOOL OF MUSIC FACULTY

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	ROLE/RANK	EMAIL
Barraza	Catalina	Assistant Professor, Violin. Area Coordinator, Strings	catalina.barraza@sjsu.edu
Behroozi	Dahveed	Jazz Piano	davheedbehroozi@gmail.com
Bengochea	Christopher	Vocal studies	basquetenor@yahoo.com
Benson	Jeffrey	Professor, Director of School of Music (beginning Fall 2026), Director of Choral Programs	jeffrey.benson@sjsu.edu
Bock	Laura	Assistant Professor, Music Education	laura.bock@sjsu.edu
Brown	Corie	Associate Professor, Choral and Music Education	corie.brown@sjsu.edu
Buurman	Erica	Associate Professor, Music History, Director of the Beethoven Center, Graduate Area Coordinator	erica.buurman@sjsu.edu
Byram	Forrest	Tuba, Euphonium	forrestbyram@att.net
Chen	Sandy	Keyboard	sandy.t.chen@sjsu.edu.
Ciach	Brian	Music Theory, Composition	brian.ciach@sjsu.edu
Cohen	Fred	Professor, Orchestra Director, School of Music (until Fall 2026)	fred.cohen@sjsu.edu
Dryden	Jonathan	Jazz Piano, Theory	jonathan.dryden@sjsu.edu
Ellison	Paul	Music History	paul.ellison@sjsu.edu
Freeman	John	Trumpet	john.freeman@sjsu.edu
Furman	Pablo	Professor, Composition, Theory; Associate	pablo.furman@sjsu.edu

		Director of the School (until Fall 2026)	
Geisick	Ren	Jazz voice	katheren.geisick@sjsu.edu
Gove	John	Jazz trombone	john.gove@comcast.net
Griffiths	Laura	Oboe	laura.griffiths@sjsu.edu
Harris	Timothy	Global Music	timothy.harris@sjsu.edu
Hernandez	Michael	Assistant Professor, Saxophone, Area Coordinator Woodwinds	michael.hernandez@sjsu.edu
Hornig	Thomas	Trombone, Euphonium; Area Coordinator Brass	thtrombone@gmail.com
Knox	Grant	Assistant Professor, Director of Athletic Bands	Grant.knox@sjsu.edu
Karamchandani	Divesh	Percussion, Area Coordinator	Divesh.karamchandani@sjsu.edu
Kearns	Adelle	Cello	adelle.kearns@sjsu.edu
Langan	Thomas	Music Theory, Jazz Studies, General Music	tpmlangan@yahoo.com
Levy	Frank	Keyboard	franklevy960@gmail.com
Lewis	Jason	Jazz Drumset, Combos	jason@jsklewis.com
Lewis	Jeffrey	Jazz Trumpet; Director, Latin Jazz Ensemble	Hornforhire@aol.com
Li	Elliona	Music theory/musicianship	ellionali1005@gmail.com
Lin	Steven	Guitar, Music Appreciation	steven.lin@sjsu.edu
Lington	Aaron	Professor, Jazz Saxophone, Jazz Orcherstra; Area Coordinator Jazz	aaron.lington@sjsu.edu
Lington	Victoria	Collaborative Piano, Music Theory	aaron.lington@sjsu.edu
Luna-Mega	Christopher	Assistant Professor; Computer Music; Composition	christopher.luna-mega@sjsu.edu
Ma	David	Hip Hop	davidma.davidma@gmail.com
Metcalf	Kate	Music Appreciation	kate.j.metcalf@gmail.com
Mitchell	Jennifer	Vocal studies	jennifer.alexis.mitchell@gmail.com
Mohammed	Michael	Vocal studies	michael.mohammed@sjsu.edu

Mok	Gwendolyn	Professor, Keyboard (FERP, 2026-27)	gwendolyn.mok@sjsu.edu
Moyer	Bruce	Contrabass	bruce.moyer@sjsu.edu
Orozco	Luis	Assistant Professor, Voice, Opera	Luis.a.orozco@sjsu.edu
Rawdon	Ken	Music Education	ken94117@aol.com
Robbins	Daniel	Jazz Bass	daniel.robbins@sjsu.edu
Romero Ramirez	Abi	Music in Latin America, Jazz piano	pianochasers@aol.com
Rosen	Michael	Audio Technology	michaelsrosen@icloud.com
Russo	Vincent	Music Appreciation	john.v.russo@sjsu.edu
Sacolick	Robin	Global Music, Music Appreciation	profsacolick@yahoo.com
Sanchez	Steve	Clarinet	steve.sanchez@sjsu.edu
Scharlach	Jacque	Vocal studies, co-Area Coordinator	jacque.scharlach@sjsu.edu
Smith	Jamael	Bassoon	Jamael.smith@sjsu.edu
Skinner	Philip	Vocal studies	philip.skinner@sjsu.edu
Smith	Jamael	Bassoon	Jamael.smith@sjsu.edu
Smith Franklin	Caitlyn	French horn	k8tlyns@aol.com
Smucker	Jonathan	Vocal studies, co-Area Coordiantor	jonathan.smucker@sjsu.edu
Snitkovskaya	Simona	Collaborative Piano, Opera Theater	ssnitkovskaya@yahoo.com
Sultanov	Namiq	Keyboard, Piano proficiency	namiksultan@yahoo.com
Torres	Jose	Assistant Professor, Ethnomusicology, Mariachi	jose.r.torres@sjsu.edu
Yu	Jon	Music Theory	jon.yu@sjsu.edu
Vandivier	Rick	Jazz guitar, MUSC 8	rickvandivier@mac.com
Vickerman	David	Professor, Associate Director of the School (beginning Fall 2026), Director of Bands; Director, Wind Ensemble	david.vickerman@sjsu.edu
Wahl	Alison	Songwriting	Alison.wahl@sjsu.edu

STAFF DIRECTORY					
Grant	Trevor	Community and Student Analyst	MUS 165		Trevor.grant@sjsu.edu
Martin	Sean	Sound/Lighting Technician	MUS 179		Sean.martin@sjsu.edu
Martinez	Ernie	Piano Technician	MUS 154		ernie.martinez@sjsu.edu
Olivo	Paul	Resource Librarian	MUS 114		paul.olivo@sjsu.edu
Caro	Cece	Administrative Analyst, Scheduling	MUS 179		cece.caro@sjsu.edu

MUSIC AREA COORDINATORS, 2026–27

Audio Technology..... Dr. Christopher Luna-Mega
Brass..... Prof. Tom Hornig
Composition..... Dr. Christopher Luna-Mega
Computer Music..... Dr. Christopher Luna-Mega
Graduate Studies..... Dr. Erica Buurman
Keyboard..... Dr. David Vickerman
Music Education..... Dr. Laura Bock
Jazz..... Dr. Aaron Lington
Percussion..... Prof. Divesh Karamchandani
Strings..... Dr. Catalina Barraza
Voice.....Prof. Jacque Scharlach & Prof. Jonathan Smucker
Woodwinds..... Dr. Michael Hernandez

APPENDIX 1: DEGREE ROADMAPS

Degree:	MM
Concentration:	**Composition**
Total Units to Degree:	30
The following road map is an advising tool that outlines a path of courses a student can take to complete requirements for graduation. This roadmap should be used in consultation with the catalog and your department advisor to identify other requirements for completing the major (for example course grade minimums). Note that at the graduate level, full-time status is determined as 8 units of graduate-level courses OR any combination of weighted graduate units and undergraduate units equal to 12 or more units.	

Fall Semester – Year 1	
MUSC 200 (3)	Methods of Music Research and Writing
MUSC 224A (2)	Supervised Graduate Study
MUSC 167 (3)	Electro-Acoustic Music I

Spring Semester – Year 1	
MUSC 201A–D (3)	Seminar in Music History
MUSC 224A (2)	Supervised Graduate Study
MUSC 167 (3)	Electro-Acoustic Music II

Fall Semester – Year 2	
MUSC 203 (3)	Seminar in Style and Performance Practices
MUSC 224A (2)	Supervised Graduate Study
Electives (3)	

Spring Semester – Year 2	
MUSC 202 (3)	Seminar in Music Systems and Theory
MUSC 297 (3)	Master's Recital or Composition
Culminating exam (0)	

Concentration requirements:

6 units from:

- MUSC 167: Electro-Acoustic Music I (3 units)
- MUSC 168: Electro-Acoustic Music II (3 units)
- MUSC 169: Electro-Acoustic Music III (3 units)

3 elective units by advisement

Degree:	MM
Concentration:	**Conducting**
Total Units to Degree:	30
The following road map is an advising tool that outlines a path of courses a student can take to complete requirements for graduation. This roadmap should be used in consultation with the catalog and your department advisor to identify other requirements for completing the major (for example course grade minimums). Note that at the graduate level, full-time status is determined as 8 units of graduate-level courses OR any combination of weighted graduate units and undergraduate units equal to 12 or more units.	

Fall Semester – Year 1	
MUSC 200 (3)	Methods of Music Research and Writing
MUSC 224B (2)	Supervised Graduate Study
MUSC 220 (3)	Seminar in Advanced Conducting
Ensemble (1)	

Spring Semester – Year 1	
MUSC 201A–D (3)	Seminar in Music History
MUSC 224B (2)	Supervised Graduate Study
Ensemble (1)	
Elective (1)	

Fall Semester – Year 2	
MUSC 203 (3)	Seminar in Style and Performance Practices
MUSC 224B (2)	Supervised Graduate Study
Ensemble (1)	
Elective (1)	

Spring Semester – Year 2	
MUSC 202 (3)	Seminar in Music Systems and Theory
MUSC 297 (3)	Master's Recital or Composition
Elective (1)	
Culminating Exam (0)	

Concentration requirements:
6 units from:

- Ensemble (1 unit, 3X = 3 units). Instrumental conducting students should take Wind Ensemble or Symphony Orchestra as assigned by the area coordinator. Choral conducting students should take Concert Choir or Choraliers as assigned by the area coordinator.
- MUSC 220: Studies in Advanced Conducting (3 units)

3 elective units by advisement

Degree:	MM
Concentration:	**Performance (instrumental)**
Total Units to Degree:	30

The following road map is an advising tool that outlines a path of courses a student can take to complete requirements for graduation. This roadmap should be used in consultation with the catalog and your department advisor to identify other requirements for completing the major (for example course grade minimums). Note that at the graduate level, full-time status is determined as 8 units of graduate-level courses OR any combination of weighted graduate units and undergraduate units equal to 12 or more units.

Fall Semester – Year 1	
MUSC 200 (3)	Methods of Music Research and Writing
MUSC 224C (2)	Supervised Graduate Study
Large ensemble (1)	
MUSC 232 (1)	Advanced Field Experience
Elective (1)	

Spring Semester – Year 1	
MUSC 201A–D (3)	Seminar in Music History
MUSC 224C (2)	Supervised Graduate Study
Large ensemble (1)	
MUSC 232 (1)	Advanced Field Experience
Elective (1)	

Fall Semester – Year 2	
MUSC 203 (3)	Seminar in Style and Performance Practices
MUSC 224C (2)	Supervised Graduate Study
Large ensemble (1)	
MUSC 232 (1)	Advanced Field Experience

Spring Semester – Year 2	
MUSC 202 (3)	Seminar in Music Systems and Theory
MUSC 297 (3)	Master's Recital or Composition
Elective (1)	
Culminating exam (0)	

Concentration requirements:

6 units from:

- Large Ensemble (1 unit, 3X = 3 units). Wind Ensemble or Symphony Orchestra assigned by area coordinator.
- MUSC 232: Advanced Field Experience (1 unit, 3X = 3 units)

3 units by advisement

Degree:	MM
Concentration:	**Performance (vocal)**
Total Units to Degree:	30

The following road map is an advising tool that outlines a path of courses a student can take to complete requirements for graduation. This roadmap should be used in consultation with the catalog and your department advisor to identify other requirements for completing the major (for example course grade minimums). Note that at the graduate level, full-time status is determined as 8 units of graduate-level courses OR any combination of weighted graduate units and undergraduate units equal to 12 or more units.

Fall Semester – Year 1	
MUSC 200 (3)	Methods of Music Research and Writing
MUSC 224D (2)	Supervised Graduate Study
MUSC 242 (1)	Art Song Repertoire
MUSC 252 (1)	Opera Theater

Spring Semester – Year 1	
MUSC 201A–D (3)	Seminar in Music History
MUSC 224D (2)	Supervised Graduate Study
MUSC 144 (1)	REP: Solo Lit., Perf. Pedagogy
MUSC 252 (1)	Opera Theater

Fall Semester – Year 2	
MUSC 203 (3)	Seminar in Style and Performance Practices
MUSC 224D (2)	Supervised Graduate Study
MUSC 252 (1)	Opera Theater
Electives (2)	

Spring Semester – Year 2	
MUSC 202 (3)	Seminar in Music Systems and Theory
MUSC 297 (3)	Master's Recital or Composition
MUSC 252 (1)	Opera Theater
Elective (1)	
Culminating exam (0)	

Concentration requirements

6 units from:

- MUSC 242: Art Song Repertoire (1 unit, repeatable for up to 2 units)
- MUSC 144: Solo Literature and Performance Practice and Pedagogy (1 unit, repeatable for up to 4 units)
- MUSC 252: Opera Theater (1 unit, must enroll 4 times)

Electives: 3 units by advisement

Degree:	MM
Concentration:	**Music Education**
Total Units to Degree:	30

The following road map is an advising tool that outlines a path of courses a student can take to complete requirements for graduation. This roadmap should be used in consultation with the catalog and your department advisor to identify other requirements for completing the major (for example course grade minimums). Note that at the graduate level, full-time status is determined as 8 units of graduate-level courses OR any combination of weighted graduate units and undergraduate units equal to 12 or more units.

Fall Semester – Year 1	
MUSC 200 (3)	Methods of Music Research and Writing
MUED 221 (3)	Foundations of Music Education
MUSC 232 (1)	Advanced Field Experience

Spring Semester – Year 1	
MUSC 201A–D (3)	Seminar in Music History
MUED 232 (3)	Directions and Issues in Music Education
Electives (2)	

Fall Semester – Year 2	
MUSC 203 (3)*	Seminar in Style and Performance Practices
MUED 370A (2)	Methodology for Music Educators K-8/Secondary
Electives (2)	

Spring Semester – Year 2	
MUSC 202 (3)	Seminar in Music Systems and Theory
MUED 370B (2)	Methodology for Music Educators K-8/Secondary
MUSC 299 (3)	Master's Thesis
Culminating exam (0)	

** Music Education students may also take MUSC 221 (Improvisational Traditions) instead of MUSC 203. MUSC 221 is offered according to faculty schedules.*

Degree:	MM
Concentration:	**Musicology**
Total Units to Degree:	30

The following road map is an advising tool that outlines a path of courses a student can take to complete requirements for graduation. This roadmap should be used in consultation with the catalog and your department advisor to identify other requirements for completing the major (for example course grade minimums). Note that at the graduate level, full-time status is determined as 8 units of graduate-level courses OR any combination of weighted graduate units and undergraduate units equal to 12 or more units.

Fall Semester – Year 1	
MUSC 200 (3)	Methods of Music Research and Writing
MUSC 224E (2)	Supervised Graduate Study
Electives (2)	

Spring Semester – Year 1	
MUSC 201A–D (3)	Seminar in Music History
MUSC 224E (2)	Supervised Graduate Study
MUSC 205 (3)	Seminar in Ethnomusicology

Fall Semester – Year 2	
MUSC 203 (3)	Seminar in Style and Performance Practices
MUSC 224E (2)	Supervised Graduate Study
Elective (1)	

Spring Semester – Year 2	
MUSC 202 (3)	Seminar in Music Systems and Theory
MUSC 201A–D (3)	Seminar in Music History
MUSC 299 (3)	Master's Thesis
Culminating exam (0)	

Degree:	MM
Concentration:	**Jazz Studies**
Total Units to Degree:	30

The following road map is an advising tool that outlines a path of courses a student can take to complete requirements for graduation. This roadmap should be used in consultation with the catalog and your department advisor to identify other requirements for completing the major (for example course grade minimums). Note that at the graduate level, full-time status is determined as 8 units of graduate-level courses OR any combination of weighted graduate units and undergraduate units equal to 12 or more units.

Fall Semester – Year 1	
MUSC 200 (3)	Methods of Music Research and Writing
MUED 224F (2)	Supervised Graduate Study
Ensemble (1)	
Ensemble (1)	
Elective (1)	

Spring Semester – Year 1	
MUSC 201A–D (3)	Seminar in Music History
MUED 224F (2)	Supervised Graduate Study
Ensemble (1)	
Ensemble (1)	
Elective (1)	

Fall Semester – Year 2	
MUSC 203 (3)*	Seminar in Style and Performance Practices
MUED 224F (2)	Supervised Graduate Study
Ensemble (1)	
Elective (1)	

Spring Semester – Year 2	
MUSC 202 (3)	Seminar in Music Systems and Theory
MUSC 297 (3)	Master's Recital or Composition
Ensemble (1)	
Culminating exam (0)	

Ensemble requirements:

6 units from:

- MUSC 257: Jazz Orchestra (1 unit)
- MUSC 158: Gospel (1 unit)
- MUSC 259: Afro-Latin Jazz Ensemble (1 unit)
- MUSC 260F: Small Jazz Ensemble (1 unit)

* Jazz Studies students may also take MUSC 221 (Improvisational Traditions) instead of MUSC 203. MUSC 221 is offered according to faculty schedules.

APPENDIX 2: SAMPLE CANDIDACY FORM

SJSU SAN JOSÉ STATE UNIVERSITY

Petition for Advancement to Graduate Candidacy
09.2016

Student Information

Completed form should be emailed to the appropriate GAPE evaluator (see www.sjsu.edu/gape/about_us/staff), submitted to Window G in the Student Services Center, or sent through interoffice mail to extended zip 0017.

Last Name Bloggs First Name Joseph
Student ID 01234567 Previous Name (if any) _____
Current Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Daytime Phone _____ Email Address _____

Degree Information

Degree Sought, *e.g.* , MBA MM Major Music Concentration, if applicable Performance (Instrumental)
Means of satisfying Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement: Course Prefix, Catalog No. MUSC 200
University where taken SJSU Semester/Year GWAR Completed Fall 2026 ○ A ◉ B ○ C

Proposed Graduate Degree Program

A. Courses (include all SJSU courses taken and those that will be taken for degree credit; leave Grade section blank for current and future classes.)

Course Prefix/No.	Title	Semester Units	Grade	Semester/Year Completed
MUSC 200	Methods of Music Research and Writing	3	B	Fall 2025
MUSC 224C	Supervised Graduate Study	2	A	Fall 2025
MUSC 232	Advanced Field Experience	1	A	Fall 2025
MUSC 255	Graduate Wind Ensemble	1	A	Fall 2025
MUSC 260C	Graduate Chamber Music	1	A	Fall 2025
MUSC 201	Seminar in Music History	3	A	Spring 2026
MUSC 224C	Supervised Graduate Study	2	A	Spring 2026
MUSC 255	Graduate Wind Ensemble	1	B	Spring 2026
MUSC 232	Advanced Field Experience	1	A	Spring 2026
MUSC 203	Seminar in Style and Performance Practices	3	A	Fall 2026
MUSC 224C	Supervised Graduate Study	2	A	Fall 2026
MUSC 255	Graduate Wind Ensemble	1	B	Fall 2026
MUSC 260C	Graduate Chamber Music	1	A	Fall 2026
MUSC 232	Advanced Field Experience	1	A	Fall 2026
MUSC 202	Seminar in Music Systems and Theory	3		Spring 2027
MUSC 255	Graduate Wind Ensemble	1		Spring 2027

B. Culminating Experience

Check box if applicable and then fill out corresponding row

	Course Prefix/Catalog No. (*e.g.*, MAS 203)	Total Units	Grade	Semester/Year Completed
☐ 299 Thesis (Plan A)/Creative Work (Plan C)				
☑ Last completed project or comprehensive exam-preparation course (plan B)	MUSC 297	3		Spring 2027
☐ Other Culminating Experiences				

	Type	Semester/Year Completed
1) Other culminating experience		
2) Other culminating experience		

	Course Prefix/Catalog No. (*e.g.*, MAS 203)	Total Units	Grade	Semester/Year Completed
☐ 599 Dissertation				

C. Transfer Courses

University	Course Prefix/No.	Title	Semester Units	Grade	Semester/Year Completed
Sub. for SJSU Course					
Sub. for SJSU Course					
Sub. for SJSU Course					

Units	
A	
B	
C	
Total	

Required Signatures

Student _____ Date _____
Signature (certifies accuracy of the information provided)

The signatures below indicate approval.

Project or Thesis Advisor (if required by your department)
Name _____ Signature _____ Date _____

Department Grad Advisor (Grad Coordinator)
Name _____ Signature _____ Date _____

GAPE Evaluator
○ Approved ○ Denied Name _____ Date _____

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