

MEMT Music Therapy Graduate Equivalency Program Handbook

Music Therapy Graduate Equivalency Program

Individuals who hold baccalaureate degrees in fields such as music education, music performance, psychology, or other related areas sometimes choose to enter the music therapy profession through the “graduate equivalency” program. This program leads to eligibility to take the examination given by the Certification Board for Music Therapists (CBMT). Professionals who pass this examination are granted the credential, Music Therapist Board Certified (MT-BC). This program typically requires four semesters of full-time work on campus plus completion of an AMTA approved or university-affiliated internship (usually for a six-month period) after the end of graduate equivalency coursework.

The music therapy graduate equivalency curriculum is designed specifically for individuals who do not have an undergraduate degree in music therapy. Programs can be designed for those with other music backgrounds provided they can meet NASM music requirements. (The undergraduate music therapy degree normally includes all of the work required in the major instrument, music ensemble, music theory and history, conducting, functional music skills in piano, voice, guitar and percussion, behavioral sciences, and biological sciences.) Each student meets with an academic advisor in music therapy for transcript analysis and preparation of a specific course list and sequence for completion of the equivalency program.

The graduate equivalency program works well for those who seek the master’s degree as well as initial entry into the music therapy profession. It contains the best sequencing of the core music therapy coursework and clinical experience. Variations occur depending on the exact nature of the individual’s prior coursework.

The equivalency can be earned without completing the master’s degree. The master’s degree with a major in music therapy will not be awarded to individuals who are not eligible for board certification in music therapy. Thus, the master’s degree for persons not already eligible for certification requires completion of the equivalency program and of all the requirements specified on the MME-with major in Music Therapy Degree Program Plan. This handbook is designed to supplement the information in the KU undergraduate and graduate catalogs. The curriculum meets the constraints of various certifying and accrediting agencies, including the North Central Association of Secondary Schools and Colleges, the National Association of Schools of Music, and the American Music Therapy Association (AMTA).

Entrance into the program requires the admission materials listed in the MEMT Graduate Application Procedure document located [here](#).

Most students entering the Music Therapy Graduate Equivalency Program (GEP) also enter the master’s degree program in music therapy, **Master of Music Education (MME) with a major in Music Therapy (MT-MME)** as well. The graduate equivalency program must be completed entirely before the bulk of the master’s degree program in music therapy is started. The last item to complete in the GEP program is the clinical internship.

Students who wish to enter both the GEP program and the MT-MME program will need to review the following materials.

- MEMT Graduate Application Procedure Document
- Music Therapy Graduate Equivalency Requirement Sheet
- MEMT Music Therapy Graduate Equivalency Program Handbook
- MME, Major in Music Therapy Degree Planning Outline
- MEMT Masters Graduate Handbook – MME Degrees

Students should follow the requirements listed on the program requirement sheet that is in force at the time they enter the program. All of these documents can be located through the [MEMT degree requirements](#) webpage.

Academic Advising

The graduate student is initially assigned a faculty advisor. Each student consults with the advisor to plan enrollment for subsequent semesters. The advisor is available to help, to suggest ways to avoid course conflicts, to recommend courses particularly beneficial for various emphases, and to offer career guidance. It is **not** the advisor's duty to tell students which courses to take and when to take them. The responsibility for taking appropriate courses and for meeting other requirements rests upon the student. Lack of knowledge of any requirement does not free the student from meeting that requirement.

Professional Organizations

The KU Music Therapy Student Association (MTSA) provides opportunities for students to further their professional education and perform services for others. MTSA holds regular meetings during the year and sponsors a variety of activities. Student members often attend and participate in AMTA regional and national conferences. Student membership in the student professional organization (AMTAS) includes subscriptions to the official journals of that organization. Information concerning activities and memberships of both entities will be announced in classes and/or posted on e-mail.

The Graduate Equivalency Music Therapy Professional Sequence

Music therapy graduate equivalency students should apply at the end of the first semester of their KU studies for entrance into the professional sequence. The Application to the Music Therapy Graduate Equivalency Professional Sequence is available at <http://music.ku.edu/memt/documents#graduate>. Students may enroll in the restricted courses listed in the Professional Sequence during main enrollment prior to formal approval by the Director of Music Therapy. However, this enrollment is contingent upon the student receiving approval for the professional sequence prior to the beginning of the actual coursework in which they enrolled. If this approval has not occurred, the student is required to drop the professional sequence courses until such time as approval has been met. The application for admission to the professional sequence asks students to indicate whether or not they have been convicted of a felony or a crime involving dishonesty, a controlled substance, a child, or public health and safety.

Admission to the Graduate Equivalency Music Therapy Professional Sequence is based upon the following minimum criteria:

1. Cumulative Grade Point Average of 3.00 or higher.
2. Grade Point Average of 3.00 or higher in MEMT Courses
3. A grade of "B" or better in each of the music therapy courses that follow:
MEMT 150 Introduction to Music Therapy
MEMT 251 Clinical Techniques for Children
4. Successful completion of the Clinical Musicianship Assessment.
5. Signed applied music recommendation form verifying successful completion of the first semester of equivalent Sophomore Level lessons. (This only applies to students whose Bachelor's degree was non-music)
6. Successful completion of the application form (typed).

No student may be admitted into the professional sequence for a semester during which he/she will be on academic probation.

Clinical Practicum Work Prior to Clinical Internship

After admittance to the professional sequence, music therapy students participate in six credits of clinical practica in the field. Practica assignments may be within the on-campus music therapy clinic or may be in the field in Lawrence or surrounding communities. The student music therapist will have experience with individuals, small, and large groups and with a variety of populations spanning children, adolescents, adults, and older adults.

Music Therapy Clinical Musicianship Assessment Process

As part of the clinical practicum sequence, students will participate in a series of music therapy clinical musicianship assessments. The intent of these assessments is for the student music therapist to demonstrate skills in singing, accompanying, and essential leadership qualities. The Clinic Supervision Team (CST) will evaluate student music therapist's progress as a review panel. Detailed information is available in the Music Therapy Clinical Musicianship Assessment Process document on the MEMT website at <http://music.ku.edu/memt/documents#graduate>.

Music Therapy Internship

Students should complete the Application of Evaluation for Music Therapy Internship Eligibility 1 year in advance of completion of coursework. During the last year of coursework, music therapy students apply for internship at an approved national roster or a university-affiliated site. A list of national roster internship sites is located at <http://www.musictherapy.org>. A current list of university-affiliated internship sites may be obtained from the Director of Music Therapy. **Once accepted, the facility may require an affiliation agreement between the university and the facility. The student must forward this document to the Director of Music Therapy to be approved by the University General Counsel and signed by the Dean of the School of Music.** The student should turn in the [Music Therapy Internship Information Sheet](#) to the MEMT office once they have been accepted and prior to leaving for their internship. This document is found at <http://music.ku.edu/memt/documents#graduate>.

Following completion of coursework, music therapy students enroll in Clinical Internship. Completion of the internship and the academic work qualifies the individual to apply to take the examination given by the Certification Board for Music Therapists (CBMT). Professionals who pass this examination are granted the credential, Music Therapist Board Certified (MT-BC). The internship is usually for a 6-month period and should be completed within 2 years after the end of coursework. The internship carries academic credit of at least 2 semester hours.

From a professional standpoint, the clinical internship is the culmination of the graduate equivalency program in music therapy. It is an integrative supervised series of professional activities and responsibilities. Advanced demonstrations of knowledge and skills are necessary prior to starting the internship.

Because of the need for professional preparation and proper institutional placement, the following policies are applicable to all music therapy majors.

1. Prerequisites that must be completed prior to the clinical internship are as follows:
 - a. All coursework
 - b. All functional skills requirements
2. Music therapy majors must complete the necessary internship application procedures and provide evidence that all internship prerequisites have been or are being completed, at least 4 ½ months and preferably 1 year prior to the time at which they plan to begin the internship. If evidence of completion or near completion is lacking, the application for internship will not be approved, and the student will have to delay the internship period.
3. Once a student has been assigned to an internship position, he or she is required to complete the experience in the assigned time period. In the event that a student should withdraw once an assignment has been made, MEMT faculty approval is required before he or she can submit an application for another assignment.

The following section pertains *only to students without an undergraduate degree in music or music education*

Musical Performance Proficiency Requirements

Process Concerning the “Major Performance Medium” for MEMT Majors

Each student must successfully pass an audition in their performance medium in order to enroll in private instruction. Students then enroll for private instruction in that medium under the appropriate course number.

The typical audition is approximately 10 minutes in length, during which the student will perform scales, studies, solo literature, and other materials that may be specified by the appropriate applied music area. The evaluation committee will include two or more members of the applied music faculty from the appropriate area.

The evaluation will result in either acceptance or denial status for the student in that major performance medium. Notice of the status will be provided to the student in writing, with a copy to the student’s departmental file.

Major Performance Medium

Each student must become proficient in a major performance medium. The student’s performance skill must be sufficient to justify self-respect and the respect of others, both musicians and non-musicians.

In order to assure that each student has reached satisfactory competence in the major medium, a “quiz-out” is required. Successful completion of the semester of study in the applied music number 422, Senior Project, certifies that they have reached “quiz-out” level. One of the requirements of this course is performance of an acceptable senior level recital in the major performance medium. This recital typically includes at least a half-hour of music; part of this recital must be solo.

Music Therapy graduate equivalency students are required to take a minimum of 7 semesters (or the equivalent) of the major performance medium at 2 hours credit per semester, culminating in completion of XXXX 422.

Keyboard/Functional Skills

Functional skills in music are essential to success in music therapy. Such skills include accompanying, improvising, reading chord charts and sight-reading. Students must complete these skills early in the curriculum, as they are needed for class, clinical practicum, performance/conducting sequences, and subsequent professional studies.

Music Therapy students must have keyboard skills sufficient to be successful in PIAN 288 or 310. All keyboard skills courses should be completed during the first four semesters of enrollment on campus.

Students without prior keyboard experience will take the group piano sequence consisting of PIAN 144, 148, 284, 288. Students whose major performance medium is piano or organ will take PIAN 310.

Information on the Keyboard Skills Placement Examination is available on the SOM website at <http://music.ku.edu/placement-exams>.

Music Theory Placement Examination:

This examination, which includes both written and ear-training components, is required of all students who have not completed a four-semester theory sequence with an accredited NASM school.

Additional information on the Music Theory Placement Examination is available on the SOM website at <http://music.ku.edu/placement-exams>. Advanced registration for the exam is not necessary; incoming students interested in taking the exam may simply arrive at one of the specific times and locations.

Ensemble Credit

The music therapy graduate equivalency program requires students participate in seven (or equivalent) semesters of ensemble. At least five of these semesters must include participation in major auditioned ensembles. The major auditioned ensembles include University Orchestra, University Symphonic Band, Concert Wind Ensemble, University Marching Band, Concert Band, University Singers, Concert Chorale, and Chamber Choir. Students select ensembles from those most appropriate to their major performance medium; instrumentalists usually take part in band and/or orchestra, while singers usually take part in a variety of ensembles during their academic careers. Many small ensembles, including Collegium Musicum and Jazz, are available for credit.