SPECIAL REPORT

OF THE

GRADUATE COUNCIL

concerning

CREATION OF A CERTIFICATE PROGRAM
IN MUSIC THEORY PEDAGOGY
(#4374)

Presented at the
774th Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate
January 25, 2018

COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

GRADUATE COUNCIL


Briefly describe the certificate.

The proposed Certificate in Music Theory Pedagogy, offered by the Department of Music and Dance, is intended to (1) strengthen our current offerings at the Master’s level for matriculating graduate students; (2) provide additional professional training for non-matriculating Continuing and Professional Education (CPE) students who have earned a baccalaureate degree with a concentration in music (either a professional degree in music, such as a BM, or a liberal arts degree in music, such as a BA or BS) and passed the Department’s Graduate Theory Diagnostic Exam; and (3) serve as one pathway for well-qualified non-matriculating students to enter our full-time Master’s programs (subject to the usual admissions process), with concentrations in Collaborative Piano, Composition, Conducting, Jazz Composition and Arranging, Music Education, Music History, Music Theory, and Performance.

The Certificate would prepare post-baccalaureate performers, educators, theorists, historians, composers, and other musicians to teach music theory in a variety of educational settings. This credential would certify that students have acquired the professional skills necessary to teach music theory, making them more competitive on the job market.

The Certificate comprises 12 credits at the 600-level or higher: two core theory courses (3 credits...
each) at the 600-level, chosen from a list of approved courses (provided below); Pedagogy of Theory (MUSIC 615, 3 credits); and a supervised Teaching Practicum (MUSIC 795B, 3 credits). (N.B. This proposal assumes a course title change for MUSIC 795B; see proposal ID#4372.)

Courses are offered in person and on campus (i.e., not online) during the fall and spring semesters.

Non-matriculating students can usually complete the Certificate within one academic year (two semesters). We anticipate that most matriculating Master’s students will distribute the Certificate’s four required courses (12 credits) evenly over two years of study, taking one 3-credit course per semester.

*Provide a brief overview of the process for developing this certificate.*

This certificate was designed by the graduate faculty in music theory (Brent Auerbach, Jason Hooper, Gary S. Karpinski, and Christopher White), in coordination with the Chair of the Department of Music and Dance (Robert M. Marvin). The purpose of and requirements for the Certificate were presented in a full faculty meeting on April 4, 2017. The faculty voted unanimously in support of the Certificate at a subsequent meeting on April 20, 2017.

*Purpose and Goals*

Describe the certificate's purpose and the particular knowledge and skills that will be acquired by participating students.

The purpose of the Certificate is to prepare post-baccalaureate performers, educators, theorists, historians, composers, and other musicians to teach music theory in a variety of educational settings. These settings include teaching in private studios, community schools and summer programs, secondary schools, and higher education (e.g., community colleges, liberal arts colleges, and even some smaller universities). This credential will certify that students have acquired the professional skills necessary to teach music theory, making them more competitive on the job market.

Students will learn advanced music-theoretic concepts in two 600-level seminars and actively engage in musical analysis and academic research. From this base of knowledge within the field, students then learn about traditional and more recent pedagogical approaches used to teach music theory. Students will become familiar with and critically evaluate the primary and secondary pedagogical literatures (e.g., theory textbooks, books and articles on learning theory), cognition and perception as these topics relate to pedagogy, and course and curriculum design. Students will examine multiple approaches to problems in current theory pedagogy, and they will observe teachers of various theory courses in action, reflecting on the practical application of what they have learned. Students will also put what they have learned into practice through a supervised teaching practicum, where they gain valuable teaching experience and learn how best to evaluate and improve their own teaching over time.

*Resources*

If this proposal requires no additional resources, say so and briefly explain why. If this proposal requires additional resources, explain how they will be paid for. For proposals involving instruction, indicate how many new enrollments are expected and whether the courses have
room to accommodate them.

The 600-level courses required for this Certificate are all currently offered as part of existing academic programs and do not require additional resources.

Pedagogy of Theory (MUSIC 615, 3 credits) is currently offered every other year but we expect this course will be offered every year as enrollment in the Certificate increases.

The Teaching Practicum (MUSIC 795B, 3 credits) will require that members of the graduate theory faculty supervise students on an individual basis.

**Curriculum**

Please describe the curriculum for this certificate, listing all required courses and possible electives, any prerequisites or GPA requirements, the recommended order or coursework and any other pertinent information. You may attach additional materials related to the curriculum at the end of this section.

Prerequisites: Before beginning coursework used toward the Certificate, matriculating and non-matriculating students must have earned a baccalaureate degree with a music concentration (either a professional degree in music, such as a BM, or a liberal arts degree in music, such as a BA or BS), and have passed all sections of the Music Department’s Graduate Theory Diagnostic Exam.

GPA requirements: Students must earn a grade of B (3.0) or higher in each course used toward the Certificate.

Required courses: Students are required to take two core theory courses (3 credits each) at the 600-level, chosen from a list of approved courses provided below; Pedagogy of Theory (MUSIC 615, 3 credits); and a supervised Teaching Practicum (MUSIC 795B, 3 credits). All courses must be taken at UMass Amherst.

The two core theory courses may be chosen from the following:

**MUSIC 591S: Post-Tonal Theory**
MUSIC 691A: Analysis of Music since 1945
MUSIC 691C: Analysis of Counterpoint
MUSIC 691F: Musical Forms
MUSIC 691M: Motivic Analysis
MUSIC 691O: Analysis of Opera
MUSIC 691P: Analysis for Performance
MUSIC 691R: Analysis of Rhythm and Meter
MUSIC 691S: Schenkerian Analysis
MUSIC 691G: Jazz Styles and Analysis
Other 600-level music-theory courses as approved by the Graduate Program Director

**N.B.** This proposal assumes a course level change for MUSIC 591S to MUSIC 691K; see proposal ID #4373.
Recommended order of coursework: Students may take the two 600-level courses at any time and in any order. Students are required to complete Pedagogy of Theory (MUSIC 615) with a grade of B or higher before beginning the supervised Teaching Practicum (MUSIC 795B).

**Explain how these courses represent a coherent course of study.**

This curriculum is designed to ensure students have basic competencies in music theory and analysis, as demonstrated by passing the Music Department’s Graduate Theory Diagnostic Exam. Students choose two theory seminars from a list of approved courses at the 600-level to deepen their understanding in areas that interest them or relate to their professional goals. (For example, a matriculating Master’s student concentrating in violin performance who plans to teach private lessons might take MUSIC 691P: Analysis for Performance; or, a non-matriculating music educator whose high school program has a jazz emphasis might take MUSIC 691G: Jazz Styles and Analysis.) With this combination of breadth and depth, students then learn about traditional and more recent pedagogical approaches within the field of music theory, including how these approaches have been implemented in a variety of educational settings (Pedagogy of Theory, MUSIC 615). Students then put their knowledge of music theory and theory pedagogy into practice through supervised teaching (Teaching Practicum, MUSIC 795B).

**Describe how there is a clear educational objective that can be achieved in an efficient and well-defined manner.**

This Certificate will help students become effective teachers of music theory. Students will deepen their understanding of music theory in areas that interest them or relate to their professional goals. Students will learn about traditional and more recent pedagogical approaches within the field of music theory, including how these approaches have been implemented in a variety of educational settings. Finally, students will put their knowledge of music theory and theory pedagogy into practice through a supervised teaching practicum.

**Explain how the course sequence offers a clear objective at the appropriate educational level.**

All required courses are at the 600-level or higher, which is appropriate for matriculating graduate students and non-matriculating students who have earned a baccalaureate degree with a concentration in music. The course sequence balances intensive study in music theory with training in pedagogy and practical teaching experience.

**Describe the perceived need for this certificate.**

Although musicians must specialize in one area of study at the graduate level, teaching music theory is often an integral part of most musicians’ professional careers, regardless of their specialization. For example, performers often teach theory as part of lessons in their private studio, at community music schools and summer programs, and as faculty members in community colleges, liberal arts colleges, and even some smaller universities. Music educators at the secondary level are often required to teach AP Music Theory. And, of course, professional music theorists, historians, and composers regularly teach music-theoretic concepts. This Certificate provides a structured curriculum for students in music pursuing diverse concentrations and professional goals, most of whom will teach theory at some point in their career.
If the courses that comprise the certificate have been or currently are being offered, describe their schedule of availability. If the certificate is comprised of new courses, describe their planned availability.

The 600-level core theory seminars are currently offered on a regular two-year rotation, with two courses offered in the fall and three courses offered in the spring. Pedagogy of Theory (MUSIC 615, 3 credits) is offered every other fall semester (including fall 2017), but we anticipate this course would be offered every fall as demand for the Certificate grows. The supervised Teaching Practicum (MUSIC 795B) is an independent study that may be arranged with a faculty member during any fall or spring semester, provided that a student has met the prerequisites.

If the certificate requires or includes courses from outside the sponsoring department, provide evidence of agreement(s) with the unit(s) offering those courses. You may attach any memoranda of understanding below.

Not applicable: All required courses for this certificate are offered by the Department of Music and Dance.

If applicable, please attach any memoranda of understanding from other departments or colleges below.

*No Files Uploaded at This Time*

If the requirements for this certificate overlap with those of another certificate or a degree program, describe that overlap.  
(Note that if a student who has completed a certificate seeks clearance for a degree program that overlaps with that certificate program, the Registrar will note on the transcript that the certificate has been superseded by the degree.)

There is no overlap with an existing certificate program.

The Certificate’s two required core theory courses at the 600-level overlap with the core theory requirement for all Master of Music concentrations; in addition, Pedagogy of Theory (MUSIC 615) overlaps with the requirements for the Master of Music with a concentration in Music Theory.

All Certificate requirements overlap with the requirements for the PhD in Music Theory and would be superseded by this degree, although admission to this program has been suspended since January 2016.

What type of student is allowed to participate in this certificate program? (E.g., matriculated UMass students, non-matriculated CPE students, Five College students, graduate students, students in a specific degree program, etc.)

Matriculating graduate students and non-matriculating Continuing and Professional Education (CPE) students at UMass Amherst are eligible to participate in this certificate program. All participating students must meet the prerequisites, which include a baccalaureate degree with a
concentration in music and passing all sections of the Music Department’s Graduate Theory
Diagnostic Exam.

What role will this certificate play in relation to other departments or degree programs on
campus? Certificates vary widely across campus and may represent a subset of an existing
degree program, a multidisciplinary program, or an entirely free-standing area of focus.

This certificate does not overlap with other departments on campus and is intended primarily
for matriculating students who are pursuing a Master of Music degree or non-matriculating
students pursuing the Certificate as a free-standing area of focus.

Is this a transitional certificate program?
(Transitional certificate programs are comprised of core courses from specific degree programs
and may act as stepping stones into those programs. If a student who has completed a
transitional certificate matriculates to the University and completes the degree program
associated with that certificate, the transcript will note that the certificate has been superseded
by the degree.)

No Comments: No, this certificate is intended to be transitional only “in part.” The Certificate’s
two required core theory courses satisfy the core theory requirement for all Master of Music
concentrations. Non-matriculating students could use these credits towards a Master of Music
degree if they matriculated. The Certificate’s required Teaching Practicum (MUSIC 795B) does
not overlap with the requirements for any Master of Music concentration; therefore, the
Certificate is not superseded by a Master of Music degree. Furthermore, this Certificate is not
intended to be transitional for the PhD in Music Theory.

If applicable, please attach any additional material relating to the certificate (such as
requirement checksheets for students, etc.) below.

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MOTION: That the Faculty Senate approve the Creation of a Certificate in Music Theory