Senior Project Information Overview

All Music majors undertake a senior project as part of their degree requirements. These projects may take the form of a **written thesis**, a **performance recital** (instrumental or vocal), a **composition recital**, or a **music production project**.

**NOTE:** This information sheet gives a general overview of the senior project process; for complete details, please refer to [www.oxy.edu/music/majoring-music/senior-comprehensive-project](http://www.oxy.edu/music/majoring-music/senior-comprehensive-project).

**Requirements**

Thesis writers will propose a senior thesis of 6500 words or more in length (excluding footnotes and bibliography).

All other students will propose an analytic, argument-driven paper of 2500 words or more in length in addition to the recital aspect of their project, which includes a printed recital program with program notes.

*Performers* will present a 30-45 minute junior recital and a 60 minute senior recital.  
*Composers* will present a 25-30 minute senior recital of their original works and are responsible for recruiting players.  
*Producers* will present a 45-60 minute live set of their original productions in their senior year and are responsible for planning a public event in a venue that is most appropriate for their music’s genres.

**Study Abroad**

Students considering studying abroad in their junior year must begin the music theory sequence in their first year and should only consider study abroad programs that can advance them in their particular Music major track. Students wanting to study abroad in the fall semester of their junior year must have declared the Music major prior to submitting their study abroad application in February of their sophomore year. They must determine with their Music advisor whether they can fulfill the major requirements in their proposed study abroad program.

Students with a performance concentration who study abroad in the spring semester of their junior year are expected to give their junior recital in the fall term.

**Timelines**

**All Students**

*Junior Year – Fall Semester*
Before Week 5: Meet with advisor to discuss senior project proposal  
Week 5: Submit senior project proposal form and supplementary documents

*Senior Year – Fall Semester*
Enroll in MUSC 474 (Senior Comprehensive Preparation)  
Enroll in MUSC 490 (Senior Seminar). Performers, composers, and producers will complete their analytic paper and program notes. Thesis writers will complete 3750 words of the first draft of their thesis papers and compile a 25-source bibliography.

**Thesis**

*Senior Year – Fall Semester*
Week 5: Present a summary of preliminary research to faculty
Week 12: Submit outline prospectus and preliminary bibliography to faculty project advisor
Week 15: Submit 3750 words of thesis first draft and 25-source bibliography

**Senior Year – Spring Semester**
Enroll in MUSC 474 (Senior Comprehensive Preparation)
Week 5: Submit complete first draft and all supporting materials
Week 10: Submit complete bibliography and second draft
Week 13: Submit three printed copies of final revision of completed paper to project advisor

**Analytic Paper and Program Notes (for Performers, Composers, and Producers)**

**Senior Year – Fall Semester**
Enroll in MUSC 490 (Senior Seminar)
Week 4 – Submit annotated bibliography
Week 6 – Submit abstract proposal
Week 10 – Submit complete first draft of analytic paper and program notes
By Last Day of Class – Submit final revision of analytic paper and program notes

**Senior Year – Spring Semester**
Monday April 15th by Noon – Submit analytic paper and recital program (plus scores for composers)

**Performance Recital**

**Junior Year – Fall Semester**
Enroll in MUSC 374 – Junior Comprehensive Preparation; 2 units
Beginning of the year – Set date for junior recital with faculty and concert manager

**Junior Year – Spring Semester**
4 weeks before recital – Perform jury for department faculty. Bring 3 copies of program draft.
At least 1 week before recital – Submit recital program to concert manager

**Senior Year – Fall Semester**
Beginning of the year – Set date for senior recital with faculty and concert manager

**Senior Year – Spring Semester**
4 weeks before recital – Perform jury for department faculty. Bring 3 copies of program draft
At least 1 week before recital – Submit recital program to concert manager

**Composition Recital**

**Junior Year – Spring Semester**
Discuss recital goals with composition teacher

**Senior Year – Spring Semester**
At least 5 weeks before recital - Submit complete instrumental and vocal parts
At least 4 weeks before recital – Jury meeting with department faculty
At least 5 days before jury – Submit complete portfolio to composition teacher, with all scores, analytic paper, and recital program draft
At least 1 week before recital – Submit print-ready recital program; Recruit, coach and rehearse musicians

**Production Project**
Producers will work with their project advisor to determine a timeline.