

Master of Music Therapy Degree Program

College of Health Sciences

Georgia College & State University

STUDENT HANDBOOK

2008-2009

Master of Music Therapy Degree Program Student Handbook

Table of Contents

Welcome.....	3
Faculty.....	4
Mission Statement, Philosophy, Accreditation and Affiliations, Areas of Concentration.....	5
Regular Admission Requirements	6
Provisional Admission Requirements, Equivalency/ Master Admissions Requirements/Steps in Completing the Master of Music Therapy.....	7
Thesis/Final Clinical Project Graduate Committee/ Program of Study.....	8
Suggested Program of Study Time-Line	9
Comprehensive Examination, Graduate Committee	10
Directing Inquiries Regarding Graduate Education in Health Sciences, Master of Music Therapy Degree Program Policies	11
On-Campus Seminars, Goals of the On-Campus Seminars.....	12
The Cohort Concept.....	13
Thesis/Final Clinical Project Proposal Form.....	14
Proposal Acceptance.....	15
Signature Page Form.....	17

Welcome

Welcome to Georgia College & State University, College of Health Sciences, and Music Therapy. You have chosen a graduate program that is innovative, individualized and designed to meet your life needs. The competencies you gained in your undergraduate studies, music therapy or music-related, will be the foundation for preparing you as a clinician, scholar, and a leader in the profession of music therapy.

The core music therapy courses are on-line. This gives you the autonomy to apply your assignments in your natural work environment or to complete them during times that do not interfere with your other responsibilities.

My “door” is always open. Come to me anytime you have questions, want to discuss the course, or just to talk about music therapy. I remember while I was in clinical practice, and the only music therapist at the facility, wanting other “like minds” to talk with about our profession.

I look forward to guiding you as you advance your knowledge and skills.

Sincerely,

*Chesley Mercado, Ed.D., MT-BC
Director of Music Therapy*

Music Therapy Faculty

Chesley S. Mercado, Ed.D., MT-BC

Associate Professor of Music Therapy

Georgia College & State University

Campus Box 067

Milledgeville, Georgia 31061

chesley.mercado@gcsu.edu

Office: Porter Fine Arts

Room 231

Telephone: 478-445-2645

Fax: 478-445-2645

Douglas Keith, Ph.D., MT-BC

Assistant Professor of Music Therapy

Georgia College & State University

Campus Box 067

Milledgeville, Georgia 31061

Office: Terrell Hall

Room 119

Telephone: 478-445-2123

Fax: 478-445-2645

Vicky Robinson, MS, MT-BC

Instructor of Music Therapy

Georgia College & State University

Campus Box 067

Milledgeville, Georgia 31061

Office: Terrell Hall

Room 115

Telephone: 478-445-2123

Fax: 478-445-2645

Master of Music Therapy Degree Program (MMT)

Mission Statement

The Master of Music Therapy degree advances students from competencies achieved in undergraduate studies to competencies which are in-depth, analytic, interdisciplinary, and global. The program prepares students as clinicians, scholars, and leaders in the profession of Music Therapy.

Philosophy

Graduate education provides the opportunity to acquire an advanced theoretical, research, and practical base for meeting the changing needs, nationally and internationally, of the people served by music therapists. Students may choose to focus on a specific area of concentration or choose a general track of study. The program is offered in an asynchronous learning format designed specifically to meet the needs of music therapists whose practice, family, or other life commitments may preclude the possibility of study on a full-time basis in a fixed time and geographic place. By means of online education, teleconferencing, and videoconferencing, this program permits the establishment of virtual collaborative learning communities not limited by geographic constraints. Periodic on-campus visits are mandatory as part of the degree program.

Accreditation and Affiliations

The Master of Music Therapy Degree Program is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music (NASM) and approved by the American Music Therapy Association (AMTA).

Areas of Concentration

Developmental Disabilities and Special Education
Mental/Physical Health
Women's Issues
Multicultural/International
General/ Administration

Master of Music Therapy

The Master of Music Therapy degree advances students from competencies achieved in undergraduate studies to competencies which are in-depth, analytic, interdisciplinary, and global. The program prepares students as clinicians, scholars, and leaders in the profession of Music Therapy. Graduate education provides the opportunity to acquire an advanced theoretical, research, and practical base for meeting the changing needs, nationally and internationally, of the people served by Music Therapists. Students may choose to focus on a specific area of concentration or choose a general track of study. The program is offered in an asynchronous learning format designed specifically to meet the needs of music therapists whose practice, family, or other life commitments may preclude the possibility of study on a full-time basis in a fixed time and geographic place. By means of online education, teleconferencing and videoconferencing, this program permits the establishment of virtual collaborative learning communities not limited by geographic constraints. On- campus visits twice per semester are mandatory as part of the degree program.

REGULAR ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

Depending on the admission test one selects, the following formula is used to determine eligibility for regular admission:

GRE score (verbal + quantitative) + [GPA (upper division) X 100] = 1200 or more

MAT score (minimum 385) + [GPA (upper division) X 100] = 700 or more

In addition to meeting the formula for admission, applicants must:

Have an undergraduate GPA of at least 2.75 on a 4.0 scale.

Have completed a bachelor's degree in music therapy, including an internship in an approved program, or have completed a degree equivalency program, including an internship in an approved program.

Show evidence of certification with the CBMT or be listed in the Music Therapy Registry for non-board-certified music therapists.

Provide 2 letters of recommendation from academic and/or professional references

Have access to a computer with Internet connection. Due to rapid changes, specific computer system requirements will be specified upon acceptance.

PROVISIONAL ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Students will be eligible for provisional admission in the following circumstances:

GRE score (verbal + quantitative) + [GPA (upper division) X 100] = 1100 to 1199

MAT score (minimum 385) + [GPA (upper division) X 100] = 660-669

To gain regular admission, provisional students must complete 12 hours of graduate coursework at GCSU with no less than a 'B' in each course approved by the Graduate Coordinator and by the Director of Music Therapy Programs.

EQUIVALENCY/MASTER ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

Students may be admitted jointly to the Degree Equivalency/Master of Music Therapy Program. The Degree Equivalency Program must be completed on the GCSU campus and consist of undergraduate preparatory music therapy courses. Supportive field courses for the Master of Music Therapy Program may be taken. No core music therapy courses may be taken until the equivalency and internship are completed without instructor and advisor permission. Students must:

Be eligible for admission to the Degree Equivalency Program (See undergraduate catalog for requirements)

Have an undergraduate grade point average of at least 3.00 on a 4.00 scale

Have successfully completed the GRE, or MAT according to GCSU's minimum acceptable scores.

STEPS IN COMPLETING THE MASTER OF MUSIC THERAPY

1. Submit a complete application for graduate study and all supporting documents to the Registrars Office
2. Consult with the faculty advisor for development of a program of study and area of concentration
3. Complete courses with 3.0 GPA
4. Complete the comprehensive written examination
5. Choose a graduate committee
6. Submit a proposal for the clinical project or thesis
7. Complete the Final Clinical Project or Thesis defense
8. Submit a written application for graduation by the date specified in the official university calendar.

THESIS/FINAL CLINICAL PROJECT GRADUATE COMMITTEE:

After successful completion of the written comprehensive examination, the student will choose a graduate committee to include the student's advisor, one professor from a supportive field area within the specified concentration, and one professor from any supportive field area. This committee will review the proposal for the thesis or clinical project and upon acceptance of the proposal the thesis or clinical project may be implemented. The student will arrange the defense meeting with the committee when the thesis or clinical project is completed.

PROGRAM OF STUDY - TOTAL: 30 semester hours

Core Music Therapy Courses.....20 semester hours

Required:

MUST 5000 Music Therapists and Technology (3)

MUST 5110 Gender and Cultural Issues in Music Therapy (3)

MUST 5120 Qualitative Research in Creative Arts Therapies (3)

MUST 5130 Quantitative Research in the Creative Arts Therapies (3)

MUST 5300 Special Topics in Music Therapy (on-campus: summer)(3)

or

MUST 5210 Music and the Exceptional Child (3) or

MUST 5600A Independent Study in Music Therapy I (1-3):

MUST 5600B Independent Study in Music Therapy II (1-3)

Post course Requirements.....1 semester hour

MUST 6490 Comprehensive Exam (0)

MUST 6600 Thesis (1-6) or

MUST 6500 Graduate Clinical Project (1- 6)

Supportive Field Courses.....9 semester hours

A minimum of 9 credits from supportive field areas, selected in consultation with advisor (i.e., Health Sciences, Psychology, Sociology, Special Education, Women's Studies, Music). All courses must be graduate level. These courses may be taken on the GCSU campus or transferred from other colleges or universities. No more than 9 semester hours of supportive field courses may be transferred from another institution.

MUST 5600C Independent Study in Music Therapy III (1-3)

MUST 5980 Study Abroad (3)

MUSIC THERAPY (MUST)

MUST 5000. MUSIC THERAPISTS AND TECHNOLOGY. (3-0-3)

Prerequisite: Admission in the Master of Music Therapy Degree Program or permission of the instructor. This on-line distance education course provides the student with an overview of the use of technology in the field of music therapy and practical applications for clinical practice, research, communication, and presentation.

MUST 5110 GENDER AND CULTURAL ISSUES IN CREATIVE ARTS THERAPIES (3-0-3)

This on-line course examines gender and cultural issues facing music therapists and other creative arts therapists during the therapeutic process and the impact of different race, and culture, age, sexual orientation, or nationality in the lives of therapists and consumers. On-line. Prerequisite: Admission into Master of Music Therapy degree program or permission of instructor.

MUST 5120 QUALITATIVE RESEARCH IN CREATIVE ARTS THERAPIES (3-0-3)

This course introduces students to the philosophy and methods of qualitative (naturalist, postpositivist) research in the creative arts therapies. Students explore a topic from the qualitative paradigm and design a research study in an area of interest, planning for all stages of data gathering, analysis, and interpretation. On-line Prerequisite: Admission into Master of Music Therapy degree program or permission of instructor.

MUST 5130 QUANTITATIVE RESEARCH IN THE CREATIVE ARTS THERAPIES (3-0-3)

This course examines issues and skills in quantitative research in the creative arts therapies, including a critical review of literature, designing a study, analyzing and interpreting existing literature, and ethical issues in research. On-line. Prerequisite: Admission into Master of Music Therapy degree program or permission of instructor.

MUST 5210. MUSIC AND THE EXCEPTIONAL CHILD. (3-0-3)

Focuses on the identification and basic techniques of teaching exceptional students in the regular classroom and examines special uses of music with students.

MUST 5300 A-C. GRADUATE SEMINARS IN SPECIAL TOPICS IN MUSIC THERAPY. (3-0-3)

Prerequisite: Admission in the Master of Music Therapy Degree Program or approval of instructor is required. This course will explore pertinent topics and contemporary issues in music therapy and related areas. A specific focus will be determined prior to each course.

MUST 5600 A-C. INDEPENDENT STUDY IN MUSIC THERAPY. (3-0-3)

Prerequisite: Admission in the Master of Music Therapy Degree program and approval of instructor: This course will provide students the opportunity to explore a specific topic or

area in music therapy independently. A clinical, academic or research project may be chosen.

MUST 5981. STUDY ABROAD. (3-0-3)

This course will explore music therapy outside of the United States. Travel to a specific country or territory will be mandatory. The course content will be the history of music therapy in the country, populations served, and techniques both musically and clinically. MUST 6490. COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION IN MUSIC THERAPY. (0-3-0)

Prerequisite: Successful completion of all academic coursework for the Master of Music Therapy Degree Program. This written examination is mandatory after the completion of all academic course requirements and prior to approval to begin MUST 6500 or MUST 6600. It measures specific and general comprehension of theory and practice in Music Therapy.

MUST 6500. GRADUATE CLINICAL PROJECT. (1-0-1)

Prerequisites: Successful completion of MUST 6490; approval of the Coordinator of Graduate Programs in Music Therapy. This course is a clinical alternative to the thesis. Students will develop and implement a clinical music therapy program of extensive and intensive nature at a community facility.

MUST 6600. MUSIC THERAPY THESIS. (1-0-1)

Prerequisites: Successful completion of MUST 6490; approval of the Coordinator of Graduate Programs in Music Therapy. An individual research study in which the student presents an original research idea, surveys the literature, formulates a specific research problem statement, designs the research methodology, collects and analyzes the results, and submits the results in a comprehensive written report. Directed by a major professor in music therapy.

MUST 6610. THESIS DEFENSE. (0-2-0)

Prerequisites: MUST 6500 or MUST 6600. This oral presentation, in conjunction with a written final document, will be presented to a committee chosen by the student. Please see Program Description for the composition of the committee.

Suggested Program of Study Timeline

YEAR	FALL SEMESTER	SPRING SEMESTER	SUMMER
One	Supportive Field Elective (3) MUST 5000 (3) Music Therapists and Technology MUST 5130 (3) Quantitative Research	MUST 5210 (3) Music for the Exceptional Child or 5600A (3) Independent Study I Supportive Field (3) MUST 5120 (3) Qualitative Research	MUST 5300 (3) Special Topics (on-campus) MUST 5980 (3) Study Abroad may be substituted as supportive elective MUST 5110 (3) Gender and Cultural Issues
Two	Supportive Field Elective (3) MUST 5600 B (3) Independent Study II MUST 6490 (0) Comprehensive Examination	MUST 6500/6600 (1-6) Clinical Project/Thesis	MUST 6610 (0) Defense

Comprehensive Examination

The Comprehensive Examination is required after the completion of all the core music therapy coursework, prior to officially choosing a Graduate Committee and beginning the Thesis/Final Project. You will register for MUST 6490 at the beginning of the semester you will complete your last core music therapy courses.

The purpose of the Comprehensive Examination is to evaluate the synthesis of material covered in each course and the extent this information meets the mission of the Master of Music Therapy Program to advance competencies which are in-depth, analytic, interdisciplinary, and global.

You will be asked to answer a question in essay form from each course. You will have one week to complete the examination and may use any and all materials from each course. Each answer will be based on scholarly references and your own reflections and interpretations. Questions will have a minimum length and references required. The Examination will be submitted to your faculty advisor for review in collaboration with other music therapy faculty teaching graduate courses. You will be notified of the results and comments in writing. You will then proceed with choosing your committee and completing your proposal or you will be asked to revise the Comprehensive Examination and submit to your advisor.

Graduate Committee

You will ask each prospective member of your committee to serve (See *Thesis/Final Clinical Project Committee* section for criteria). Upon acceptance by members, you will submit the names and contact information to your faculty advisor. You may submit your Thesis/Final Clinical Project Proposal to at this time.

Directing Inquiries Regarding Graduate Education in Health Sciences

1. Inquiries concerning admission to graduate work in the university and majors in the health sciences should be directed to the Registrar's Office, GCSU, Campus Box 069, Milledgeville, GA 31061.
2. Inquiries concerning the nature of the graduate program in music therapy should be sent to the Director of Music Therapy, Campus Box 067, GCSU, Milledgeville, GA 31061.
3. Inquiries concerning financial assistance should be sent to the Director of Financial Aid.
4. Inquiries concerning graduate assistantships should be directed to Donna Douglas, Graduate Studies, GCSU.

Master of Music Therapy Degree Program Policies

- GCSU policies concerning plagiarism will be followed.
- GCSU policies concerning alcohol and drugs will be followed.
- Diversity Policy:
The Department of Music Therapy recognizes that society is a unique mixture of diverse individuals. Diversity encompasses issues of gender, race, age, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, ability, color, country of origin and more. The Department of Music Therapy values and respects the diversity of individuals and seeks to prepare students who will be capable of working effectively with individuals of varying characteristics.
- The on-campus seminars held 2x each semester are mandatory. Unexcused absences will result in grades of all core master level music therapy courses lowered by 25%, and may result in suspension from the program.

On-Campus Seminars

On-campus seminars are held 2x each semester. These seminars are mandatory. The first seminar is held within the first three weeks of classes. The second seminar is held within the last two weeks of classes. Seminars are held on Friday evening and during the day and evening on Saturday. Housing can be arranged with local students.

The purpose of the seminars is to facilitate the learning community through face-to face interactions. This is necessary due to the asynchronous format of the Master of Music Therapy Degree Program. Course content is presented via distance education through WebCT courses . The seminars provide the part of graduate study that is traditionally acquired during class meetings such as forming positive relationships, participation as a group, and understanding individual strengths and needs.

Goals of the On-Campus Seminars:

1. To develop group cohesiveness
2. To form positive working relationships
3. To clarify course expectations and assignments
4. To increase oral presentation skills
5. To augment advanced competencies

The Cohort Concept

The Master of Music Therapy Degree Program is designed using the Cohort concept. Each new Cohort is comprised of students entering the program during the Fall or Spring semester of a specific year. The Cohort is independent of any coursework but is a required function of the program.

The purpose of the Cohort is to establish a cohesive learning community and a support system for students. This is important since many of the courses are completed in virtual communities and not in face-face interactions.

Each Cohort will determine the types and levels of involvement to meet the individual Cohort's needs. It may include virtual study sessions, in person study sessions, social outings, BLOGs, or other avenues.

There is one requirement that the Cohort must meet. In accordance with the service orientation of the profession of music therapy, each Cohort will design and implement a fundraising project to be completed within the timeframe of the Master of Music Therapy Degree Program. Monies raised may be distributed as the Cohort deems appropriate (i.e. community facilities, client needs, scholarships, divided between cohort members, etc.) with a determined percentage being donated to the Music Therapy Department at GCSU.

Advisors and faculty of the Master of Music Therapy Degree Program are available for consultation if needed, but the Cohort is the complete responsibility of the students.

Thesis/Final Clinical Project Proposal
(Submitted to Faculty Advisor with 3 copies for committee)

INSTRUCTIONS

I. Introduction and Background Information: This includes a basic literature review related to the proposed project or study to establish the background, feasibility and other work completed.

II. Statement of problem: Define the issue or question to be addressed: Use at least one reference to substantiate. Should be one or two paragraphs.

III. Purpose of Project/Study: What is the rationale for completing this project/study? What will be gained, learned, or established?

IV. Goal of the Project and Outcomes: Clearly state your goal(s) and outcomes. For the Thesis, state hypotheses.

V. Design, Data Collection, Methods for Thesis, and Steps/methods for completing the project. Example for Project:

Step/Methods	Responsibility	Responsible Person	Target Date	Completion Date	Comments
Literature Review					

VI. Potential facilitators for completing the project/study (Internal and external). Internal facilitators are the factors within your work or school environment that will assist you in completing the project/study. An example may be adequate space to complete the project. External facilitators are the factors outside of your work or school environment that will assist you in completing the project/study. An example may be a grant or volunteer help from the community.

VII. Potential hindrances for completing the project/study (Internal and External). Internal may be things like internal budget cuts or reassignment of job duties. External may be scheduling issues of other people or changes outside of your control.

VIII. Evaluation methods for the Project (Must have at least 2 forms). Data analysis methods for Thesis

**Proposal Acceptance
Signature Page**

I. Introduction and Background:

Accept as is: ___ Accept with the following revisions: ___

II. Statement of Problem:

Accept as is: ___ Accept with the following revisions: ___

III. Purpose of Project:

Accept as is: ___ Accept with the following revisions: ___

IV. Goal of Project and Outcomes: or Hypothesis

Accept as is: ___ Accept with the following revisions: ___

**V. Steps or Methods for Completion: Time Table: or Design, Data
Collection**

Accept as is: ___ Accept with the following revisions: ___

VI. Facilitators

Accept as is: ___ Accept with the following revisions: ___

VII. Hindrances

Accept as is: ___ Accept with the following revisions: ___

VIII. Evaluation Methods

Accept as is: ___ Accept with the following revisions: ___

Signatures

Faculty Advisor (print name) (signature) Date:

Committee Member (print name) (signature) Date:

Committee Member (print name) (signature) Date:

Student (print name) (signature) Date: