

Integrated Composition, Improvisation, and Technology, Ph.D.

The Ph.D. program in Integrated Composition, Improvisation, and Technology (ICIT) is taught by a core faculty whose work embraces diverse forms of music making, challenging conventional distinctions between classical composition, computer music, improvisation, and jazz. Students will receive close personal attention from faculty, and are encouraged to work on interdisciplinary projects. Applicants should possess an undergraduate degree in music or an equivalent level of training and should demonstrate potential for creative and innovative work integrating a wide range of contemporary music and ideas. In addition to the core ICIT faculty, the Music Department includes many other performers, musicologists, theorists, and historians, making for a rich environment in which to develop critical skills that are essential for the 21st-century musician.

In addition to meeting all general requirements for admission to graduate study, applicants should normally hold a B.A. in Music or a B.Mus. A master's degree is not required, but students with prior graduate study may request course requirement waivers as detailed below under Course Requirements. Applicants must demonstrate proficiency in vocal or instrumental performance commensurate with at least two years of individual undergraduate instruction, including exposure to improvisation and non-notated music.

The online application must be submitted and all supporting materials must be received by December 1. Supporting materials must include the following: Composition portfolio, Academic writing sample, and Performance audition (video).

Applicants are expected to have good general knowledge of music history and music theory and competence in basic musicianship skills. Entering students will be given diagnostic tests in these areas prior to the beginning of classes and will be expected to remedy any evident deficiencies during the first year in residence.

Required Courses

Students may request that specific course requirements be waived based on equivalent graduate coursework completed at other institutions, up to a maximum of 12 units. Such requests must be submitted in fall quarter of their first year and accompanied by relevant course syllabi and transcripts.

A. Complete:

MUSIC 200	Bibliography and Research
MUSIC 235	Critical Studies in Music
MUSIC 250	Directed Research (at least two quarters) ²
MUSIC 215A	Computer Music Composition and Production
MUSIC 212	Composition (two quarters)
MUSIC 276	Contemporary Ensemble (two quarters) ²
MUSIC 239	Thesis Colloquium (one quarter for one unit per year until advancement to candidacy) ^{1,2}

B. Select 44 units of additional courses chosen from the following: ³

MUSIC 209	Seminar in Creative Practices
MUSIC 236	Theoretical ICIT Seminar
MUSIC 237	Practical ICIT Seminar
MUSIC 215B	Computer Music Programming
MUSIC 276	Contemporary Ensemble
MUSIC 230	Seminar in Contemporary Music
MUSIC 231	Improvisation
MUSIC 220	Seminar in Music History
MUSIC 201	Topics in Analysis

¹ May be taken for 2 units with permission of instructor, for students presenting research in progress.

² Not eligible for equivalency from another institution.

³ May satisfy up to 8 units with an approved comparable graduate seminar in another department.

Assuming advancement to candidacy by the end of the third year, these requirements amount to 79 required units, leaving sufficient room for students to take additional coursework in other departments.

Language Requirement

Before advancing to candidacy, Ph.D. students must demonstrate a reading knowledge of a language other than English, at a level sufficient to conduct research in that language. This requirement may be met either by attaining a passing score in a translation examination administered by the department or by earning a grade of B or higher in level 2C (representing ability equivalent to two full years) of an approved undergraduate language course.

Advancement to Candidacy

The normative time for students to pass the Qualifying Examination and advance to candidacy is nine quarters (three years). Candidacy Committee chairs are assigned in the spring quarter of the first year of Ph.D. study. Students must sign up for two quarters of MUSIC 250 with their Candidacy Committee chair to prepare for qualifying exams. During these quarters of MUSIC 250, the student works with the Candidacy Committee chair to designate the remaining four committee members, and develops a dissertation prospectus to submit to the committee prior to the candidacy exam. The candidacy exam consists of a response of roughly 20 single-spaced pages to a set of questions provided by the committee, followed by an oral examination with the Candidacy Committee.

Students are not admitted to an M.A.-only program, but may be granted an M.A. in recognition of progress toward the Ph.D. by completing six quarters of ICIT coursework and submitting a portfolio of original musical work completed during that period.

Dissertation

After advancing to candidacy, the normative time to degree is three quarters (one year). The dissertation committee is chaired by a member of the core ICIT faculty and must include at least one other member of the Senate faculty in Music. A third committee member must be a UC Senate faculty from outside the UCI Music Department, and a fourth member must be a qualified faculty from any department including Music.

The Ph.D. dissertation in ICIT combines innovative creative activity with scholarly research. The goal of the dissertation is to address a major intellectual issue in the integration of composition, improvisation, and technology, and to make an original contribution to existing knowledge of that issue through research and new artistic work. The tangible product will be a written dissertation that presents and contextualizes substantial innovative work in integrated composition/improvisation/technology, and music of significant scope that clearly demonstrates that work.