



**SCHOOL OF MUSIC,
THEATRE, AND DANCE
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY**

Ph.D. Curriculum for Doctorate in Music Therapy

The CSU PhD in Music Therapy is comprised of 72 credits, of which 30 credits may be accepted from a prior master's degree.

Clinical Core: 15 credits

- MU 544: Advanced Techniques in Neurologic Music Therapy (3)
- MU 545: Composition in Music Therapy (3)
- MU 647: Historical Foundations of Music Therapy (3)
- MU 648: Neuroscience Foundation (3)
- MU 649: Advanced Practice in Music Therapy (3)

Research Core: 12 credits

- MU 543: Advanced Research Methods in Music Therapy (3)
- MU 743: Interpretivist Research in Music Therapy (3)
- MU 744: Research to Practice (3)
- MU 698: Research Seminar (3)

Academic Core: 15 credits

- EDAE 639: Instructional Design (3)
- EDUC 651: Multicultural and Special Populations (3) - **or**-
- EDAE 620: Processes and Methods (3)
- MU 684: Teaching Seminar (3)
- MU 792: Seminar (6)

Directed Electives: 15 credits

Electives chosen with the advisor

Dissertation: 15 credits

- MU 799: Dissertation



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Doctor of Philosophy in Music Therapy: Audition and Application Information

For full consideration for Fall start, please submit your application by January 31. Applications beyond this date will be accepted and considered on an individual basis.

Below are our application and audition requirements and the process for applying to the Music Therapy Ph.D. program. As is common in most graduate programs, the below requirements reflect the minimum standards an applicant must meet. Achievement above the minimum standards will increase the competitiveness of your application. If you have any questions about the following application requirements and process, please contact [Blythe LaGasse](#), Ph.D., MT-BC, Program Coordinator.

Eligibility Requirements

- A bachelor's degree in music therapy from a regionally accredited institution (or a bachelor's degree and completion of a music therapy equivalency program). Note: A master's degree from an accredited college or university may be accepted for a maximum of 30 credits.
- Current board-certification in music therapy.
- Clinical practice experience, which should be a minimum of three years of full-time professional clinical practice experience or its equivalent in part-time work.

Application Process

The application process entails two required components:

- Identification of a Ph.D. advisor
- Submission of the [CSU Graduate School application](#)

Identification of a PhD Advisor

The first step in the application process involves determining which faculty member would be a “fit” as a potential Ph.D. advisor. Following a review of the individual research programs of the music therapy faculty you may contact individual faculty members to ask questions and discuss your goals and interests related to the Ph.D. program.

Through a series of conversations, you should seek to determine which Ph.D. faculty member offers the best fit with your own research interests, as well as who is willing to serve as your advisor. Please note that, even if a faculty member makes a tentative commitment to be your advisor, applications will be evaluated on a competitive basis and decisions will be made by the entire music therapy faculty.

You should also discuss with a potential advisor the possibilities for funding to support your education at CSU. This funding could come from your advisor’s program of research or a graduate teaching assistantship. Funding within the program is decided through a competitive process.

Submission of the CSU Graduate School Application

Applicants apply to the Music Therapy PhD and the CSU Graduate School by completing a CSU Graduate School application. Applicants will be required to submit the following information. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

1. Purpose Statement. The purpose statement should include the following points:
 - a. Identification of an advisor
 - b. Description of your interest in the CSU Music Therapy PhD
 - c. An overview of your music therapy experiences and outline of your specific areas of research interest and clinical expertise.
 - d. Detail of your future career ambitions and why they fit with one or more of our Ph.D. program's core areas of research, clinical practice, and teaching.
 - e. Writing Sample. Please provide a sample of your writing. This could be a Master's thesis, term paper from a graduate class, published research article, or other scholarly writing.
2. Curriculum Vitae/ Resume. Should include a summary of clinical experience as a professional music therapist.
3. Video Audition: Provide a video clip of no more than seven minutes showing therapeutic music experience. This does not need to include a client; you are welcome to work with a volunteer. Provide a one-page explanation that includes a client description (i.e., describe an individual with whom you would use this technique/protocol), goal/objective, explanation of choice in the therapeutic music experience, and what you would do next in the treatment process.
4. Three Letters of Reference: Applicants are required to identify three references who will be requested to provide information electronically.
5. Transcripts: Official transcripts must be submitted from all institutions in which the applicant earned college credit in undergraduate and graduate studies. Colorado State University transcripts are not required.
6. Test of English as a Foreign Language: Only required for international student applicants. As per the CSU graduate school admissions requirements, applicants must receive at least the minimum score of 550 paper-based or 85 internet-based. This graduate school requirement is detailed in the Graduate and Professional Bulletin.

All finalists for the PhD program will undergo an interview with the music therapy faculty. The applicant will need to demonstrate functional music skills during this interview.

Note: Scores from the general exam of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) are not required for students seeking admission to this music program.

For any documents that cannot be uploaded, submit paper copies directly to the Office of Admissions at:

Graduate Admissions
Colorado State University – Office of Admissions
1062 Campus Delivery
Fort Collins, CO 80523-1062