MASTER OF ARTS IN MUSIC & WORSHIP (M.A.)
(Resident and Online Music Degree Options)

Purpose
The Master of Arts in Music and Worship is a 42-hour graduate vocational degree that equips and trains skilled musicians as worship pastors. It provides students opportunity to study and practice:

1. context-specific biblical and theological competencies in worship;
2. identify and develop music theories and skills through “praxis” experiences;
3. worship theories practical to the local church; and,
4. empirical research that enhance individual leadership roles in music and worship.

Students also receive training in qualitative and quantitative research methods. The end goal is to develop the student’s knowledge and expertise to excel in a variety of music and worship cultures and contexts within the evangelical community.

Program Learning Outcomes
The student will be able to:

1. Create a worship strategy based on biblical, theological, and philosophical foundations of worship.
2. Synthesize principles of critical contextualization for application to current issues confronting worship leaders in the evangelical tradition.
3. Evaluate literature and research of the discipline for application to the professional practices of worship leaders in the evangelical tradition.

Commercial Music Performance Concentration (Resident Students Only)
The student will be able to play an instrument or sing at an advanced skill level in commercial music styles.

Conducting Concentration (Resident & Online Students)
The student will be able to lead a music ensemble using effective rehearsal strategies and advanced conducting competency.

Worship Music Studies Concentration (Resident Students Only)
The student will be able to lead worship using appropriate musical techniques and skills.

Program Specific Admission Requirements
In addition to the general admission procedures, applicants to the Master of Arts in Music and Worship program must meet the following requirements:

1. Completion of an earned baccalaureate degree or its equivalent from an institution accredited by an agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education e.g., SACSCOC, TRACS, ABHE, etc.) in one of the following areas: B.A./B.S. in Music Education; Bachelor of Music Education; Bachelor of Music; B.A./B.S. in Worship Studies; B.A./B.S. in Music and Worship; or equivalent in music, music education, or music and worship.
2. An undergraduate cumulative GPA of at least 3.00 (on a 4.00 scale). Applicants who do not meet this requirement may be considered for enrollment in the program on a cautionary basis. The cautionary range will begin at a GPA of 2.5 through 2.99.
3. TOEFL Scores for students who speak English as a second language (score of 600 paper-based test; 250 computer-based test, 80 internet-based test).

Transfer Credit
Transfer students will be required to submit transcripts for evaluation as per the normal process established by the University. Students may transfer a maximum of 21 hours of coursework from an accredited institution. In order to be eligible for transfer, coursework must have a minimum grade of B-, and must have been completed within the past 10 years. Credits from a degree on the same academic level previously earned through Liberty University are considered transfer credits.

The following courses are not eligible for transfer credit: WMUS 525 Advanced Contemporary Arranging Techniques for Worship (3 c.h.) and WRSP 690 Thesis (3 c.h.).

Graduation Requirements
In addition to the other regulations governing graduation, graduates of the Master of Arts in Music and Worship program must meet the following requirements:

1. Complete 45 hours.
2. A maximum of 50% of the program hours may be transferred if approved an allowable, including credit from an earned degree from Liberty University on the same academic level.
3. Required 3.00 GPA.
4. No more than two (2) grades of C may be applied to the degree (includes grades of C+ and C-).
5. No grade of D may be applied to the degree (includes grades of D+ & D-).
6. For information regarding the repeat policy, please refer to “Course Repeat Policy” in the Academic Information and Policies section of this Catalog.
7. Degree must be completed within 5 years.
8. Submission of Degree Completion Application must be completed within the last semester of a student’s anticipated graduation date.

Programs of Study
Delivery Format: Residential and Online
• Music & Worship (M.A.) - Worship Music Studies

Delivery Format: Residential Only
• Music & Worship (M.A.) - Commercial Music Performance
• Music & Worship (M.A.) - Conducting

Career Opportunities
• Concert ministry program director
• Contemporary Christian artist
• Director of worship and drama
• Director of worship technology
• Minister of music
• Music and worship evangelist
• Worship leader or pastor

Courses

MUSC 510 Foundations of Music Education 3 Credit Hour(s)
This course provides an overview to the foundational principles, philosophies, and practices in music education. Topics emphasized are: purposes of school music; students as music learners; content and structure of school music programs; and music teacher knowledge and skills. Identification of personal qualities and professional competencies of excellent music teachers will also be discussed.
Offered: Resident and Online

MUSC 514 Basic Conducting 3 Credit Hour(s)
Basic instruction in conducting techniques for worship leaders in traditional and non-traditional worship settings. Knowledge and skill areas include: posture and hand position, baton usage, and mechanical terms, conducting gestures and patterns, basic score interpretation, and rehearsal management and technique.
Offered: Online

MUSC 515 Graduate Conducting 3 Credit Hour(s)
Prerequisite: MUSC 514 or Graduate Conducting Assessmen with a score of 70
Intermediate and advanced instruction in choral and instrumental conducting techniques for music educators. Knowledge and skill areas stressed are a review of conducting gestures and patterns; advanced score interpretation, rehearsal management and technique, special challenges in choral and instrumental contexts.
Offered: Resident and Online

MUSC 516 Advanced Graduate Conducting 3 Credit Hour(s)
Online Prerequisite: MUSC 515
This course is a continuation of WMUS 515 OR MUSC 515 and focuses on developing advanced instruction in conducting techniques in traditional and non-traditional settings. Specific attention is given to the role of the conductor in practical contexts, including 21st century evangelical worship, professional orchestral/choral organizations, and elementary, secondary, and collegiate educational systems.
Offered: Online

MUSC 522 Introduction to Music Theory 3 Credit Hour(s)
In this course, students learn foundational principles of music theory including: notes, rhythms, intervals, chord construction, and harmonic progressions. Basic arranging and analytical techniques are also explored related to traditional, classical, and popular music styles. This course is designed to prepare students for MUSC 524 or WMUS 524.
Offered: Online

MUSC 524 Analytical Techniques 3 Credit Hour(s)
Prerequisite: MUSC 522 or Graduate Music Assessment with a score of 125
This course is a foundational course for graduate contemporary music theory practices. Systematic and empirical investigations into formal and compositional procedures of selected masterworks from the tonal repertoire. The study includes a thorough investigation of jazz and extended harmonies used in contemporary popular music. Students continue to learn and apply analytical technique to various music styles. Melodic concepts and music form are explored in the literature from historical music periods and compared to present popular music literature and practice. Lectures lead to individual analytical projects. Principles of harmonic function are taught and applied to representative historical and popular music forms.
Registration Restrictions: Students must successfully complete the Graduate Music Theory.
Offered: Resident and Online

MUSC 525 Advanced Contemporary Arranging Techniques 3 Credit Hour(s)
Prerequisite: MUSC 630
This course is designed to teach and develop advanced skills as an arranger of vocal and instrumental ensembles. Chord chart writing and arranging techniques relevant to the rhythm section (keyboards, bass, guitar, drums, and percussion) and contemporary rhythm idioms will be explained and studied. Students will be expected to demonstrate skill in scoring for pop/rock bands, orchestras, singers, and choirs. A major worship arranging project is required.
Offered: Resident and Online

MUSC 531 Bibliography and Research in Music Education 3 Credit Hour(s)
Bibliographic research in the field of music education. Students will identify, access, evaluate and interpret music education resources and materials while performing research on music education topics.
Offered: Resident and Online

MUSC 550 Applied Music 3 Credit Hour(s)
Lessons in Guitar, Piano, Voice, Woodwinds, Brass, Percussion, Conducting, or Songwriting.
Registration Restrictions: Student must have the requisite experience or consent of the instructor (see syllabus for additional information specific to each application)
Offered: Resident and Online

MUSC 560 Ensemble Pedagogy 1 Credit Hour(s)
Prerequisite: MUSC 589
Students study basic rehearsal techniques, synthesize rehearsal methodologies, and apply written and aural theory through large ensemble experience. Students engage in score analysis detailing expected rehearsal problems with appropriate pedagogical solutions.
Registration Restrictions: Consent of instructor
Offered: Resident

MUSC 589 Graduate Ensemble 1 Credit Hour(s)
This ensemble is open to all Liberty University graduate students by audition and offers the opportunity to experience and participate in various styles of music. Special attention is given to the preparation and presentations of the Night of Worship (Spring), Christmas on the Boulevard (Fall), and other campus and area events.
Registration Restrictions: Audition or consent of instructor
Offered: Resident
MUSC 620 Music in America  3 Credit Hour(s)
Evaluation of various influences contributing to the creation of a unique 'American' musical style. Materials are arranged and discussed in a theoretical/historical framework. Diversity of influences investigated include: European, African American, Afro-Cuban, American Indian, Spanish-Mexican, religious, jazz, blues, folk song, popular, and black gospel. Special attention is given to music of the American Colonies and specific musical influences through the 21st century.
Offered: Resident and Online

MUSC 630 Principles of Music Technology  3 Credit Hour(s)
The study of computer applications in music, including: competencies in the use of notation software, music recording software; sequencing; using loops in live and recording applications; integrating midi and digital audio; capturing, editing, and storing digital audio data; multi and single tracking; VSTs; and sound shaping.
Offered: Online

MUSC 640 History and Philosophy of Music Education in America  3 Credit Hour(s)
In this course, students examine the historical and philosophical development of music education in America traced from its roots in biblical times through recent historical events and trends. Also emphasized are the pedagogical movements in and sociological aspects of music education from the early colonial period through the 21st century. Readings and discussions will emphasize specific subjects including: Ancient Greek music philosophy and aesthetics, music in the medieval universities and the quadrivium, the influences of humanism and the Enlightenment, musical aesthetics related to 19th and 20th century thought, and the current discussion related to aesthetic vs. praxial music educational philosophies.
Offered: Resident and Online

MUSC 650 Research in Music Education  3 Credit Hour(s)
The purpose of this course is to acquaint students with a variety of research that informs music education in preparation for the final capstone curriculum project or thesis in music education. As part of this course, students expand their understanding of various research methodologies as related to music education. While developing their scholarly writing skills, students learn to critique and apply research techniques.
Offered: Resident and Online

MUSC 660 Performance Pedagogy & Literature  3 Credit Hour(s)
Students study materials and techniques for teaching beginning and intermediate music students of various ages in class and private lesson settings. Students also explore issues relevant to the advanced performer, such as handling of performance anxiety, physical and psychological well-being, and concerned related to advanced technique. Includes a segment on technological tools. Special attention is given to teaching group lessons at the college level. Provides practical experience under faculty supervision.
Offered: Resident and Online

MUSC 670 Principles of Curricula and Pedagogy for Music Education  3 Credit Hour(s)
This course helps students engage matters of curricula development and pedagogy through critical evaluation and inquiry. Emphasis is given to curricula and pedagogical models that address practical issues for primary, secondary, and college classrooms.
Offered: Online

MUSC 675 Entrepreneurism in Music  3 Credit Hour(s)
Students gain understanding of the individual elements of a business plan, business structures, finance, marketing, management and organizational behavior, and leadership. Students learn entrepreneurial tools particular to the music community, techniques for innovation and creation of new ventures. At the conclusion of the course, students complete a cogent business plan applicable to different endeavors within the community.
Offered: Resident

MUSC 687 Music Education Curriculum Project  3 Credit Hour(s)
Prerequisite: MUSC 692
This course is designed to provide the student with practical experience in the planning and implementation of a major music education project. This is the completion of the research and curriculum project begun in MUSC 650. In the course, students focus on the development of a site-specific music curriculum, including the philosophical, contextual, and cultural foundations for that curriculum as well as the prospective implementation and assessment of the project. Because the nature of the project is to bring together elements from all previous coursework, it is graded as the Comprehensive Examination for the degree program.
Offered: Resident and Online

MUSC 689 Masters Thesis Proposal & Research  3 Credit Hour(s)
Offered: Resident and Online

MUSC 690 Thesis  3 Credit Hour(s)
Prerequisite: MUSC 692
In this course, students complete the Thesis project begun in MUSC 650. The thesis is a comprehensive paper written in a specific music education discipline and selected in consultation between the student and approved faculty. It should illustrate a thorough understanding and mastery of research techniques and demonstrate a level of original discovery suitable for graduate work on the master's level. Students may not enroll in this class until the last semester of graduate work or until all other course requirements for the degree have been successfully completed. (Crosslisted with WRSP 690)
Offered: Resident and Online

MUSC 691 Lecture Performance Recital  3 Credit Hour(s)
Prerequisite: MUSC 692
This is a faculty supervised, 55-60 minute lecture recital program. The student must demonstrate the ability to conduct or perform appropriate repertoire for 50 percent of the recital. The student must demonstrate the ability to lecture about their selected repertoire for 50 percent of the recital. Preparation of the recital must demonstrate completion of a serious, formal research paper that documents the repertoire selected, historical information about composers and songwriters, and rationale for stylistic representation.
Offered: Resident and Online

MUSC 692 Graduate Music Comprehensive Exam  0 Credit Hour(s)
The comprehensive exam/defense is a zero credit written and oral examination that serves as a culminating assessment for the MA in Music Education. The comprehensive exam will be based on courses taken in their distinct MA in Education program, online or residential. The exam is taken as a prerequisite to the Thesis, Lecture Performance Recital, or Curriculum Project. A Pass/Fail Committee decision for the Comprehensive Exam/Oral Defense will be placed in the student's official file, noted on the DCP Audit, and appear on the student's transcript.
Offered: Resident and Online

MUSC 695 Graduate Research in Music  3 Credit Hour(s)
Offered: Resident and Online
MUSC 697  Seminar in Music  1-3 Credit Hour(s)
Offered: Resident and Online