



University Council

April 10, 2026

UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM COMMITTEE – 2025-2026

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Undergraduate Student Representative – Ella Colker

Graduate Student Representative – Yaw Buabeng

Dear Colleagues:

The attached proposal from the Franklin College of Arts and Sciences for the following changes under the Master of Music (M.M.) degree will be an agenda item for the April 17, 2026, Full University Curriculum Committee meeting.

- Proposal for an Area of Emphasis in Music Therapy With Equivalency
- Proposal to change the name of the Area of Emphasis in Music Therapy to the Area of Emphasis in Music Therapy Advanced Standing

Sincerely,

Susan Sanchez, Chair

cc: Provost Benjamin Ayers

Dr. Marisa Anne Pagnattaro

## PROPOSAL FOR AN AREA OF EMPHASIS

**Date:** January 13, 2025

**School/College:** Franklin College of Arts and Sciences

**Department/Division:** Hugh Hodgson School of Music

**Program (Major and Degree):** Master of Music (M.M.)

**Area of Emphasis Title:** Area of Emphasis in Music Therapy with Equivalency

**CIP:** 51230503

**Which campus(es) will offer this program?** Athens

**Proposed Effective Term:** Fall 2026

### **Area of Emphasis Description:**

The Master of Music (M.M.) with an Area of Emphasis in Music Therapy with Equivalency is designed for students who do not hold an undergraduate degree in music therapy. This program provides comprehensive foundational training to prepare students for entry into the field and eligibility for the board certification exam. Following the required internship, students will continue with advanced coursework that mirrors the curriculum offered to those in the Area of Emphasis in Music Therapy Advanced Standing which is designed for students who already possess a bachelor's degree in music therapy. These studies include in-depth exploration of clinical practice, research methodologies, and current developments in the field of music therapy. Students are required to have an undergraduate degree in music to apply for this area of emphasis. Students with a bachelor's degree in music therapy should complete the Area of Emphasis in Music Therapy Advanced Standing of this degree.

Coursework will address the Professional and Advanced Competencies in Music Therapy as established by the American Music Therapy Association. Primary career opportunities for graduates of this degree program include the advanced practice of music therapy in a variety of healthcare and educational settings, supervision in music therapy, and teaching music therapy at the undergraduate level. The degree also prepares graduates for future study in music therapy at the doctoral level.

At the conclusion of this track, students will complete a graduate project in music therapy that is a non-thesis, non-research-based project. This project is based in expanded implementation and development of clinical practice.

In order to apply for this area of emphasis, students must have previously earned a Bachelor of Music (B.Mus.) degree or a Bachelor of Arts (A.B.) in Music. Students must have earned a GPA of 3.0 or higher in undergraduate music classes.

### **Area of Emphasis Requirements:**

#### **I. Major Area of Concentration: Music Therapy (28 hours)**

MUSI 6015, Technology for Music Therapists (2 hours)

MUSI 6021, Music Therapy Practicum (4 hours)

MUSI 6023, Music Therapy Internship (1 hour)

MUSI 6340, Guitar Skills for Music Therapists (1 hour)

MUSI 6345, Percussion for Music Therapists (1 hour)  
MUSI 6515, Piano for Music Therapists (1 hour)  
MUSI 7360, Trends and Issues in Music Therapy (2 hours)  
MUSI 7365, Research in Music Therapy (3 hours)  
MUSI 7370, Seminar in Professional Music Therapy Practice (3 hours)  
MUSI 7375, Advanced Music Therapy Practicum (1 hour)  
MUSI 7400, Foundations and Principles of Music Therapy I (2 hours)\*  
MUSI 7420, Influence of Music on Behavior (3 hours)  
MUSI 7430, Music Therapy Assessment (2 hours)  
MUSI 7440, Music Skills for Therapists (2 hours)

**II. Other Studies in Music (12 hours)**

MUSI 6330, Guitar Techniques (1 hour)  
MUSI 7410, Psychology of Music (3 hours)  
MUSI 7460, Music for Exceptional People (2 hours)\*  
Music Theory Elective (3 hours)  
Music History/Ethnomusicology Elective (3 hours)

**III. Related Studies (12 hours)**

BMSC 6030E, Basic Human Anatomy for Health Sciences (3 hours)  
EPSY 6010, Foundations of Human Development for Education (3 hours)  
PSYC 6240, Advanced Psychopathology: Adults (3 hours)  
Elective in Related Studies (3 hours)

**IV. Research or Project (6 hours)**

MUSI 7380, Graduate Professional Project in Music Therapy (6 hours)  
OR  
MUSI 7000, Master's Research (3 hours)  
MUSI 7300, Master's Thesis (3 hours)

**Total: 58 hours**

\*A course change proposal is ongoing for this course.

## ACADEMIC PROGRAM NAME CHANGE

**Date:** February 20, 2026

**Department/Division:** Hugh Hodgson School of Music

**School/College/Unit:** Franklin College of Arts and Sciences

**Proposed Effective Date:** Fall 2026

### PROGRAM NAME CHANGES:

**Current Program Name:** Area of Emphasis in Music Therapy under the Master of Music (M.M.)

**Proposed Program Name:** Area of Emphasis in Music Therapy Advanced Standing under the Master of Music (M.M.)

### JUSTIFICATION:

*Attach a justification and rationale for the requested changes and include any relevant documentation. If this change is in response to an accreditation body, please include that language in the proposal.*

The proposed change in title for the Area of Emphasis in Music Therapy under the Master of Music (M.M.) degree to “Music Therapy Advanced Standing” is necessary to support the development of an additional pathway within the graduate program designed for students who do not hold a Bachelor of Music Therapy degree. The new pathway—Music Therapy with Equivalency—will provide comprehensive foundational coursework and clinical preparation for students entering the field from related disciplines, enabling them to meet professional competencies and qualify for the board certification exam in music therapy.

Adding the “Advanced Standing” designation to the existing area of emphasis distinguishes students who begin the master’s degree with prior music therapy training from those requiring foundational coursework. This structure aligns with common practices in allied health programs and ensures clarity for prospective students, accrediting bodies, and future employers.

The American Music Therapy Association (AMTA), the national organization responsible for overseeing professional competencies and educational standards for board-certified music therapists, has been consulted extensively throughout the development of these changes. AMTA has expressed full support for adding an Equivalency option and for renaming the existing emphasis area to “Music Therapy Advanced Standing.” This change supports continued alignment with AMTA standards and meets emerging needs in music therapy education and workforce development.

By differentiating these emphasis areas, the program will more clearly communicate the intended audience, training level, and expected competencies for each pathway, reducing confusion and supporting program growth.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

*Describe any changes in program learning outcomes as a result of this change, and the impact this change will have on program graduates.*

No changes to the program learning outcomes are proposed as part of this modification.

**PROGRAM OF STUDY:**

*Describe any changes in the program of study as a result of this change, and the impact this change will have on program graduates.*

**Master of Music (M.M.) with an Area of Emphasis in Music Therapy Advanced Standing****I. Music Therapy Studies (9 hours)**

MUSI 7360, Trends and Issues in Music Therapy (2 hours)

MUSI 7365, Research in Music Therapy (3 hours)

MUSI 7370, Seminar in Professional Music Therapy Practice (3 hours)

MUSI 7375, Advanced Music Therapy Practicum (1 hour)

**II. Other Studies in Music (9 hours)**

To be selected from:

Music Theory (required minimum: 3 hours)

Music History/Ethnomusicology (required minimum: 3 hours)

Music Education at the Graduate Level

Applied Music at the Graduate Level

Ensembles at the Graduate Level

**III. Electives in Related Studies (9 hours)**

Students may take any graduate-level course in any subject (including non-music subjects) to fulfill electives. Courses are chosen based on the student's specific area of interest in consultation with an advisor.

**IV. Research or Project (6 hours)**

MUSI 7380, Graduate Professional Project in Music Therapy (6 hours)

OR

MUSI 7000, Master's Research (3 hours)

MUSI 7300, Master's Thesis (3 hours)

**Total: 33 hours**

## Documentation of Approval and Notification

**Proposal:** Proposal for an Area of Emphasis in Music Therapy With Equivalency; Proposal to change the name of the Area of Emphasis in Music Therapy to the Area of Emphasis in Music Therapy Advanced Standing

**College:** Franklin College of Arts and Sciences

**Department:** Hugh Hodgson School of Music

**Proposed Effective Term:** Fall 2026

School/College:

- Interim Director of the Hugh Hodgson School of Music, Dr. Daniel Bara, 2/24/2026
- Franklin College of Arts and Sciences Associate Dean, Dr. Paula Lemons, 3/12/2026
- Graduate School Associate Dean, Dr. Anne Shaffer, 3/9/2026