

# NEW ORLEANS BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

## Division of Church Music Ministries

### MUSS 6001 Comprehensive Examinations

Dr. Darryl Ferrington  
dferrington@nobts.edu  
504.251.1081

Fall 2015  
Office 220C  
504.282.4455 ext. 3267

### SYLLABUS

#### Mission Statement

The mission of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is to equip leaders to fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.

#### Description

The comprehensive examination is administered in keeping with the NASM requirement that each candidate for the M.M. degree pass a comprehensive examination. This examination offers each MMCM candidate opportunity to provide evidence of his or her ability to synthesize and summarize information from a variety of subject areas related to church music. Further details of the exam are given in the Policy Statement for the MMCM comprehensive examination.

#### Institutional Core Value Emphasis

*Mission Focus:* We are not here merely to get an education or to give one. We are here to change the world by fulfilling the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.

#### Preparation

1. Students who have registered for MUSS 6001 will meet 1 hour a week for seven weeks over the course of the semester.
2. The course will focus on foundational and current issues in church music ministry.
3. Students will be required to read up to 80 pages for each class session. The readings will be from selected books and periodical literature reflecting recent scholarship, philosophy, and practice in church music. Students will prepare a 2 to 3 page reflection based on the readings for each week.
4. Students will be assigned responsibility for leading class discussions of current issues related to church music.

#### Topics for Reading and Discussion

1. Philosophy of Worship
  2. Philosophy of Music Ministry
  3. Philosophy of Church Music Education
- (Three additional topics will be selected by the class).

## Sample Questions

- 1 . What is church music?
2. Technology advancements are often encouraging t he public outcry for more professional entertainment-oriented presentations in Sunday worship. How do we as musicians and worship planners respond?
3. How do we keep a balance between liturgical, free-church, revivalist, and contemporary worship, or, do we need to keep a balance, depending on the needs of our congregation?
4. Provide basic definitions and historical perspectives of each of these worship traditions.
5. What is your personal philosophy or church music education and how will you work toward implementing this philosophy in the local church?

Considerations:

responsibilities toward various age groups  
product versus process orientation  
selection and training of workers  
personal continuing education  
attitude toward seasonal productions

2. Compare the hymn and the chorus as vehicles for worship, nurture, and evangelism. You may use a hymnal for examples.
3. How has your study in your chosen performance area prepared you to be a more capable church musician? If you were called upon to teach in your performing area, what resources would you use?

## Schedule

Meeting 1	Overview of Library and Online Sources Research Philosophy of Worship
Meeting 2	Reports on Philosophy of Worship Assign Research Philosophy of Music Ministry
Meeting 3	Reports on Philosophy of Music Ministry Assign Research Philosophy or Church Music Education
Meeting 4	Reports on Philosophy of Church Music Education Choose Additional Topic # 1 _____
Meeting 5	Reports on Additional Topic # 1 _____ Choose Additional Topic #2 _____
Meeting 6	Reports on Additional Topic #2 _____ Choose Additional Topic #3 _____
Meeting 7	Reports on Additional Topic #3 _____
	Comprehensive Exam Date: TBA _____

**COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION**  
for the  
**MASTER OF MUSIC IN CHURCH MUSIC**

**POLICY STATEMENT**

**A. Purpose**

The comprehensive examination is administered in keeping with the N ASM requirement that each candidate for the M. M. degree pass a comprehensive final examination. Additionally, it offers an opportunity for each candidate for the M. M. degree to provide evidence of his or her ability to synthesize and summarize information from a variety of subject areas related to church music.

**B. Procedure**

The comprehensive examination is administered once each semester. The specific date for the examination is set by the comprehensive examination coordinator and the Chair of the Church Music Division.

**1. Who may take the Comprehensive Examination**

The comprehensive examination is normally taken during the semester during which a student expects to graduate. In order to take the comprehensive examination, the student must have the permission of the Chair of the Division and register for MUSS6001 Comprehensive Examination. Normally 80% of the required M. M. courses must be completed before the student registers for the comprehensive examination.

**2. Format of the Examination**

The comprehensive examination is a written examination, and will focus on the candidate's knowledge of the field of church music ministry as a whole. This will be tested by four questions dealing with

- a. Current issues affecting church music ministry
- b. Knowledge of philosophical/foundational concepts of church music ministry
- c. Questions will be suggested by the current Church Music Division faculty for each examination, and the questions on each examination will be selected from the pool of suggested questions at a meeting of the faculty. It is the responsibility of each faculty member to suggest examination questions and to participate in the process of determining the content and wording of the questions to be used.

### 3. Administration of the Examination on

- a. A member of the music faculty will be designated as comprehensive examination coordinator and will be responsible for the administration of the examination.
- b. Each student's examination will be graded by a committee of three music faculty members. The student's major professor/advisor will normally serve a Chair of the committee. One member of the committee will be selected by the student. The third member will be appointed by the Chair of the Church Music Division.
- c. The period of time allowed for completion of the examination will be not more than four hours.

### 4. Reading and Grading of the Examination

- a. All responses will be graded on distinction/pass/fail basis.
- b. Responses to the examination will be graded by each member of the candidate's committee. A passing grade by two of the three committee members is required for each question.
- c. A candidate must receive a passing grade on three of the four questions to pass the examination.
- d. A candidate may pass with distinction on a comprehensive examination if nine of the twelve evaluations pass the student with distinction.
- e. Each candidate will receive written notification of whether he or she passed the examination no later than two weeks after the examination day.
- f. In the event that a candidate fails the examination, his or her committee will meet to discuss the nature of the failure and to recommend one of the following three courses of action :
  1. an oral examination to be taken within two weeks of the notification of the failure
  2. a written examination in a later semester
  3. additional course work and a written examination in a later semester
- g. The comprehensive examination may be retaken only one time.

## C. Criteria for Evaluation of Comprehensive Examinations

### PASS

A passing answer will:

- reflect biblical/theological principles as applicable to music ministry
- answer the question specifically and fully. All elements of the question are addressed.
- demonstrate an understanding of the relevant topic by providing a broad overview, discussion of various points of view, and an analysis of the implications of these perspectives.
- synthesize current thought in the field and present it in a relevant and organized manner.
- support arguments with appropriate {documented} examples from specific authors or texts. Personal anecdotes are rarely acceptable.
- be well-organized and clearly presented. The structure of the answer is logical. Language is clear and concise.
- contain a minimal number of grammatical and spelling errors. Legibility is a minimum standard.

### PASS WITH DISTINCTION

In addition to the *above*, an answer that is awarded distinction will:

- recognize that the issue addressed may apply to more than one type of church and identify similarities and differences.
- demonstrate superior understanding and knowledge of the topic
- present original ideas and interpretations as well as synthesize current thought.
- cite specific authors, scholars, works, or schools of thought in supporting arguments.
- demonstrate superior writing ability in terms of organization, style, and adherence to scholarly standards.