

**NEW ORLEANS BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**  
**Division of Church Music Ministries**  
**MUSS 6001 Comprehensive Examinations**

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## **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 M.M. 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 M.M. comprehensive examination.

### **Institutional Core Value Emphasis**

Spiritual Vitality:

**We are a worshiping community emphasizing both personal spirituality and gathering together as a Seminary family for the praise and adoration of God and instruction in His Word.**

### **Preparation**

1. Students who have registered for MUSS 6001 will meet for an overview of the comprehensive exam process. This meeting will occur through Webex and be recorded; therefore, students who are not able to attend the meeting may review the details of comprehensive exams by watching the video.
2. The students' review of potential comprehensive exam information will focus on the foundations of church music ministry.
3. Students will be required to observe a BB shell dedicated to comprehensive exams, which will provide a summary of topics and suggested reading. Sample questions will be available, although questions connected to the foundational topics listed below may be included which do not appear as sample questions.
4. Students will be assigned responsibility for leading class discussions of current issues related to church music.

### **Foundational Topics for Comprehensive Exams**

1. Theology and Philosophy of Worship Ministries
2. Church Music History and Congregational Song
3. Philosophy and Practice of Church Music Education
4. Music Theory
5. Concentration Area

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 NASM 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 MUSS 6001 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. 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. 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. This will be tested by five questions dealing with:

- a. Theology and Philosophy of Worship Ministries
- b. Church Music History and Congregational Song
- c. Philosophy and Practice of Church Music Education

d. Music Theory

e. Concentration Area

### 3. Administration of the Examination

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 members of the music faculty and in some instances an adjunct music faculty member.

c. The period of time allowed for completion of the examination will be not more than 4.5 hours.

### 4. Reading and Grading of the Examination

a. All responses will be graded with a rubric. The grades will be: pass with distinction/pass/fail.

b. Responses to the examination will be graded by the music faculty and in some instances an adjunct teacher will be included in grading. A passing grade by at least two graders is required for each question.

c. A candidate must receive a passing grade on four of the five questions to pass the examination.

d. A candidate may pass with distinction on a comprehensive examination if nine of the fifteen 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, the division will 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 or portion of examination in a later semester;

or

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 minimal standards as stated on the rubrics provided in the BB shell.

#### **PASS WITH DISTINCTION**

A “pass with distinction” answer will significantly exceed normal standards as stated on the rubrics provided in the BB shell.