



**Comprehensive Examinations MUSS 6001  
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary  
Division of Church Ministry  
Spring 2021**

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**MISSION STATEMENT**

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Leavell College prepare servants to walk with Christ, proclaim His truth, and fulfill His mission.

**CHURCH MUSIC MINISTRIES VISION STATEMENT**

Developing excellence in Kingdom-minded music and worship leaders

**CORE VALUE FOCUS**

2020-2021 Academic Year 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.

- This course is particularly focused on the following core values: servant leadership and characteristic excellence

**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.

**PREPARATION**

1. Students who have registered for MUSS 6001 will meet for an overview of the comprehensive exam process. This meeting will occur through Bluejeans 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 participate in a google document open forum, which will provide an opportunity for students to review topics and compare critical reading lists. The student(s) may use the google document to share reviews of items from the reading list. The professor may insert suggestions regarding the reading or potential lines of inquiry.

### **Required Textbooks**

Woodard, Gregory A. *Graduate Music Theory: A Sacred Context Based Approach*. Toronto: Rakuten Kobo, 2020.

### **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 at least five questions dealing with (the music theory and congregational song categories may be tested with a body of multiple choice questions as a replacement for or in addition to an essay question):

- 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. The test will be administered through a BB shell.
- 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. Multiple choice questions are graded automatically in BB.
- c. A candidate must receive a passing grade on four of the five questions or

categories of questions to pass the examination.

- d. A candidate may pass with distinction on a comprehensive examination if 60% 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. Passing a category of questions (music theory and congregational song) will reflect a percentage of correct answers that the music division determined to reflect competence. In some instances an essay within the categories of music theory and congregational song may substitute for a passing score regardless of the percentage score achieved on multiple choice questions within those self-same areas of inquiry.

#### **PASS WITH DISTINCTION**

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

#### **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

For assistance regarding technology, consult ITC (504-816-8180) or the following websites:

- 1. [Selfserve@nobts.edu](mailto:Selfserve@nobts.edu) - Email for technical questions/support requests with the [Selfserve.nobts.edu](http://Selfserve.nobts.edu) site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)
- 2. [BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu](mailto:BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu) - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Blackboard Learning Management System [NOBTS.Blackboard.com](http://NOBTS.Blackboard.com).

3. [ITCSupport@nobts.edu](mailto:ITCSupport@nobts.edu) - Email for general technical questions/support requests.
4. [www.NOBTS.edu/itc/](http://www.NOBTS.edu/itc/) - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

[Other items may be included, such as: expectations for reading assignments, policy on late assignments, academic honesty, classroom demeanor, extra credit]

#### **HELP FOR WRITERS PAPERS AT “THE WRITE STUFF”**

NOBTS maintains a Writing Center designed to improve English writing at the graduate level. Students can receive writing guides, tips, and valuable information to help in becoming a better writer.

#### **PLAGIARISM ON WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS**

NOBTS has a no tolerance policy for plagiarism. Plagiarism in certain cases may result in expulsion from the seminary. See the NOBTS Student Handbook for definition, penalties, and policies associated with plagiarism.