

DAN SCHOOL OF DRAMA AND MUSIC, QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY  
**PRIVATE COMPOSITION INSTRUCTION GUIDELINES 2024-25**  
**MUSC 351\*/354, MUSC 451\*/454 and MUSC-352\*/355; 452\*/455**

**Portfolio Submission Deadline: Tuesday, April 16, 2024**  
**Submit by email and/or file share to Dr. Dean Burry (dean.burry@queensu.ca)**

**FIRST-TIME APPLICANTS**

Students interested in taking third-year composition lessons (acoustic and/or electroacoustic) during the 2023/24 academic year must submit a DIGITAL portfolio of compositions/recordings to Dr. Dean Burry by Tuesday, April 16, 2024, no later than 4 pm. For notated music, scores must be in PDF format. Feel free to create a shared drive. Applications must include a cover letter indicating past courses taken and experience in composition and requested course for consideration.

**CURRENT PRIVATE COMPOSITION STUDENTS**

Students interested in continuing with private composition lessons (acoustic and/or electroacoustic) during the 2024/25 academic year must submit a DIGITAL portfolio of compositions/recordings to Dr. Dean Burry by Tuesday, April 16, 2024, no later than 4 pm. For notated music, scores must be in PDF format. Feel free to create a shared drive. Applications must include a cover letter indicating past courses taken and experience in composition and requested course for consideration.

Admission is determined through evaluation of portfolios by a faculty jury. Placement in MUSC 351\*, 354, MUSC 451\*/454 and MUSC 352\*, 355, MUSC 452\*/455 is highly competitive and **submission of a portfolio does not guarantee admission**. It should be noted that students who have not completed some of the following courses are often encouraged to complete one of these courses prior to applying for private composition lessons again in a year's time due to the limited number of spaces available. **This list will be updated when next year's course offerings are released:**

- MUSC-151: Introduction to Instrumental Composition (to be offered in 2025/26)
- MUSC-152: Introduction to Vocal Composition (to be next offered in 2024/25)
- MUSC-156: Introduction to Digital Audio Recording, Editing and Mixing (offered yearly)
- MUSC-255: Introduction to Electroacoustic Composition (offered yearly)
- MUSC-396: Introduction to MIDI Orchestration (to be offered in 2025/26)
- MUSC-397: Introduction to Orchestration (to be next offered in 2024/25)

Many students also take Music Theory courses in advance of applying for private acoustic composition lessons (MUSC-191, 292 and 293). However, do note that any student may submit a portfolio for consideration.

In addition, students currently taking MUSC-351\*/354 or MUSC-352\*/355 must also submit a portfolio if they wish to continue their studies at the fourth-year level. Completion of MUSC-351\* or MUSC-354 does not automatically mean permission will be granted to take in MUSC-451\* or -454.

Students may apply for both electroacoustic and acoustic composition studies at the third- and fourth-year level BUT must indicate what their priority would be should only one course be possible. However, where possible, qualified students will be admitted to both streams as space permits.

**The composition portfolio should include:**

- A cover letter that states the course number you are interested in taking and the reasons why you should be considered for this course. This letter is an important component of your application.
- A list of compositions included in the portfolio.
- Your name, student identification number and email address.

It is important that portfolios are received by 4:00 pm on **Tuesday, April 16, 2024**. Students will be informed of the decision on their application by email around May 1. The DAN School will directly enrol students in the appropriate course during the registration period.

Please send any questions to Dr. Dean Burry (dean.burry@queensu.ca)