



Board of Teacher Education
Music

Syllabus

Music Theory and Composition 5

Course Code:	MUGL65
Course Title:	Music Theory and Composition 5 <i>Musikteori och komposition 5</i>
Credits:	15
Degree Level:	Undergraduate level
Progressive Specialisation:	First cycle, has at least 60 credits in first-cycle course/s as entry requirements (G2F)

Major Field of Study:

Course Approval

The syllabus was approved by the Board of Teacher Education 2026-02-09, and is valid from the Autumn semester 2026 at Karlstad University.

Prerequisites

At least a Pass grade in Music and music teaching 6 (7.5 credits), Teachers' pedagogical approach 2 - music teachers (7.5 credits), Teacher training practice 2 - music education (7.5 credits), and Music theory and composition 4 (15 credits).

An equivalence assessment can be made.

Learning Outcomes

The aim of the course is for students, from artistic, practical, and educational perspectives, to develop skills and knowledge in the field of music theory and composition in a more independent manner, broaden their subject and subject-specific knowledge of music, and develop a professional vocabulary for their future professional role.

Module 1: Music education (5.5 cr)

Upon completion of this module, students should be able to

1. present, initiate discussions, and argue around both assigned and self-selected texts from current general and music literature, research, and debates,
2. present a planning proposal for an intended ensemble, taking into account various external and internal framework conditions,
3. give an account of basic concepts and stages of creative processes within music theory and composition, and
4. conduct, reflect upon, and critically examine their own teaching in music theory or composition from an educational perspective through supervised lessons or parts of lessons.

Module 2: Musical knowledge (9.5 cr)

Upon completion of this module, students should be able to

1. give examples of how digital tools for music production can be used in teaching,
2. provide an overview of the history of Western art and popular music over the past century from a cultural and historical perspective,
3. give an account of and apply the basic principles of modal polyphony from the 15th to 17th centuries,
4. identify and describe fundamental elements of folk music, such as harmony, rhythm, and stylistic characteristics, and
5. write and analyse their own compositions.

Content

The course comprises two modules. The course content prepares students for their teaching placement.

Module 1: Music education (5.5 cr)

The module covers general music education and includes

- seminars featuring presentations and discussions of texts from current general and music journals, research, and debates, and
- an introduction to and development of a personal teaching philosophy.

The ensemble methodology component mainly comprises

- seminars on ensemble leadership from various perspectives,
- goals, content, and planning, and
- assessment of ensemble performances.

The module also includes methodology for teaching music theory and composition, including practice teaching.

Module 2: Musical knowledge (9.5 cr)

The module includes music production using digital tools, and music history with a focus on the role and function of popular and art music in society during the 20th and 21st centuries, as well as a theoretical and practical introduction to the folk music genre and modal counterpoint.

Reading List

See separate document.

Examination

Module 1: Music Education (5.5 cr)

Learning outcome 1 is assessed based on individual and group oral presentations.

Learning outcome 2 is assessed based on an individual written assignment, presented and discussed in a seminar.

Learning outcomes 3-4 are assessed based on individual and group oral presentations, individual written assignments, and practice teaching.

Module 2: Musical knowledge (9.5 cr)

Learning outcome 1 is assessed based on an individual digital production.

Learning outcomes 2-5 are assessed based on individual written assignments.

Submissions for assessment must clearly indicate individual contributions.

The number of assessment opportunities is limited to five.

If students have a decision from Karlstad University entitling them to Targeted Study Support due to a documented disability, the examiner has the right to give such students an adapted examination or to examine them in a different manner.

Grades

One of the grades Pass (G) or Fail (U) is awarded in the examination of the course (RB 129/22 Dnr C2022/895).

Quality Assurance

Follow-up relating to learning conditions and goal-fulfilment takes place both during and upon completion of the course in order to ensure continuous improvement. Course evaluation is partly based on student views and experiences obtained in accordance with current regulations and partly on other data and documentation. Students will be informed of the result of the evaluation and of any measures to be taken.

Course Certificate

A course certificate will be provided upon request.

Additional information

The local regulations for studies at the Bachelor and Master levels at Karlstad University stipulate the obligations and rights of students and staff.

The course is included in the Music Teacher Programme.