Graduate students enrolled in this class participate in significant extracurricular professional development activities or research. These can include (but are not limited to):

- Professional workshops, training programs, or seminars.
- Research into specific topics related to their profession.
- Large-scale creative collaborative projects.

These activities can culminate in original compositions, research papers, presentations to the composition studio, conference presentations, etc. The nature, timeline, goals, and outcomes of the professional work undertaken differs widely from student to student.

Students are graded on the quality of the original work, as well as the effectiveness of the culminating presentation (where applicable).