

Doctor of Musical Arts: Choral Conducting

Program Guidelines

Revised February 12, 2020

Major Area Courses		Credit Hrs
MUSC 7190	Advanced Private Lessons (3 semesters)	9
MUSC 74xx	Large Ensemble (4 semesters)	4
MUSC 6290	Diction for Conductors	1
MUSC 7210	Performance Practice I	3
MUSC 7211	Performance Practice II	3
MUSC 7975	Dissertation Essay	3
 <i>Pedagogy and Literature</i>		
MUSC 7860	Choral Conducting Seminar I	3
MUSC 7861	Choral Conducting Seminar II	3
MUSC 7880	Choral Literature Seminar I	3
(MUSC 7390)	(Vocal Pedagogy may be substituted for one of the above with approval of supervisory committee chair)	(3)
MUSC 78xx	Instrumental Conducting Course (if not taken for requisite Master's degree)	(3)
 <i>Performance Projects</i>		
MUSC 7920	DMA Performance I (solo recital)	1
MUSC 7930	DMA Performance II (solo recital)	1
MUSC 7940	DMA Performance III (Conducting a major extended work)	1
MUSC 7950	Lecture Recital	1
 Academic Courses	 a total of 12-14 hours are required	
 <i>Musicology</i>	 <i>Choose two from the following no more than one of which may be at the 66xx-level</i>	 6
MUSC 6610	Music Literature: Renaissance	
MUSC 6620	Music Literature: Baroque	
MUSC 6630	Music Literature: Classical	
MUSC 6640	Music Literature: Romantic	
MUSC 6650	Music Literature: 1900-Present	
MUSC 6660	Music Literature: American Music	
MUSC 7670	Symphonic Literature	
MUSC 7680	Opera Literature	
or	Research Seminars with permission of instructor (MUSC 7800, 7801, 7802, 7803, 7804, 7890)	

<i>Music Theory</i>	<i>Choose two from the following:</i>	6
MUSC 6550	Advanced Formal Procedures of the 18 th /19 th Centuries I	
MUSC 6551	Advanced Formal Procedures of the 18 th /19 th Centuries II	
MUSC 6520	20 th /21 st Century Analysis I	
MUSC 6521	20 th /21 st Century Analysis II	
MUSC 6536	History of Western Music Theory	
MUSC 7510	Theory Pedagogy	
MUSC 6580/7580	Special Topics in Music Theory	
<i>Bibliography</i>		
MUSC 6010	Music Bibliography (if not taken for requisite Master's degree)	(2)
Related Field	DMA students are required to complete 12-13 hours in a Related Field (see <i>DMA Related Field Admission and Course Requirements</i>).	12-13
Electives	Six hours of electives must be taken if Music History or Music Theory is chosen as the Related Field. The hours must be in academic courses approved by the Supervisory Committee.	(6)
Total Credit Hours		<hr/> 60-65

Program Purpose

The Doctor of Musical Arts is designed for students with interest and/or career aspirations as performers and post-secondary educators. Goals include the advancement of performers to the highest level of technical mastery and artistic expression, study in a related field, which could prepare students for teaching in a secondary area, and refinement in the ability to engage in independent research. The curriculum is designed to allow students flexibility in emphasizing particular interests while at the same time insuring a broad perspective of advanced knowledge and skills development.

Acceptance into the DMA Program

To be considered for admission to the DMA, applicants must meet the following minimum requirements:

1. Hold Bachelor's and Master's degrees in music from accredited institutions.
2. Have a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 in all previous collegiate work.
3. Score an 85 or higher on the TOEFL iBT or a 6.5 or higher on the IELTS (international applicants only).

Complete the following steps to apply to the DMA:

1. Submit the online Graduate Admissions application. As part of this application DMA applicants need to upload:
 - a. Transcripts of undergraduate and graduate course work from all schools attended.
 - b. Three letters of recommendation from professors, employers, and/or other professionals qualified to judge the applicant's ability to successfully complete doctoral studies.
 - c. Statement of Purpose, including future goals.
 - d. Current CV or resume.
 - e. A comprehensive repertoire list of works performed and works studied.
 - f. TOEFL or IELTS score, if applicable.
2. Complete a conducting audition. Prior to a live audition, Choral Conducting applicants must submit a high-quality DVD recording, due February 15th. The DVD audition should show both rehearsal and performance footage. The applicant should be facing the camera in the video. Those applicants deemed acceptable will be invited to a live audition in March for Fall admission.

3. Demonstrate piano proficiency as part of the live audition. Candidate should possess the keyboard skills to accompany choral rehearsals when needed—reading and playing any combination of choral parts, playing accompaniments and orchestra transcriptions, and reducing orchestral scores to keyboard.

Note: Applicant's audition and application will be reviewed by a committee of faculty members within the conducting area.

Graduate Placement Exams

Placement examinations in Music History and Music Theory are taken after the student has been accepted by Graduate Admissions. Preparation materials are available on the School of Music website. Placement examinations must be taken prior to registering for Music History and Music Theory courses.

Results of graduate placement exams determine placement in graduate courses and identify areas in which remedial work may be necessary. Students are encouraged to study diligently for these examinations. Poor performance could result in the student being required to take a considerable number of remedial courses. Students recommended for remedial courses must earn a B- or better in recommended courses before advancing to a higher-level course.

Music History: The graduate Music History diagnostic examination covers the breadth of Western art music from the medieval period to the present through a variety of questions evaluating the student's knowledge of important composers, works, terms, and concepts.

Music Theory: The graduate Music Theory placement examination assesses the student's competence in harmony, voice leading, counterpoint, form, and instrumentation.

Appointment of Supervisory Committee

Members of the Supervisory Committee consult with the student in planning their degree program, research, and recitals; they also administer the qualifying exams and the dissertation essay defense. It is the responsibility of the student to approach faculty to request that they serve on the Supervisory Committee. Students should submit the *Request for Supervisory Committee* form to the Academic Coordinator. The Graduate Studies Committee votes on and approves Supervisory Committees.

The student's major performance teacher (if tenure-line) serves as the Chair of the Supervisory Committee. If the performance teacher is not tenure-line he/she will serve as the "Director of Recitals."

DMA Supervisory Committees consist of three faculty members, the majority of whom must be tenure-line faculty in the School of Music. One member of the Supervisory Committee must be from the area of the student's Related Field. The Supervisory Committee must be chosen during the first year of study and before the student performs any recitals.

Recitals

1. Each student must perform two complete solo recital programs. The Supervisory Committee must approve the program repertoire prior to the recital.
2. Each student must also complete one performance in which he/she conducts a major work.
3. Each student is required to perform a lecture recital.

Students must fill out the proper recital forms and register for each recital prior to the semester of the scheduled recital. Recitals should be a minimum of one hour in length, with the exception of the major work. Degree recitals should be held in a School of Music performance venue; exceptions are rare and must be approved through an Exception to Policy.

The Supervisory Committee comprises the Jury for the recitals. Students must be enrolled in private lessons during semesters in which recitals are given. All incomplete grades must be made up prior to the first day of the

semester in which the lecture recital is scheduled. Recitals must be held before the last day of classes in the Fall and Spring semesters.

Qualifying Examinations

Written qualifying examinations are required of each DMA student. An examination, or parts of an examination, may be repeated only once and only at the discretion of the Supervisory Committee. The qualifying exam must be passed before a student can register for the Dissertation Essay.

Prior to taking the qualifying examination the student must have completed all course work in the subject area of the exam (including required recitals, with the exception of the lecture recital) and no incompletes may be outstanding. The student must be enrolled in at least one credit hour during the semester of the examination. Summer administration of the examinations is allowed if approved through an Exception to Policy.

DMA qualifying examinations will be given in the major area and the Related Field. The major area examination is compiled by the Committee Chair with questions submitted from other members of the Supervisory Committee; the topics are taken from the student's course work and major-specific materials that a DMA candidate should know. Related Field questions are prepared by the Related Field faculty representative on the committee (other faculty in the Related Field may be consulted as well).

DMA Dissertation Essay

Each student must complete a scholarly paper of limited scope and length containing traditional research on a relevant topic (suggested length – 30 pages). Registration for MUSC 7975 Dissertation Essay is allowed only after qualifying exams have been passed.

The dissertation essay must conform to the standards set forth by the University Thesis Office; however, the Thesis Office will not edit DMA Dissertation Essays. Editing is primarily the responsibility of the Supervisory Chair with input from the rest of the committee.

Dissertation Essay Defense

Upon completion of the lecture recital and dissertation essay, each student must successfully complete a one-hour oral defense before the Supervisory Committee. A copy of the dissertation essay must be distributed to the Supervisory Committee at least a month prior to the defense; the dissertation advisor must approve the dissertation essay prior to distribution. Dissertation essay defenses must be held in a neutral location and are open to the public.

The format is to serve as a defense of the dissertation essay, and to provide clarification or answer lingering questions left over from the qualifying exams. The exam may also include questions on music history, music theory, and the history and literature of the student's area of specialization.

All defenses must be held before the last day of classes in the Fall and Spring semesters. Defenses are not to be held during Final Exam or Reading Days or during Summer semester.