Doctor of Musical Arts in Music Performance: Piano

Doctor of Musical Arts

The Doctor of Musical Arts (DMA) degree is a professional degree program that recognizes exceptional student academic and music qualifications in preparation for professional careers, including teaching at the university level. The DMA student has the opportunity to collaborate with music scholars, theorists, and other performers to attain a broad and well-rounded foundation for advanced careers in music. The degree of Doctor of Musical Arts is offered in:

- Church music (organ or choral conducting emphasis),
- Composition,
- Conducting (choral, orchestral, or wind), and
- Areas of performance.

D.M.A. Admission

The applicant is expected to have a master’s degree, or its demonstrated equivalent, in the proposed field. In addition to official transcripts and letters of recommendation, all applicants should submit résumés of their training and experience in teaching and performing.

For general information on academic requirements, residence, tenure, and enrollment, see the Graduate Studies (http://catalog.ku.edu/graduate-studies) section of the online catalog. Further admission requirements are listed below.

Performance

The applicant must be prepared to perform the equivalent of a full master’s recital as deemed appropriate by the major performance division. The audition is heard by at least two members of the major division Graduate Faculty. The applicant should consult the major performance division for specific memory and repertoire requirements. The applicant also should submit with the application a comprehensive repertoire list indicating work studied, memorized, performed in public, or ready for immediate performance. In the case of international students, acceptance may be achieved by submitting a video tape (DVD) to be reviewed by the Graduate Faculty in the major division. A pre-screening audition is required for voice and piano applicants. View School of Music audition requirements and procedures (http://music.ku.edu/prospective/auditions.shtml).

Graduate Admission to the School of Music

Application procedures and program requirements can change. Please visit the School of Music Admissions webpage (http://music.ku.edu/applyaudition/#graduate) for current information.

Graduate programs in the School of Music are open to students with acceptable baccalaureate degrees, as specified by the admitting areas, whose academic records indicate that they can do successful work at the graduate level. Regular admission requires a bachelor’s degree and a grade-point average of at least a B (3.0 on a 4.0 scale), from KU or from another regionally accredited institution or foreign university with substantially equivalent bachelor’s degree requirements.

Programs of study leading to the Master of Music (M.M.), Master of Music Education (M.M.E.), Doctor of Musical Arts (D.M.A.), and Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) are offered through the School of Music. Specific admission procedures and degree requirements for the M.M. and M.M.E. programs are described under division headings. Specific admission procedures and degree requirements for the D.M.A., Ph.D. (musicology/music theory), and Ph.D. (music education/music therapy) are listed in the appropriate sections.

Program Areas

Graduate study in the School of Music is organized into program areas within 2 units:

- Music includes programs in composition, conducting, musicology, music theory, and areas of performance.
- Music Education and Music Therapy (MEMT) includes programs in music education or music therapy.

At least a 3.0 grade-point average, overall and in the major area, is required for all course work counted toward any graduate degree in the School of Music. If the overall grade-point average falls below 3.0, the student is placed on probation for one semester; if the cumulative average is not 3.0 or higher after the next semester, the student is dismissed from the program. Students must also achieve at least a grade of B in theses, lecture-recital, document or dissertation, and on each recital for satisfactory completion of degree requirements.

Diagnostic Examinations

All entering graduate students (except music education, music therapy, and opera performance majors) must take written diagnostic examinations in musicology and music theory. These are given the week before the start of classes in the Fall and Spring semesters to determine whether a need exists for remedial work in those areas prior to enrolling in graduate coursework. Students who show the need for remediation must complete the prescribed review courses or show mastery of the material by re-examination. Graduate students entering programs in piano must take additional tests in piano literature given before the start of classes. A student is exempt if he or she received a bachelor’s or master’s degree in music from the University of Kansas within the previous 4 years.

D.M.A. Degree Requirements

Research Skills

Doctoral students are required to have training in both responsible scholarship and research skills pertinent to the doctoral level of research in their field of study.

To satisfy both components, D.M.A. students in performance or composition and Ph.D. students in Musicology or Music Theory must complete MUSC 801 Music Bibliography and Research (or its equivalent) and, if available, participate in advanced performance seminars.

Advisory Committee

Each graduate student, in consultation with the major advisor, selects a Graduate Advisory Committee subject to the consent of the faculty members involved, and approval of the School of Music Graduate office. The committee consists of 5 faculty members: at least 2 faculty members from the major division, 1 from musicology or music theory (at least 1 from
musicology for D.M.A. composition), 1 from the School of Music at large and 1 from outside the MUSIC department. This committee administers the comprehensive and final oral examinations. Performance members of the advisory committee grade the required degree recitals.

Recitals

All students in performance and conducting must perform a total of 3 public recitals. This does not include the D.M.A. lecture-recital if the student selects a lecture-recital as a final project. Each recital program should be approved by the faculty in the major area before the recital is performed. At least two of the three degree recitals must be performed before the oral comprehensive examination. The first of the doctoral recitals is considered to be a qualifying recital for determining whether the student can remain in the doctoral program.

All recitals required for the D.M.A. are graded by the performance area members of the student’s advisory committee. The student must achieve at least a grade of B on each recital for satisfactory completion of degree requirements. Recordings of all recitals are kept in the School of Music. Programs for all recitals must be submitted to the School of Music Graduate office.

Written and Oral Comprehensive Examinations

Students must take written examinations in musicology when most of the course work has been completed and the research skills/responsible scholarship requirements have been fulfilled. All diagnostic deficiencies must be satisfied before taking the written and oral comprehensive exams. After successful completion of the written examinations, the student is eligible to schedule the oral comprehensive examination administered by the student’s graduate advisory committee. Majors in performance and conducting must have presented 2 of the 3 required recitals before taking the examinations.

Document or Lecture-Recital

No later than the end of the semester after successful completion of the comprehensive examination, candidates in performance, conducting, and composition must submit to the graduate advisory committee a proposal for a D.M.A. lecture-recital document or D.M.A. document. The research proposal for a document or lecture-recital should include a preliminary bibliography and an outline of the content. The lecture-recital is a public presentation based on a paper written in scholarly form.

Upon satisfactory completion of all other degree requirements, candidates must schedule a final oral examination (defense). For students in performance and conducting, the examination covers the third recital and the research reported in the document or lecture-recital. The student must receive at least a grade of B on the document and lecture-recital for satisfactory completion of degree requirements.

Examinations

At least 3 months must elapse between the successful completion of the comprehensive oral examination and the date of the final oral examination/defense for candidates for the D.M.A. degree.

Cognate

Each D.M.A. student (not including Composition) may choose a defined cognate area of 12 credits with the approval of the student’s advisory committee.