

# Doctor of Musical Arts in Conducting

## 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.

## Conducting

Applicants are expected to have had experience in conducting that spans a period of not less than 2 years. This may include work in public school, college, or with other amateur or professional ensembles. Applicants normally are expected to have a high level of performing ability on an instrument or in voice. Applicants are expected to submit preliminary audition materials that include a video audition of the applicant conducting in performance and in rehearsal, a recording of an ensemble trained and conducted by the applicant, and a prescribed formal analysis project. Details can be found at the band, choral, and orchestral links on the School of Music's website (<http://music.ku.edu/>). An entrance interview-audition is required for admission. The audition is heard by a committee composed of the Graduate Faculty of the conducting divisions. Approval by a majority of the committee is required for acceptance into the program. The audition may include

1. Harmonic and melodic dictation and/or sight-singing;
2. Score identification;
3. Score reading at the keyboard; and
4. Conducting from a band, choral, or orchestral score to be selected by the examiners.

Applicants may upload videos directly to their graduate application and Graduate Faculty in the ensemble divisions will review these recordings.

Students applying to the D.M.A. program in choral conducting must display a working knowledge of 2 of the following 4 languages: French, German, Spanish, and Italian. A working knowledge normally implies at least 2 semesters of undergraduate study.

## Graduate Admission to the School of Music

Application procedures and program requirements can change. Please visit the School of Music Admissions webpage (<https://music.ku.edu/graduate-programs/>) 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 thesis, lecture-recital, document or dissertation, and on each recital for satisfactory completion of degree requirements.

## D.M.A. Degree Requirements

### Research Skills and Engagement

Before scheduling the oral comprehensive exam, doctoral students must satisfy the residency, basic research skills, and responsible scholarship requirements. MUSC 801: Music Bibliography and Research (or its equivalent as determined by the Musicology division) will satisfy the research skills and responsible scholarship requirements.

Prior to the semester in which the comprehensive exam is held, all doctoral students must complete a minimum program engagement equivalent to two full-time semesters. This may be accomplished through either of the following:

- Two semesters (fall and/or spring) of full-time enrollment in KU coursework, as defined by University policy (<https://policy.ku.edu/graduate-studies/fulltime-enrollment/>)
- At least 18 hours of enrollment in KU coursework spread out over several part-time semesters

Summer enrollment is not required to maintain registration but summer enrollments may be counted toward the 18 part-time pre-comprehensive hours. The time spent in attaining the master's degree at KU may also count toward this enrollment requirement, at the program's discretion.

During the required enrollment outlined above, the student's supervisor must affirm that the course work and research involvement contribute to the student's dissertation or academically equivalent program objectives. Research must be performed under the direct supervision of the major adviser if on campus, or with adequate liaison if off-campus.

## Diagnostic Exams

All incoming graduate students, *except MM-Opera*, are required to take diagnostic exams in Musicology and Music Theory. The exams are given during the week before the Fall and Spring semesters begin. Diagnostic deficiencies can only be satisfied in one of two ways: 1) re-taking the exam the next time it is given (one re-take only) or 2) enrolling in the appropriate review course and receiving at least a grade of "C." The student must satisfy all diagnostic deficiencies by the end of the third semester of enrollment.

## Advisory Committee

Each doctoral student must form a Graduate Advisory Committee. 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), 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.

## Program of Study

A Program of Study approved by the major advisor must be submitted for the approval of the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs by the end of the second term of admission. Student who do not submit a Program of Study by the end of the second semester shall not be permitted to enroll in third semester courses.

## Recitals

All students in performance and in choral, orchestral, and wind conducting must perform a total of 3 doctoral recitals. This number does not include the D.M.A. lecture-recital if the student selects a lecture-recital as a final project.

The first of the three doctoral recitals is considered to be a qualifying recital for determining whether the student can remain in the doctoral program. It must be given within the first two semesters of enrollment unless a petition is submitted for an extension.

Doctoral conducting students are expected to perform 3 public, concert-length recitals. Up to 2 recitals may consist of the combination of works conducted with various official university ensembles over the course of several semesters. The third recital must be a single program with a major ensemble assigned as part of course work or teaching duties and presented as a regular program in that ensemble's performance schedule. The third recital may include a complete performance of an opera, ballet/dance, or musical. A student who wishes to use an ensemble other than an official university ensemble must obtain permission to do so from the directors of ensembles.

For the first 2 required recitals in the D.M.A. program in performance and conducting, a recital preview is left to the discretion of the faculty

members of each division. In divisions with no preview requirement, the option to have a preview is still available to students and faculty members. Divisions must approve the recital content well in advance but no less than 3 weeks before the recital date. Normally, there is no recital preview for the final recital.

## Written and Oral Comprehensive Examinations

Performance D.M.A. students must take written qualifying examinations in Musicology, Music Theory, and the major area. Composition D.M.A. and Ph.D. students in Musicology and Music Theory take written qualifying exams in Music Theory and Musicology. After successful completion of the written examinations and the residency and research skills requirements, 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 oral examinations.

## Document or Lecture-Recital

Candidates in performance, conducting, and composition must submit to the graduate advisory committee a proposal for a D.M.A. lecture-recital document, or a longer D.M.A. document only, at the Oral Comprehensive Exam or at least 12 weeks prior to the scheduled defense. Guidelines for proposals can be found on the School of Music website.

Upon satisfactory completion of all other degree requirements, candidates must schedule a final oral examination (defense). The student must receive at least a grade of B on the document, lecture-recital, or composition for satisfactory completion of degree requirements.

## Examinations

At least 1 month must elapse between the successful completion of the comprehensive oral examination and the date of the final oral examination 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. Hours taken to fulfill the Musicology, Music Theory and elective requirements may be used to meet the optional 12 credit Cognate.

## Choral Conducting Program

Code	Title	Hours
MUSC 801	Music Bibliography and Research	3
	Advanced courses in musicology and music theory*	12
COND 961	Directed Performance	12
CHOR 820	Orchestral Bowing Techniques for Choral Conductors	1
	Seminar conducting/rehearsal	6
	Choral literature	12
	Electives*	6
COND 965	Doctoral Recitals	3
	D.M.A. document or lecture-recital	4

- \* Conducting majors must be enrolled in an ensemble for a minimum of 2 semesters.

\*Credits can be used to fulfill the optional Cognate credits

## Orchestral Conducting Program

Code	Title	Hours
MUSC 801	Music Bibliography and Research	3
Advanced courses in musicology and music theory*		12
Advanced conducting		12-14
Score reading		4
Seminars		9
COND 965	Doctoral Recitals	3
D.M.A. document or lecture-recital		4
Electives*		11-13

- Conducting majors must be enrolled in an ensemble for a minimum of 2 semesters.

\*Credits can be used to fulfill the optional Cognate credits

## Wind Conducting Program

Code	Title	Hours
MUSC 801	Music Bibliography and Research	3
Advanced courses in musicology and music theory*		12
Advanced conducting		12-14
Score reading		4
Seminars		9
COND 965	Doctoral Recitals	3
D.M.A. document or lecture-recital		4
Electives*		11-13

- Conducting majors must be enrolled in an ensemble for a minimum of 2 semesters.

\* Credits can be used to fulfill the optional Cognate credits