

MUSICAL ARTS, DMA

Banner Code: AR-DMA-MUAR

Music Academic Advisor

A417 deLaski Performing Arts Building
Fairfax Campus

Phone: 703-993-1392

Email: music@gmu.edu

Website: music.gmu.edu/degree-programs/graduate/

The Doctor of Musical Arts (DMA) requires 90 credits, 60 credits beyond the Master's degree in music. The doctor of musical arts concentrations are composition, conducting, and performance. While these concentrations share some of the required coursework, each is also distinct in course requirements. Professional musicians earn the DMA to enhance and extend their knowledge and practice within their area of specialization. The DMA student focuses on the profession of music performance, as well as the theory and practice of the discipline.

Admissions & Policies

Admissions

Applicants to all graduate programs at George Mason University must meet the admission standards and application requirements for graduate study as specified on the Graduate Admissions policy page (<https://catalog.gmu.edu/admissions/graduate-policies/>). Specific graduate admissions requirements can be found on the College of Visual and Performing Arts Graduate Admissions requirements page (<https://cvpa.gmu.edu/admissions/graduate-admissions/graduate-admission-requirements/>).

Policies

500- to 800-level music courses may be counted as electives except for the following classes: MUSI 501, MUSI 502, MUSI 516, MUSI 532, MUSI 533. These are review courses that cover undergraduate-level material and they may not be counted toward the MM, DMA, or Ph.D.

For policies governing all graduate degrees, see AP .6 Graduate Policies (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/graduate-policies/>). See College of Visual and Performing Arts (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/visual-performing-arts/>) for policies specific to the college.

Transfer of prior earned credits

Students must have a master's degree to be eligible for admission to doctoral programs in the College of Visual and Performing Arts.

Students are permitted to transfer credits from a master's degree into a doctoral program per the stipulations outlined under policy AP6.5 Credit by Exam or Transfer (<https://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/graduate-policies/#ap-6-5>).

Requirements

Degree Requirements

Total credits: 90

The following degree plan is based on a student who receives approval for a transfer of 30 credits. Students who do not receive approval for the 30 credits of transfer coursework should choose additional credits in consultation with their advisor.

Placement Examinations

Prior to the beginning of the first semester of doctoral studies, the student must complete placement examinations in music theory, music history, and musicianship (including aural skills and keyboard skills). Positive scores on the placement exams may reduce or eliminate prerequisites for courses in music history and music theory. Recitals can be scheduled only after completion of any necessary prerequisites in music theory, music history, and musicianship.

Doctoral Coursework

The doctoral student must maintain a minimum of 3.00 GPA in courses presented on the degree plan, which may include no more than 6 credits with a grade of C. The GPA calculation excludes all transfer courses and Mason extended studies or non-degree credits not formally approved for the degree.

Students must complete the following required courses as well as those in their chosen concentration:

Code	Title	Credits
Select 3 credits of Music Theory coursework from the following:		3
MUSI 605	Graduate Jazz Improvisation	
MUSI 610	Topics in Music Theory	
MUSI 611	Analytical Techniques	
MUSI 613	Graduate Orchestration	
MUSI 615	Advanced Jazz Improvisation	
MUSI 616	Graduate Jazz Arranging	
MUSI 650	Topics in Jazz Studies	
MUSI 710	Advanced Topics in Music Theory	
MUSI 810	Doctoral Seminar in Analysis	
MUSI 830	Doctoral Seminar in Music History	3
Two credits of		2
MUSI 890	Doctoral Recital	
Total Credits		8

¹

Must be taken within the student's first 2 semesters.

Concentration in Composition (CPO)

Code	Title	Credits
Select 1 credit of approved graduate electives ¹		1
Select 3 credits of Musicology/Music Theory Electives from the following		3

MUSI 605	Graduate Jazz Improvisation	
MUSI 610	Topics in Music Theory	
MUSI 611	Analytical Techniques	
MUSI 613	Graduate Orchestration	
MUSI 615	Advanced Jazz Improvisation	
MUSI 616	Graduate Jazz Arranging	
MUSI 630	Topics in Music History and Literature	
MUSI 640	Topics in World Musics	
MUSI 650	Topics in Jazz Studies	
MUSI 710	Advanced Topics in Music Theory	
MUSI 730	Advanced Topics in Music History	
MUSI 810	Doctoral Seminar in Analysis	
MUSI 830	Doctoral Seminar in Music History	
MUSI 614	Music Theory Pedagogy	3
Four credits of		4
MUSI 685	Graduate Chamber Ensemble	
Six credits of		6
MUSI 810	Doctoral Seminar in Analysis	
Fifteen credits of		15
MUSI 828	Doctoral Applied Music in Composition	
MUSI 880	Doctoral Major Ensemble	1
Select 3 credits of Musicology coursework from the following:		3
MUSI 630	Topics in Music History and Literature	
MUSI 640	Topics in World Musics	
MUSI 730	Advanced Topics in Music History	
MUSI 830	Doctoral Seminar in Music History	
MUSI 780	Doctoral Research Methods in Music	3
Total Credits		39

1

Approved electives could be from music history, music literature, world music, music theory, conducting, music education, secondary Applied Music, ensemble (including chamber music), or relevant nonmusic courses.

Concentration in Conducting (CDC)

Code	Title	Credits
Select 5 credits of approved graduate electives ¹		5
Select 3 credits of Musicology coursework from the following:		3
MUSI 630	Topics in Music History and Literature	
MUSI 640	Topics in World Musics	
MUSI 730	Advanced Topics in Music History	
MUSI 830	Doctoral Seminar in Music History	
MUSI 770	Advanced Topics in Pedagogy	3
MUSI 780	Doctoral Research Methods in Music	3
MUSI 810	Doctoral Seminar in Analysis	3
Fifteen credits of		15
MUSI 829	Doctoral Applied Music in Conducting	
Four credits of		4
MUSI 880	Doctoral Major Ensemble	
Select 3 credits of Musicology/Music Theory Electives from the following		3
MUSI 605	Graduate Jazz Improvisation	
MUSI 610	Topics in Music Theory	

MUSI 611	Analytical Techniques	
MUSI 613	Graduate Orchestration	
MUSI 615	Advanced Jazz Improvisation	
MUSI 616	Graduate Jazz Arranging	
MUSI 630	Topics in Music History and Literature	
MUSI 640	Topics in World Musics	
MUSI 650	Topics in Jazz Studies	
MUSI 710	Advanced Topics in Music Theory	
MUSI 730	Advanced Topics in Music History	
MUSI 810	Doctoral Seminar in Analysis	
MUSI 830	Doctoral Seminar in Music History	
Total Credits		39

1

Approved electives could be from music history, music literature, world music, music theory, conducting, music education, secondary Applied Music, ensemble (including chamber music), or relevant nonmusic courses.

Concentration in Performance (PFM)

Code	Title	Credits
Select 15 credits of Graduate Applied Music from the following:		15
MUSI 822	Doctoral Applied Music in Keyboard	
MUSI 823	Doctoral Applied Music in Voice	
MUSI 824	Doctoral Applied Music in Woodwind	
MUSI 825	Doctoral Applied Music in Brass	
MUSI 826	Doctoral Applied Music in String	
MUSI 827	Doctoral Applied Music in Percussion	
Select 3 credits of approved graduate electives ¹		3
Select 3 credits of Musicology coursework from the following:		3
MUSI 630	Topics in Music History and Literature	
MUSI 640	Topics in World Musics	
MUSI 730	Advanced Topics in Music History	
MUSI 830	Doctoral Seminar in Music History	
Select 2 credits from the following:		2
MUSI 685	Graduate Chamber Ensemble	
MUSI 720	Advanced Topics in Applied Music	
MUSI 770	Advanced Topics in Pedagogy	3
MUSI 780	Doctoral Research Methods in Music	3
MUSI 810	Doctoral Seminar in Analysis	3
Select 4 credits from the following:		4
MUSI 880	Doctoral Major Ensemble	
& MUSI 720	and Advanced Topics in Applied Music	
MUSI 880	Doctoral Major Ensemble	
or MUSI 720	Advanced Topics in Applied Music	
Select 3 credits of Musicology/Music Theory Electives from the following		3
MUSI 605	Graduate Jazz Improvisation	
MUSI 610	Topics in Music Theory	
MUSI 611	Analytical Techniques	
MUSI 613	Graduate Orchestration	
MUSI 615	Advanced Jazz Improvisation	
MUSI 616	Graduate Jazz Arranging	

MUSI 630	Topics in Music History and Literature
MUSI 640	Topics in World Musics
MUSI 650	Topics in Jazz Studies
MUSI 710	Advanced Topics in Music Theory
MUSI 730	Advanced Topics in Music History
MUSI 810	Doctoral Seminar in Analysis
MUSI 830	Doctoral Seminar in Music History

Total Credits 39

1

Approved electives could be from music history, music literature, world music, music theory, conducting, music education, secondary Applied Music, ensemble (including chamber music), or relevant nonmusic courses.

Language Requirements

Reading proficiency is required in a language appropriate to the student's major area of study. Normally, this will be German, French, or Italian. The director of graduate studies and the Graduate Committee will determine the appropriate area of study. Reading proficiency may be accomplished by completing a reading examination provided by the music faculty. The reading examination provided by the faculty will normally consist of translation (with dictionary) of appropriate technical passages relevant to the student's area of study within a two-hour period. The language reading proficiency should be completed prior to earning 12 credits of courses at the 600 level or above.

Graduate Committee

The Graduate Committee will evaluate the progress of the student annually. Continuation in the program is subject to the endorsement of this group.

Comprehensive Exams

After the completion of required courses (excluding dissertation credits) or during the semester when completion of those courses is anticipated, the student will take comprehensive examinations. The written exams will be followed by a one-hour oral exam to clarify issues included in the written exams.

Doctoral Research

Code	Title	Credits
Select 13 credits from the following:		13
MUSI 998	Dissertation Proposal (a minimum of 3 credits)	
MUSI 999	Dissertation (a minimum of 7 credits)	
Total Credits		13

Advancement to Candidacy

Before doctoral students may be advanced to candidacy by the dean of the College of Visual and Performing Arts, they must complete all coursework required by the program faculty, be certified in all relevant doctoral research skills, pass the comprehensive exams, and be recommended by the Graduate Committee, the director of graduate studies, and the director of the School of Music. Students advanced to candidacy after the add period for a given semester must wait until the following semester to register for MUSI 999 Dissertation.

Dissertation Committee

The dissertation is the capstone experience of doctoral study. The dissertation will be guided by the Dissertation Committee consisting of at least three members of the music faculty. The student's major professor will chair the committee. The director of graduate studies of the School of Music may be part of the committee; if not, he or she will serve ex officio. All Dissertation Committee members will be appointed by the dean of the College of Visual and Performing Arts and have graduate faculty status, as approved by the university provost. Performance and composition recitals are also subject to the approval of the Dissertation Committee.

Dissertation Lecture/Lecture Recital

Students in the DMA program with concentrations in Performance and Conducting are required to complete a lecture recital (min. 60 minutes) related to the dissertation topic during MUSI 999.

Students in the DMA program in Composition are required to complete a culminating, large-scale composition (performance encouraged but not required). They must also complete a lecture (min. 30 minutes) related to the dissertation topic. N.B. The dissertation is an independent research document and may or may not be directly related to the composition.

Final Defense and Graduation

When all degree requirements have been satisfied, including completion of the doctoral dissertation, the doctoral candidate may request a doctoral defense. Approval for the defense must be obtained from the Dissertation Committee, the director of graduate studies and the director of the School of Music, and the dean of the College of Visual and Performing Arts. Notice of a defense must be circulated to the university community two weeks before the defense date.

All relevant rules regarding schedule, fees, and other matters as described in the catalog must be followed. All copies of the dissertation materials and fees must be paid before the doctoral degree is awarded.