Students in the Doctor of Musical Arts program, with a concentration in Instrumental Conducting (orchestra) or Instrumental Conducting (wind band) or Choral Music [which is a degree in choral conducting], will:

1. Develop conducting skills at the highest professional level, using creative and critical thinking to inform stylistic choices and artistic expression, while demonstrating appropriate spontaneity, and will communicate their artistry to diverse audiences; in addition, students will demonstrate effective, musical, and efficient rehearsal techniques.

2. Develop a secondary area of expertise to demonstrate discipline-related breadth at an advanced level, and/or the acquisition of new professional skills.

3. Demonstrate an ability to summarize, synthesize and critique disciplinary content in relation to their major and secondary (cognate) areas of study; in the major area, students will demonstrate a thorough knowledge of the core repertoire.

4. Demonstrate effective analytical and interpretative skills in music theory, musicology and/or performance practice, as well as an ability to communicate an advanced understanding and evaluation of musical knowledge and ideas in written and/or oral forms.

5. Pursue specialized studies, to develop expertise and an ability to synthesize knowledge in areas of interest that enhance their required curriculum and/or professional goals.

6. Utilize and apply appropriate research methods to explore a focused research topic and to contribute original perspectives to discipline-related knowledge, communicating their research findings clearly and professionally in written, oral, and performative forms.

7. In addition, many Illinois DMA students will develop experience and expertise in instruction, pedagogy, and student assessment in at least one area of musical study, also gaining insights into rehearsal strategies for large ensemble in the major area, and appropriate methods of student evaluation.