MUSIC: MUSIC COMPOSITION, DMA

for the degree of Doctor of Musical Arts in Music, Music Composition
Concentration

director of school: Dr. Jeffrey Sposato
associate director of graduate studies: Dr. Reynold Tharp
program contact: Jenny Phillips
overview of school of music admissions & requirements: https://music.illinois.edu/graduate-admissions
admissions questions: musicadmissions@illinois.edu | (217) 244-7899
overview of grad college admissions & requirements: https://grad.illinois.edu/admissions/apply

department website: https://music.illinois.edu
department faculty: Music Faculty (https://music.illinois.edu/people)
college website: https://faa.illinois.edu/
department office: School of Music, 2040 Music Building, 1114 West Nevada Street, Urbana, IL 61801
phone: (217) 333-3459

Graduate Degree Programs in Music

Artist Diploma in Music (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/faa/artist-diploma-music)
Music, MMUS (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/faa/music-mmus)
concentrations:
Choral Music (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/faa/music-mmus/choral-music)
Instrumental Conducting - Band (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/faa/music-mmus/instrumental-conducting-band)
Instrumental Conducting - Orchestra (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/faa/music-mmus/instrumental-conducting-orchestra)
Jazz Performance (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/faa/music-mmus/jazz-performance)
Music Composition (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/faa/music-mmus/music-composition)
Music Theory (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/faa/music-mmus/music-theory)
Musicology (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/faa/music-mmus/musicology)
Performance & Literature (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/faa/music-mmus/performance-literature)
Piano Pedagogy (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/faa/music-mmus/piano-pedagogy)
Vocal Coaching & Accompanying (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/faa/music-mmus/vocal-coaching-accompanying)

Music, DMA (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/faa/music-dma)
concentrations:
Choral Music (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/faa/music-dma/choral-music)
Instrumental Conducting - Orchestra (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/faa/music-dma/instrumental-conducting-orchestra)
Instrumental Conducting – Wind Band (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/faa/music-dma/instrumental-conducting-wind-band)
Jazz Performance (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/faa/music-dma/jazz-performance)
Music Composition (p. 1)
Performance & Literature (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/faa/music-dma/performance-literature)
Vocal Coaching & Accompanying (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/faa/music-dma/vocal-coaching-accompanying)

Music Education, MME (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/faa/music-education-mme)
Music Education, PhD (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/faa/music-education-phd)
Musicology, PhD (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/faa/musicology-phd)
concentration:
Medieval Studies (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/las/concentration/medieval-studies)

The School of Music has been an accredited member of the National Association of Schools of Music since 1933.

Admission

For all degree programs, consult the admission requirements stated on the School of Music’s website: https://music.illinois.edu/graduate-admissions.

Requirements for admission to the Master of Music (MM) programs are a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign or an equivalent degree from another accredited institution.
Students holding other degrees may be admitted but will be expected to make up any deficiencies in addition to fulfilling all requirements for the graduate degree.

Applicants to choral music, instrumental conducting (wind band or orchestra), jazz performance, piano pedagogy, performance and literature, and vocal accompanying and coaching must pass a qualifying audition for their major area or submit satisfactory recordings. Applicants in musicology, theory, and composition must present writings or other evidence of their ability to pursue work at the graduate level. The Graduate Record Examination (GRE) is not required.

The School of Music requires all new MM students to complete entrance examinations in music theory and musicianship; all new MM students, except those in musicology, complete a musicology entrance exam as well. These exams take place the week before the fall term begins. See the School of Music’s Graduate Resources page for more information.

Prerequisite for admission to the **Artist Diploma** is a master’s degree in music performance.

**International applicants** to the **MM** and the **Artist Diploma (AD)** whose native language is not English must present an iBT score of 79 for admission to the Artist Diploma (AD), 90 for the Master of Music (MM), excluding Musicology; MM in Musicology requires an iBT score of 96. A TOEFL iBT of 103 or higher is required for Full Status Admission to the University of Illinois Graduate College and School of Music. Fall admission only; other terms of entry by departmental petition approval only.

Requirements for admission to the **Master of Music in Education** (MME) are:

1. Undergraduate degree in music education from an accredited institution;
2. An overall grade average for the last 60 credit hours of undergraduate work of at least 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale). The grade average for Music Education and Education courses, when averaged separately, must also be at least 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale);
3. Recommendations from three individuals who can discuss the applicant’s musicianship, ability to undertake graduate level study, and teaching ability/potential.
4. The Graduate Record Exam (GRE) is not required for application to the MME, nor do MME students take placement tests in music theory or music history.

For MME applicants with public school experience:

1. recommendation from a principal or supervisor who speaks primarily to the quality of the applicants teaching experience;
2. recommendation from an individual who speaks primarily to the quality of the applicants musicianship;
3. recommendation from an individual who speaks primarily to the applicants potential for completion of graduate level study;
4. applicants who wish to be considered for a Teaching Assistantship should ensure that at least one of their references provides specific comments on their potential to engage in university level teaching duties associated with such an appointment.

For MME applicants without public school experience:

1. recommendation from a music education professor;
2. recommendation from an applied or ensemble music professor;
3. recommendation from an individual who can speak to the applicants potential for completion of graduate study.

Applicants seeking admission to the MME + Licensure program, should review the requirements found online at: https://music.illinois.edu/graduate-admissions

**International applicants** to the **MME** whose native language is not English must present an iBT score of 96 for the Master of Music Education (MME). A TOEFL iBT of 103 or higher is required for Full Status Admission to the University of Illinois Graduate College and School of Music.

The School of Music offers an academic year program and a Summers-only MME. For academic year applications, the School of Music offers Fall admission only; spring term of entry by departmental petition approval only.

Requirements for admission to the **Doctor of Musical Arts** and the **Doctor of Philosophy** in Musicology programs are the Master of Music degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign or an equivalent degree from another accredited institution.

Applicants to the **Doctor of Musical Arts** programs must have:

1. a high level of proficiency in composition, conducting, or performance - candidates in composition must submit original scores for review, and candidates in performance and literature must pass a qualifying audition or submit satisfactory recordings; and
2. appropriate experience in ensemble performance and/or score reading. Candidates in voice and vocal accompanying and coaching must have fulfilled all foreign language requirements considered prerequisites for the Master of Music degree, including 1 year of college-level study in Italian, French, and German.

The School of Music requires all new DMA students to complete entrance examinations in musicology, music theory, aural skills, and score reading. These exams take place the week before the fall term begins. See the School of Music’s Graduate Resources page for more information.

**International applicants** to the **DMA or PhD** whose native language is not English must submit an iBT score of 96. A TOEFL iBT of 103 or higher is required for Full Status Admission to the University of Illinois Graduate College and School of Music.

Fall admission only; other terms of entry by departmental petition approval only.

For information about admission to the MME and PhD in Music Education, please visit www.music.illinois.edu.

**Language Requirements**

For the Master of Music program, applicants in voice and vocal accompanying and coaching are required to have had at least one year each of college-level French, German, and Italian or the equivalent. Applicants in other applied music areas, composition, conducting, musicology, and theory are required to have had one year of any language at the college level or the equivalent.

All Doctor of Musical Arts candidates will be required to demonstrate proficiency in at least one language other than English. Each division may...
specify which language is required or may require proficiency in more than one language. Please review the current Graduate Music Handbook (https://music.illinois.edu/graduate-handbooks) for more details.

Proficiency is required in two languages, depending on the proposed field of specialization, for candidates in the Doctor of Philosophy in Musicology program. This may be demonstrated through two years of undergraduate study in each language.

For all Graduate Degrees:

For those students who do not meet the language requirement at the time of entrance, it may be satisfied by evidence of two years of undergraduate study or the equivalent, or by completion of a two-semester, 500-level reading course sequence at UIUC with a grade of at least B-, or by satisfactory test scores. For up-to-date information regarding language requirements of the School of Music, please see the Graduate Music Handbook (https://music.illinois.edu/graduate-handbooks).

**Graduate Teaching Experience**

Although teaching is not a general Graduate College requirement, experience in teaching is considered an important part of the graduate experience.

**Financial Aid**

Fellowships, teaching, graduate, and research assistantships are awarded on a one-year basis with continuation dependent upon success in the program. Specific information on application procedures is available from the Music Admissions Office, (217) 244-7899; musicadmissions@illinois.edu.

**for the degree of Doctor of Musical Arts in Music, Music Composition Concentration**

For additional details and requirements refer to the department’s Graduate Handbook https://music.illinois.edu/graduate-handbooks and the Graduate College Handbook (http://www.grad.illinois.edu/gradhandbook).

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
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<th>Hours</th>
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<tr>
<td>MUS 506</td>
<td>Graduate Level Composition</td>
<td>12-16</td>
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<td>Advanced Musicology - select 8 hours from the following (MUS 511, 512, 516, 519, 520, and 523 are particularly appropriate for DMS students pursuing a cognate in Musicology):</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>MUS 418</td>
<td>Regional Studies in Musicology (must enroll for 4 credits)</td>
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<tr>
<td>MUS 511</td>
<td>Fdns/Methods of Musicology I</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>MUS 512</td>
<td>Fdns/Methods of Musicology II</td>
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<tr>
<td>MUS 516</td>
<td>Fieldwork and Ethnography</td>
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<tr>
<td>MUS 517</td>
<td>Topics in Instrumental Music</td>
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<td>MUS 518</td>
<td>Topics in Opera History</td>
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<td>MUS 519</td>
<td>Analytical Methods: Musicology</td>
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<td>MUS 520</td>
<td>Soc Theory in Ethnomusicology</td>
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<td>MUS 521</td>
<td>Hist Studies in 20thC Music</td>
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<td>MUS 522</td>
<td>Special Topics Seminar</td>
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<td>MUS 523</td>
<td>Seminar in Musicology</td>
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<tr>
<td>MUS 524</td>
<td>Sem in Wrks of Select Composer</td>
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<tr>
<td>MUS 408</td>
<td>Analysis of Musical Form (Section A-C)</td>
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<tr>
<td>or MUS 408</td>
<td>Analysis of Musical Form (Sections D-E)</td>
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<td>Cognate field or minor area</td>
<td>8-16</td>
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<td>Electives (min/max applied toward degree): 1</td>
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**Language Requirements:**

Courses taken to meet language requirements do not count toward the degree. See the departmental handbook for details.

**Thesis Hours or Doctoral Project Hours Required – MUS 576/MUS 599 (min/max applied toward degree):** 16

**Final Exam/Dissertation Defense Required**

**Dissertation Deposit Not Required**

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<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tr>
<td>MUS 528</td>
<td>Res &amp; Bibliography in Music (sections A1-A3)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUS 528</td>
<td>Res &amp; Bibliography in Music (sections B1-B2)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
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<td>Total Hours</td>
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**Other Requirements**

**Requirement** | **Description**
---|---
Other requirements may overlap | Yes
Concentration | Yes
Minimum 500-level Hours Required Overall: | 12
Masters Degree Required for Admission to DMA? | Yes
Qualifying Exam Required: | Yes
Preliminary Exam Required: | Yes
Minimum GPA: | 3.0