

# MUSIC EDUCATION, PHD

*for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Music Education*

The doctoral program in music education consists of the Doctor of Philosophy in Music Education. The Ph.D. is tailored to meet the varying needs and interests of individuals seeking a terminal degree in Music Education. The Ph.D. is appropriate for students with a strong background and interest in research. The Ph.D. places emphasis on research and research methodology training. Students entering the Ph.D. must have already completed a substantial thesis or research project as part of their master's degree.

## Admission

For all degree programs, consult the admission requirements stated on the School of Music's website (<https://music.illinois.edu/prospective-students/>).

Requirements for admission to the **Master of Music (MM)** programs are a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign or an equivalent degree from another accredited institution. Students holding other degrees may be admitted but will be expected to make up for any deficiencies and fulfill 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 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 (excluding Musicology). These exams take place the week before the fall term begins. See the School of Music's Graduate Resources (<https://music.illinois.edu/graduate-academic-affairs/>) page for more information.

A prerequisite for admission to the **Artist Diploma** is a bachelor's degree.

**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 Illinois Graduate College and School of Music. Please see the full English proficiency requirements (<https://music.illinois.edu/english-proficiency-requirement/>). 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 applicant's musicianship;
3. recommendation from an individual who speaks primarily to the applicant's 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 applicant's potential for completion of graduate study.

Applicants seeking admission to the MME + Licensure program should review the online requirements (<https://music.illinois.edu/prospective-students/>).

**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 Illinois Graduate College and School of Music. See the full English proficiency requirements (<https://music.illinois.edu/english-proficiency-requirement/>).

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 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 one year of college-level study in Italian, French, and German.

The School of Music requires all new **DMA** students to complete entrance examinations in music theory, musicianship, and score reading. These exams take place the week before the fall term begins. See the School of Music's Graduate Resources (<https://music.illinois.edu/resources/>) page for more information.

**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.

See the full English proficiency requirements (<https://music.illinois.edu/english-proficiency-requirement/>).

See information about admission to the MME and PhD in Music Education (<https://music.illinois.edu/admissions/graduate/graduate-degrees/>).

Language Requirements

For the Master of Music program, applicants in voice and vocal accompanying and coaching must 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, and musicology must have had one year of any language at the college level or the equivalent.

All Doctor of Musical Arts candidates must demonstrate proficiency in at least one language other than English. Each area 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:

Students who do not meet the language requirement at the time of entrance may be satisfied by evidence of two years of undergraduate study or the equivalent, or by completion of a two-semester or satisfactory test scores. For up-to-date information regarding the 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 essential 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, by phone (217) 244-7899, or by email ([musicadmissions@illinois.edu](mailto:musicadmissions@illinois.edu)).

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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/>).

Code	Title	Hours
MUS 534	Doctoral Research in Mus Ed	4
MUS 535	Philosophic Inquiry in Mus Ed	4
MUS 543	Music Teacher Education	4
MUS 544	Doctoral Seminar in Music Education (Students must register every semester. Maximum of 2 hours applied toward degree requirements.)	0-2
Music Education Electives		6
A minimum of 6 hours of courses selected from the list below or other course(s) with the approval of the Music Education advisor.		
MUS 529	Transformative Music Education	
MUS 530	Critical Readings in Mus Ed	
MUS 532	Curricular Perspectives on Music Education	
MUS 533	Research in Music Education	
MUS 539	Music in Higher Education	
MUS 541	Chor Prog in Secondary Schools	
Educational Psychology (EPSY)		8
Courses approved by advisor; at least 4 hours must be taken in the College of Education		
Educational Policy (EPOL or C&I)		8
Courses approved by advisor; at least 4 hours must be taken in the College of Education		
Research Methodology		12
12 hours of 500-level research methodology courses from the College of Education.		
MUS 599	Thesis Research (min/max applied toward degree)	16-32
Total Hours		64

Other Requirements

Requirement	Description
Other requirements may overlap	
Masters Degree Required for Admission to PhD?	Yes
Qualifying Exam Required:	Yes
Preliminary Exam Required:	Yes
Final Exam/Dissertation Defense Required:	Yes
Dissertation Deposit Required:	Yes
Minimum GPA:	3.0

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The PhD in Music Education at Illinois emphasizes professional preparation for careers as researchers, music teacher educators, and leaders in the field. Doctoral students enroll in courses that provide depth and breadth in research approaches, theoretical and scholarly analysis, and opportunities to conduct research studies under the guidance of

faculty members in music education and across campus. Participation in the MOSAIC Consortium, an ongoing scholarly community of doctoral students and faculty, is a critical part of the doctoral experience at Illinois.

1. Students in the PhD Program in Music Education will demonstrate knowledge of rigorous methods for conducting scholarly inquiry related to music teaching and learning. [Research]
2. Students in the PhD program in Music Education will contribute to the discovery of new evidence or the exercise of critical judgment in research and scholarship, applying and synthesizing key methodological and theoretical perspectives from their research course preparation. [Research]
3. Students in the PhD Program in Music Education will develop a research agenda for primary and secondary research emphases. [Research]
4. Students in the PhD Program in Music Education will demonstrate their ability to plan, implement, and reflect on college-level teaching. [Music Teacher Education]
5. Students in the PhD Program in Music Education will apply understanding of educational philosophy, curriculum design, methods of teaching and evaluation, and supervision of study teaching to undergraduate music teacher preparation. [Music Teacher Education]
6. Students in the PhD Program in Music Education will exhibit leadership in areas of vital importance to the field, such as curricular reform, music teacher education, community music, and social justice. [Professional Leadership]

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## School of Music

Director of School: Dr. Linda Moorhouse

Associate Director of Graduate Studies: Dr. Reynold Tharp

Program Contact: Jenny Phillips

School of Music Website (<https://music.illinois.edu>)

School of Music Faculty (<https://giesbusiness.illinois.edu/faculty-research/faculty-profiles/>)

2040 Music Building, 1114 West Nevada Street, Urbana, IL 61801  
(217) 333-3459

## College of Fine & Applied Arts

FAA College Website (<https://faa.illinois.edu/>)

## Admissions

Overview of School of Music Admissions & Requirements (<https://music.illinois.edu/graduate-admissions/>)

[musicadmissions@illinois.edu](mailto:musicadmissions@illinois.edu)

(217) 244-7899

Graduate College Admissions (<https://grad.illinois.edu/admissions/apply/>)