

## *Performance Diploma*

[http://music.msu.edu/assets/Perf\\_Diploma\\_Student\\_Checklist.pdf](http://music.msu.edu/assets/Perf_Diploma_Student_Checklist.pdf)

The Performance Diploma Program is an intensive four-semester (two-year) course of study for musicians who have already achieved a high level of performance and wish to focus on developing their performing skills through further study. Admission to the program is by a 30-minute live audition on campus for the faculty of the area of study. There is no English language proficiency requirement.

The program provides for concentrated study in appropriate literature with a master teacher, without being enrolled in a degree program. The program features private study as well as chamber music and ensemble experience within the College of Music. In addition, Diploma students are required to perform one recital during each of the two years of enrollment, with only 4 hours of dress rehearsal for either of their recitals.

During their time of study, Performance Diploma students concentrate almost exclusively on developing their performing skills. This program recognizes accomplishment but does not carry the privileges of a college degree. Instead, students would likely be preparing for auditions, competitions, or career entry positions.

All applicants in classical voice, saxophone, percussion, flute and piano must submit a prescreening recording. This recording must be received no later than December 1 (fall applicants). Separate committees from the piano and vocal arts areas will review recordings beginning the week following the December 1 deadline. You will be notified via email as to whether or not you have been invited for a live audition. The recording quality must be sufficient for us to make a reasonable judgment of your ability. Specific prescreening requirements can be found within the audition section of this website. (<http://www.music.msu.edu/admissions/audition-information1>)

**The program requires 16 credits of MUS 896 Master's Performance taken over four semesters. *These credits of MUS 896 must include at least 8 credits of instruction in the applied instrument (2 credits for each of four semesters), 4 credits of instruction in chamber music (1 credit for each of four semesters) and 4 credits of instruction in major ensemble (1 credit for each of four semesters). (Voice students may substitute MUS 435 Opera Workshop for the chamber music requirement.)***

Two recitals ^^ are required (1 each year) and must be approved in advance, according to the College of Music policy for graduate recitals. Additional requirements will be determined in consultation with the major teacher. Students must provide a program and an AUDIO recording of their performances. (*Please see #5 of Section XII. Miscellaneous Information for details about Recitals.*)

\* Credits from the Performance Diploma Program may be used toward a Master's or Doctoral degree at MSU after consultation with the Associate Dean of Graduate Studies.

\* Courses from another university, college, or music school may **not** be transferred into the Performance Diploma Program.

^^ *Mock Audition in Lieu of Solo Recital*

***Effective Fall 2021, students pursuing a DMA or Performance Diploma may substitute **one** required solo recital with a Mock Audition, using the procedure outlined below. This option is available to those studying all orchestral and wind ensemble instruments with the approval their primary teacher and area chair.***

*The student will prepare in full a repertoire list from recent or current audition materials of an ICSOM orchestra (member of International Conference of Symphony and Opera Musicians) or a premiere military band. The repertoire must include the complete list of all required excerpts and solos.*

*A hearing is required with at least three area faculty members present. At this hearing, the student will perform a selection of the repertoire as determined by the committee, either a previously assigned 'audition round' or excerpts called from the list spontaneously. Solos that appear on the audition list may also be included in the hearing.*

*Either prior to or following the hearing (at the discretion of the major teacher) the student will submit a recording consisting of all the repertoire on the audition list, which they must record at a near-professional quality.*

*The successful mock audition will substitute for one solo recital. Faculty should use the pre-recital hearing form to indicate the results of the mock audition. Student must submit an AUDIO recording and 'program' to the Graduate Studies Office via FileDepot.*

### **Academic Standards for all Performance Diploma Students**

Performance Diploma students must:

1. Maintain a cumulative grade–point average of at least 3.00.
2. Not accumulate deferred grades (identified by the DF–Deferred marker).

If at the end of a semester a performance diploma student fails to meet one or both requirements specified above, the student shall receive a deficiency warning. If the deficiency is not removed within one semester, the student will not be allowed to continue in the program.

**A student may accumulate no more than 6 credits with a grade below 3.0 in courses that are to be**

**counted toward the certificate.** Credit will not be awarded for any course in which the student receives a

grade less than 2.0. However, all grades are counted in the calculation of the grade-point average (GPA).

Students in the program will enroll through Lifelong Graduate Education and will be responsible for the cost of 4 credits of tuition each semester at the Lifelong Graduate rate. There is no additional fee for the program. The College of Music does not offer financial assistance (scholarships, fellowships, or graduate assistantships) for participants in the Diploma Program.

Performance Diploma students are subject to all the rules and regulations of the College of Music and the University. Prospective students should contact the College of Music Admissions Office for information on admission procedures to the Diploma Program in Performance. Students must complete a graduate application to the College of Music and pass the audition before a decision can be made on acceptance into the program.

- The College of Music application is available at <http://www.music.msu.edu/admissions>

- Audition requirements are posted at <http://www.music.msu.edu/admissions/audition-information1>
- The MSU Life Long Education application is available at <http://www.reg.msu.edu/ROInfo/EnrReg/LifelongEducation.asp>.

\*\* International students are issued an I-20 so that they may apply for an **F-1** Visa. \*\*

The program is administered by the Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and Research of the College of Music. All students in the program are required to meet with the Associate Dean for advising prior to the beginning of each semester. Contact the Graduate Office to set up an appointment. [116 Music Building, [musgrad@msu.edu](mailto:musgrad@msu.edu)]

**Enrollment Procedure:**

Students should contact the professor they wish to work with to discuss their studio availability. After admission, further questions and concerns can be brought to the attention of the Graduate Office (116 Music Building) or by e-mailing [musgrad@msu.edu](mailto:musgrad@msu.edu).