

College of Music - Graduate Handbook 2024-2025

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

*Information in this section can be found in its entirety in MSU Academic Programs
(<http://www.reg.msu.edu/AcademicPrograms/>)*

Descriptions of the degree programs, organized by fields of study, are presented below. All of the graduate degree programs offered by the College of Music have been accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music.

For additional information about graduate programs in the College of Music, contact the Associate Dean for Graduate Studies.

Graduate Degree Programs

The College of Music offers the graduate degree programs that are listed below:

Master of Arts

- Musicology

Master of Music

- Collaborative piano
- Jazz studies
- Music composition
- Music conducting
- Music education
- Music performance
- Music theory
- Piano pedagogy

Doctor of Musical Arts

- Collaborative piano
- Music composition
- Music conducting
- Music performance

Doctor of Philosophy

- Music education

Collaborative Piano

Master of Music

In addition to meeting the requirements of the University and of the College of Music, students must meet the requirements specified below.

Admission

To be considered for admission to the Master of Music degree program in collaborative piano, an applicant must present a live performance audition before and be interviewed by a committee of faculty in the piano area, including the director of the collaborative piano program. For an applicant who has a Bachelor of Music degree in piano performance from Michigan State University, the live performance audition may be waived at the discretion of the faculty in the piano area.

With the approval of the faculty in the piano area, an applicant may be considered for admission to the program on the basis of a high-quality audio recording of a recent performance including a solo piano work, one vocal-piano work, and one instrumental-piano work. An applicant who submits an audio recording may be admitted only on **provisional** status pending the presentation of a live performance audition before and an interview with the faculty in the piano area. The live performance and the interview must be completed before the end of the first semester of enrollment in the program and must meet the requirements of the piano area.

To be admitted to the Master of Music degree program in collaborative piano on regular status, an applicant must have:

1. A bachelor's degree in piano performance from a recognized educational institution, or have completed the courses in music performance that are required for the Bachelor of Music in piano performance from Michigan State University or their equivalents.
2. Presented a live performance audition and interview that was acceptable to the committee of faculty from the piano area.

**** Effective Fall 2023, the MM in Collaborative Piano was revised.**

a. Students who entered the program BEFORE Fall 2023, must refer to the appropriate Graduate Degree Requirements link and meet with Mr. Dan Hanrath (hanrathd@msu.edu, Room 205 MPB) for advising.

*** The following requirements are for students who enter the program Fall 2023 or later.**

The program is available only under Plan B (without thesis). A total of 30 credits is required for the degree. The student's program of study must be approved by the student's academic advisor. The student must meet the requirements specified below:

1.

Complete all of the following courses (18 credits):	CREDITS
MUS 841 Seminar in Advanced Collaborative Piano Techniques	4
MUS 896 Master's Performance	14

The credits of MUS 896 must include at least 2 credits of instruction in piano (1 credit for each of two semesters), 4 credits of instruction in collaborative piano (1 credit for each of four semesters), 4 credits of piano performance class (1 credit for each of four semesters), and 4 credits of instruction in chamber music (1 credit for each of four semesters).

2. Complete two courses in music theory at the 400 level or above.
3. Complete a 3-credit course in music history at the 400 level or above.
4. Complete 3 to 5 elective credits in music courses at the 400-level or above, exclusive of additional credits in MUS 896.
5. Perform three collaborative recitals under the guidance of the student's applied music instructor and approved by a committee from the piano area in a pre-recital hearing. A recording of each recital must be submitted to the office of the Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and will be retained by the College as part of the permanent degree record.
6. Complete the final oral certifying examination administered by a committee consisting of the student's applied music instructor, another member from the piano area, and a faculty member from either the music theory or musicology are.

Academic Standards

A grade of 3.0 or higher is required for Music 896.

Doctor of Musical Arts

In addition to meeting the requirements of the University and of the College of Music, students must meet the requirements specified below.

Admission

To be admitted to the Doctor of Musical Arts degree program in collaborative piano on regular status, an applicant must have:

1. A master's degree in music from a recognized educational institution or a total of 30 credits of approved graduate course work.
2. Presented a live performance audition acceptable to the committee appointed by the Dean of the College of Music.

Applicants must present a live 40-minute audition, including 30 minutes of performance that demonstrates proficiency in solo performance and instrumental and vocal accompanying and approximately 10 minutes of discussion on one or more of the works, that is acceptable to the committee appointed by the Dean of the College of Music. Applicants must also be prepared to respond to questions from the audition panel on the entire program.

With the approval of the faculty in the piano area, an applicant may be considered for admission to the program on the basis of a high-quality audio recording of a recent performance rather than based on a live performance audition. An applicant who submits an audio recording may be admitted only on **provisional** status pending the presentation of a live performance audition before a faculty committee appointed by the Dean of the College of Music. The audition must be presented before the end of the first semester of enrollment in the program.

Guidance Committee

The Associate Dean of Graduate Studies or their designee must be a member of the student's guidance committee and must serve as its chairperson. The Director of Collaborative Piano, a second faculty member from the piano area, one faculty member from the area of musicology, and one faculty member from the area of music theory must be members of the student's guidance committee. In instances where additional expertise would be beneficial, it is recommended that the guidance committee include a faculty member from within or outside the College of Music.

Requirements for the Doctoral of Musical Arts Degree in Collaborative Piano

Each student in the program has a major professor who provides instruction in collaborative, oversees the musical content of the student's program, guides the preparation of required recitals, oversees the preparation of the scholarly paper, lecture-recital(s) and the final oral examination. Normally, the student studies with the major professor for six semesters.

**** Effective Fall 2022, the DMA in Collaborative Piano was revised.**

- a. Students who entered the program **BEFORE Fall 2022**, must refer to the appropriate Graduate Degree Requirements link and meet with Mr. Michael Armendariz (armenda2@msu.edu, Room 210 MB) for advising.

**** The following requirements are for students who enter the program Fall 2022 or later.**

1.

Complete all of the following courses (11 credits)	CREDITS
MUS 830 Research Methods and Materials in Music	3
MUS 840 Chamber Music Literature with Piano	2
MUS 841 Seminar in Advanced Collaborative Piano Techniques	4

2. Complete at least 6 credits of 800- or 900-level courses in musicology and three courses in music theory, as specified by the student's guidance committee.
3. Demonstrate proficiency in two languages by completing two of the following options. Courses completed at another university may be used to satisfy this requirement.

	CREDITS	a.
FRN 101 Elementary French I	4	
MUS 219 French Diction for Singers	1	
GRM 101 Elementary German I	3	b.
MUS 248 German Diction for Singers	1	
ITL 101 Elementary Italian I	4	c.
MUS 144 Italian Diction for Singers	1	

4. Pass the written comprehensive examinations in musicology and music theory. Students become eligible to take the comprehensive examination in either of these areas during the semester in which they are completing the required course work in that area.
5. Complete the following requirements in lieu of 24 credits of Music 999, a doctoral dissertation, and a final oral examination in defense of the dissertation:
 - a. Complete 24 credits of Music 996. These credits must include at least six semesters of collaborative piano, 3 credits of instruction in applied piano (1 credit for each of three semesters), 4 credits of instruction in piano performance (1 credit for each of four semesters), 2 credits of instruction in chamber music (1 credit for each of two semesters), and 4 credits of collaborative performance of vocal repertoire (2 credits for each of two semesters). These requirements may be met concurrently.
 - b. Perform **five** public collaborative recitals that have been approved by a committee of faculty from the student's area, two of which must be presented within two consecutive semesters, excluding summers. Two of the recitals must be instrumental recitals; two of the recitals must be vocal recitals. The fifth recital may be either an instrumental or vocal recital. An AUDIO recording and program of each of the recitals is required and must be submitted to the Graduate Studies Office, via FileDepot. See page 108 for instructions.
 - c. Complete one of the following three options:
 - i. Present a **lecture-recital** twice, first to the student's guidance committee as part of an oral examination and then to the public **and** submit a **scholarly paper** upon which the lecture-recital is based. In no case may the lecture-recital be presented publicly until it has been approved by the committee. The oral examination will be a defense of the lecture-recital and the paper. A recording of the lecture-recital is required and must be submitted to the Graduate Studies Office.
 - ii. Present **two lecture-recitals**. Each lecture-recital must be presented twice, first to the student's guidance committee as part of an oral examination and then to the public. In no case may the lecture-recital be presented publicly until it has been approved by the committee. **Each** oral examination will be a defense of one of the lecture-recitals. A recording of **each** lecture-recital is required and must be submitted to the Graduate Studies Office.
 - iii. With the unanimous consent of the student's guidance committee, submit a **scholarly paper** of major scope, comparable to a traditional dissertation, and take a final oral examination based on the paper.

In the case of (1) and (3) above, the student must have completed successfully all of the required course work (with the exception of Music 996 Doctoral Performance), the comprehensive examination, the required public recitals, and the scholarly paper before the final oral examination may occur.

In the case of (2) above, the student must have completed successfully all of the required course work (with the exception of Music 996), the comprehensive examination, and the required public recitals before either of the oral examinations may occur.

Jazz Studies

Master of Music

In addition to meeting the requirements of the University and of the College of Music, students must meet the requirements specified below.

Admission

To be considered for admission to the Master of Music degree program in jazz studies, an applicant must present a live performance audition before a committee of faculty in the jazz studies area, including the director of the jazz studies program, and take the Jazz Musicianship Proficiency Examination.

For an applicant who has a Bachelor of Music degree in jazz studies from Michigan State University, the live performance audition may be waived at the discretion of the faculty in the jazz studies area.

With the approval of the faculty in the jazz studies area, an applicant may be considered for admission to the program on the basis of a high-quality audio recording of a recent jazz performance.

An applicant who submits an audio recording may be admitted only on **provisional** status pending the presentation of a live performance audition before the faculty in the jazz studies area and taking the Jazz Musicianship Proficiency Examination. The live performance and the proficiency examination must be completed before the end of the first semester of enrollment in the program and must meet the requirements of the jazz studies area.

To be admitted to the Master of Music degree program in jazz studies on regular status, an applicant must have:

1. A bachelor's degree in jazz studies, music performance, or music education from a recognized educational institution.
2. Presented a live performance audition that demonstrates technical and improvisational skill equivalent to the level of MUS 304: Advanced Jazz Musicianship IV.
3. Demonstrated proficiency in the knowledge of jazz theory and jazz piano proficiency by passing the Jazz Musicianship Proficiency Examination with a grade of 3.5 or better.

Requirements for the Master of Music degree in Jazz Studies

The program is available only under Plan B (without thesis). A total of 35 credits is required for the degree. The student's program of study must be approved by the student's academic advisor. The student must meet the requirements specified below:

1.

Complete all of the following courses (27 credits)	CREDITS
MUS 400 Jazz Arranging and Composition I * (with MUS 800)	2
MUS 401 Jazz Arranging and Composition II ** (with MUS 800)	2
MUS 438 Jazz Pedagogy I *	2
MUS 439 Jazz Pedagogy II **	2
MUS 800 Advanced Jazz Arranging and Composition ***	2
MUS 801 Advanced Jazz Improvisation I (<i>Fall of Even Years</i>)	2
MUS 802 Advanced Jazz Improvisation II (<i>Spring of Odd Years</i>)	2

MUS 810 Graduate Jazz History **	3
MUS 885 Advanced Jazz Styles and Analysis I (<i>Fall of Odd Years</i>)	2
MUS 886 Advanced Jazz Styles and Analysis II (<i>Spring of Even Years</i>)	2
MUS 896 Master's Performance ***	4
MUS 964 Seminar in College Music Teaching (<i>Fall and Spring of Even Years</i>)	2

* Course is offered **only** in Fall semester

** Course is offered **only** in Spring semester

*** Course is offered every Fall semester and every Spring semester

2.

Complete 4 credits of one of the following courses * :

MUS 850J Jazz Piano	MUS 854J Jazz Brass
MUS 852J Jazz Strings	MUS 855J Jazz Percussion
MUS 853J Jazz Woodwinds	

* Usually taken during the first two semesters (2 credits per semester).

3. Complete 1 credit in a music course at the 400-level or above, exclusive of additional MUS 896 credits or additional credits in your major instrument. Please see Electives list under the 'Advising Materials' section.

4. Participate in music activities during four semesters of enrollment in the program. The activities must be approved by the student's academic advisor. For Jazz Woodwind and Brass students, this requirement must be met by playing in Jazz Orch I, II, or III. For Rhythm Section (Bass, Drum Set, Guitar, Piano) students, this requirement must be met by playing in one of the following: Jazz Orch I, II, or III or Jazz Octet I, II, III, or IV. Students will also be assigned to Jazz Combos during all four semesters.

5.

Complete 3 credits in one of the following courses	Credits
MUS 861 Seminar in Psychology of Music Education	3
MUS 862 Seminar in Music Curriculum and Methodology	3
MUS 863 Seminar in Sociology of Music Education	3

6. Complete one recital. The faculty of the jazz studies area must approve the recital in a pre-recital hearing. An AUDIO recording and program of the recital is required and must be submitted to the Graduate Studies Office, via FileDepot. See page 108 for instructions.

7. Successful completion of the oral final certifying examination.

Music Composition

Master of Music

In addition to meeting the requirements of the University and of the College of Music, students must meet the requirements specified below.

Admission

To be considered for admission to the Master of Music degree program in music composition, an applicant must submit to the College of Music two original compositions representative of the applicant's creative work. Applicants are encouraged (but not required) to include in the application portfolio audio CD or video recordings of performances of all musical scores they submit. "Live" recordings are preferred, but MIDI realizations are acceptable.

To be admitted to the program on regular status, an applicant must have a bachelor's degree in music composition from a recognized educational institution, or the applicant must have completed the courses in music composition that are required for the Bachelor of Music degree in composition at Michigan State University or their equivalents.

Requirements for the Master of Music Degree in Music Composition

The program is available only under Plan A, for which an original composition is required in lieu of a thesis. A total of 33 credits are required for the degree. The student's program of study must be approved by the student's academic advisor. The student must meet the requirements specified below:

1.

Complete all of the following courses (21 credits)	Credits
MUS 422 Music of the 20th-Century	2
MUS 892A Seminar in Mus of the 20 th -Century	1
MUS 871 Adv. Tonal Counterpoint	3
MUS 880 Composition	4
MUS 881 Seminar in Composition	4
MUS 899 Master's Thesis Research	4
MUS 978 Late 20th-and 21st-Century Techniques	2

2. Complete 8 credits from the courses in Group A and Group B below with at least 2 but not more than 4 credits from Group B:

a.

Group A

MUS 870 Adv. Modal Counterpoint	3
MUS 872 Tonal Forms	2
MUS 873 Early 20 th -Century Techniques	2
MUS 874 Schenkerian Analysis	2
MUS 877 Scoring for Orchestra & Band	2
MUS 878 Advanced Scoring for Orchestra & Band	2
MUS 879 Tonal Literature & Analysis	3
MUS 970 Pedagogy of Theory I	3
MUS 971 Pedagogy of Theory II	3
MUS 977 Schenkerian Analysis II	3

b.

Group B

MUS 882 Composition with Computers	2
MUS 883 Advanced Computer Music Projects	2
* PHL 474 Aesthetic Theory and Modernism	4

Note. Either MUS 970 or 971, but not both of those courses, may be used to satisfy the requirements referenced in item 2a.

Note. Either MUS 874 or 977, but not both of those courses, may be used to satisfy the requirements referenced in item 2a

* PHL 474 may be counted toward the requirements for the degree only if it is taught by a faculty member in the College of Music.

- Complete 4 credits in music performance at the 800–900-level or 2 credits in music performance at the 800-900 level and 2 credits in conducting at the 800-900 level.
- Participate in music activities during 2 semesters of enrollment in the program. The activities must be approved by the student's academic advisor and must be selected from chamber music, chorus, jazz band or ensemble, orchestra, wind ensemble or new music ensemble.

5. Successful completion of the oral final certifying examination and submission of the completed composition to the Graduate Studies Office via musgrad@msu.edu.

Doctor of Musical Arts

In addition to meeting the requirements of the University and of the College of Music, students must meet the requirements specified below.

Admission

To be considered for admission to the Doctor of Musical Arts degree program in music composition, an applicant must submit to the College of Music two original compositions representative of the applicant's creative work. Applicants are encouraged (but not required) to include in the application portfolio audio CD or video recordings of performances of all musical scores they submit. "Live" recordings are preferred, but MIDI realizations are acceptable.

To be admitted to the program on regular status, an applicant must have a master's degree in music composition from a recognized educational institution or a total of 30 credits of approved course work.

Guidance Committee

A faculty member in the area of music composition must serve as the chairperson of the student's guidance committee. One additional faculty member in the area of music composition, one faculty member in the area of music theory, and one faculty member in the area of music history must also be members of the student's guidance committee. Each student in the program has a major professor who provides instruction in music composition, oversees the preparation of the original composition, and oversees the final oral examination based upon that composition.

Requirements for the Doctor of Musical Arts Degree in Music Composition

The student must:

1. Complete MUS 830 Research Methods and Materials in Music and the courses in music composition, music theory, and musicology that are specified by the student's guidance committee.
2. Complete any cognate area and related courses that are specified by the student's guidance committee.
3. Pass the written comprehensive examinations in composition, musicology, and music theory. Students become eligible to take the comprehensive examination in each of these areas during the semester in which they are completing the required course work in that area, with the exception of MUS 998 credits.
4. Complete the following requirements in lieu of 24 credits of MUS 999, a dissertation, and a final oral examination over the dissertation:
 - a. Complete 24 credits of MUS 998.
 - b. Submit an original music composition. The composition must be acceptable to the student's guidance committee.
5. The student must have completed successfully all of the required course work (with the exception of MUS 998), the comprehensive examinations, and the original composition before the final oral examination may be scheduled.

A copy of the composition referenced in item 4 will be retained by the College as part of the permanent degree record.

Academic Standards

Doctoral study presumes continuing excellence in course work, reading, and writing. **A student may accumulate no more than 6 credits with a grade below 3.0 in courses that are to be counted toward the degree.** Credit will not

be awarded for any course in which the student receives a grade less than 2.0

The student's original composition and the student's performance on the final oral examination based on the composition must be approved by the members of the student's guidance committee with not more than one dissenting vote. Should the committee fail to accept either the student's composition or the student's performance on the final oral examination based on the composition, the student shall be allowed to rewrite the composition or to repeat the final oral examination based on the composition only once. The composition must be rewritten or the examination must be retaken within one year, during a fall or spring semester.

Music Conducting – Wind, Choral and Orchestral

Master of Music

In addition to meeting the requirements of the University and of the College of Music, students must meet the requirements specified below.

Admission

To be admitted to the Master of Music degree program in music conducting on regular status, an applicant must have:

1. A bachelor's degree in music from a recognized educational institution, or have completed the courses in music that are required for a bachelor's degree in music from Michigan State University or their equivalents.
2. Presented a live performance audition that was acceptable to the committee of faculty in conducting.

When applying for admission to the Master of Music degree program in music conducting, an applicant must specify one of the following three **major** areas: wind conducting, choral conducting, or orchestral conducting.

With the approval of the faculty in an applicant's *major* area, an applicant may be considered for admission to the program on the basis of a high-quality recording of a recent performance, rather than on the basis of a live performance audition. An applicant must submit a video recording showing a front view of the applicant conducting a minimum of 10 minutes. An applicant who submits a recording may be admitted only on *provisional* status pending the presentation of a live conducting audition before a faculty committee in the applicant's *major* area. The audition must be presented before the end of the first semester of enrollment in the program. The audition must be in the **major** area of conducting that the applicant specifies.

To schedule an audition, an applicant should contact the College of Music Admissions Office. An applicant who selects the **orchestral conducting** area must obtain a list of required repertoire from the Director of Orchestras in the College of Music.

Requirements for the Master of Music Degree in Conducting

The student must meet the requirements for one of the following three major areas of conducting: wind conducting, choral conducting, or orchestral conducting.

Wind Conducting

The program is available only under Plan B (without thesis). A total of 30 credits is required for the degree. The student's program of study must be approved by the student's academic advisor. The student must meet the requirements specified below:

1.

Complete all of the following courses (17 credits):	Credits
MUS 858A Seminar in Wind Conducting	6
MUS 897 Concert Conducting	4

The student must conduct a full program in a public choral concert, or conduct a series of pieces in two or more public band concerts. A program of each recital is required and must be submitted to the Graduate Studies Office, via FileDepot. See page 108 for instructions.

2. Complete 6 credits in musicology at the 400-level or above and two courses in music theory (4 to 6 credits) at the 400-level or above (10 to 12 credits).
3. Complete 8 to 10 elective credits in music courses at the 400-level or above, exclusive of additional MUS 897 credits. Please see Electives list under the 'Advising Materials' section.
4. Participate in music activities during two semesters of enrollment in the program. The activities must be approved by the student's academic advisor and must involve band.
5. Complete the final oral certifying examination administered by a committee consisting of the student's primary conducting instructor, another member from the wind conducting area, and a faculty member from either the music theory or musicology area.

Choral Conducting

The program is available only under Plan B (without thesis). A total of 30 credits is required for the degree. The student's program of study must be approved by the student's academic advisor. The student must meet the requirements specified below:

1.

Complete all of the following courses (17 credits):	Credits
MUS 857 Seminar in Choral Literature	6
MUS 858B Seminar in Orchestral Conducting (Score Study and Interpretation Through String Bowing - formerly MUS 891)	1
MUS 858C Seminar in Choral Conducting	6
MUS 897 Concert Conducting	4

The student must conduct a full program in a public choral concert, or conduct a series of pieces in two or more public choral concerts. A program of each recital is required and must be submitted to the Graduate Studies Office, via FileDepot. See page 108 for instructions.

6. Complete 6 credits in music history at the 400-level or above and two courses in music theory (4 to 6 credits) at the 400-level or above (10 to 12 credits).
7. Complete 3-5 elective credits in music courses at the 400-level or above, exclusive of additional MUS 897 credits. Please see Electives list under the 'Advising Materials' section.
8. Demonstrate proficiency in French, German, Italian, English, and Latin through an assessment administered as part of the audition process.

Lack of proficiency in any language must be addressed by enrolling in MUS 845 Secondary or Specialist Emphasis: Voice, which will focus on repertoire in the deficient language(s) and will include a jury for the voice faculty

9. Demonstrate proficiency in vocal pedagogy by taking MUS 340 Methods and Literature for Voice. These credits will not count toward the 30 credits required for the degree. This requirement will be waived if the student's transcript shows successful completion of a similar course previously.
10. Participate in music activities during two semesters of enrollment in the program. The activities must be approved by the student's academic advisor and must involve choir.

11. Complete the final oral certifying examination administered by a committee consisting of the student's primary conducting instructor, another member from the conducting area, and a faculty member from either the music theory or musicology area.

Orchestral Conducting

The program is available only under Plan B (without thesis). A total of 30 credits is required for the degree. The student's program of study must be approved by the student's academic advisor. The student must meet the requirements specified below:

1.

Complete both of the following courses (10 credits):	Credits
MUS 858B Seminar in Orchestral Conducting	6
MUS 897 Concert Conducting	4

The student must conduct a full program in a public choral concert, or conduct a series of pieces in two or more public orchestral concerts. A program of each recital is required and must be submitted to the Graduate Studies Office, via FileDepot. See page 108 for instructions.

2. Complete 6 credits in music history at the 400-level or above and two courses in music theory (4 to 6 credits) at the 400-level or above (10 to 12 credits).
3. Complete 1 to 4 credits in music performance at the 800–900-level.
4. Complete 4 to 9 elective credits in music courses at the 400-level or above, exclusive of additional MUS 897 credits. Please see Electives list under the 'Advising Materials' section.
5. Demonstrate proficiency in French, German, Italian, English, and Latin through an assessment administered as part of the audition process. Lack of proficiency in any language must be addressed by enrolling in MUS 845 Secondary or Specialist Emphasis: Voice, which will focus on repertoire in the deficient language(s) and will include a jury for the voice faculty.
6. Participate in music activities during two semesters of enrollment in the program. The activities must be approved by the student's academic advisor and must involve orchestra.
7. Complete the final oral certifying examination administered by a committee consisting of the student's primary conducting instructor, another member from the conducting area, and a faculty member from either the music theory or musicology area.

Academic Standards

A grade of 3.0 or higher is required for MUS 897.

Doctor of Musical Arts

In addition to meeting the requirements of the University and of the College of Music, students must meet the requirements specified below.

Admission

To be admitted to the Doctor of Musical Arts degree program in music conducting on regular status, an applicant must have:

1. A master's degree in music from a recognized educational institution or a total of 30 credits of approved graduate course work.

2. Presented a live performance audition that was acceptable to the committee appointed by the Dean of the College of Music.

When applying for admission to the Doctor of Musical Arts degree program with a major in music conducting, an applicant must specify one of the following three **major** areas: wind conducting, choral conducting, or orchestral conducting.

With the approval of the faculty in an applicant's *major* area, an applicant may be considered for admission to the program on the basis of a high-quality recording of a recent performance, rather than on the basis of a live performance audition. An applicant must submit a video recording showing a front view of the applicant conducting a minimum of 10 minutes. An applicant who submits a recording may be admitted only on *provisional* status pending the presentation of a live performance audition before a faculty committee appointed by the Director of the College of Music. The audition must be presented before the end of the first semester of enrollment in the program. As part of the audition, an applicant must present a 10-minute lecture on a topic related to conducting. The applicant may be asked to conduct a live performance group or to illustrate appropriate conducting techniques in relation to printed scores. The applicant may submit video and audio recordings of performances that he or she has conducted. For additional information about the Doctor of Musical Arts degree program in conducting, contact the Director of Bands, the Director of Choral Activities, or the Director of Orchestras in the College of Music.

Guidance Committee

The Associate Dean for Graduate Studies or their designee must be a member of the student's guidance committee and must serve as its chairperson. At least two faculty members in the student's conducting area, one faculty member in the area of music theory, and one faculty member in the area of musicology must also be members of the student's guidance committee.

Each student in the program has a major professor who provides instruction in the student's major area, oversees the musical content of the student's program, guides the preparation of required conducting appearances, oversees the preparation of the scholarly paper, and oversees the final oral examination. Normally, the student studies with the major professor for four semesters. In instances where additional expertise would be beneficial it is recommended that the guidance committee include an additional faculty member from within or outside the College of Music.

Requirements for the Doctoral of Musical Arts Degree in Conducting

The student must:

1.

Complete 8 credits from the following courses:	Credits
MUS 958A Seminar in Wind Conducting	8
MUS 958B Seminar in Orchestral Conducting	8
MUS 958C Seminar in Choral Conducting	8
2. Complete a minimum of 3 credits in Music 830 Research Methods and Materials in Music, three courses in music theory at the 800- or 900-level, and at least 6 additional credits of 800 or 900-level courses in music history as specified by the student's guidance committee.
3. Complete at least 6 credits of electives, as specified by the student's guidance committee. Please see Electives list under the 'Advising Materials' section for a list of options.
4. Pass the written comprehensive examinations in musicology and music theory and two examinations related to the student's area of conducting. One of these will be a take-home examination. The other will be taken on the MSU campus. Students become eligible to take the comprehensive examination in each of these areas during the semester in which they are completing the required course work in that area.
5. Complete the following requirements in lieu of 24 credits of MUS 999, a doctoral dissertation, and a final oral examination in defense of the dissertation:
 - a. Complete 24 credits of MUS 997 Doctoral Conducting.

- b. Direct various ensembles on four different programs containing repertoire which demonstrates the ability to program creatively, to execute music in various period styles and forms, and to work effectively with diverse groups.

Performing groups for the required conducting appearances may be ensembles from the College of Music, or any school, church, or community musical ensemble able to meet the demands of the repertoire. Two of the first three conducting appearances must be presented within six calendar months of each other. The first three conducting appearances will be graded by the major professor and by at least one other faculty member in the student's major area. The fourth conducting appearance must involve a complete program. This appearance will be graded by all of the members of the student's guidance committee with the exception of the Associate Dean for Graduate Studies. Every conducting appearance must be video recorded in the format specified by the student's major professor. With the prior approval of the student's major professor, any of the four required conducting appearances may take place off campus. In the event that a conducting appearance is off campus, the grade may be based on an evaluation of the video recording of the appearance. A program of each recital is required and must be submitted to the Graduate Studies Office, via FileDepot. See page 108 for instructions.

- c. Submit a scholarly paper exhibiting a thorough understanding of a significant and relevant topic approved by the student's guidance committee and take a final oral examination of approximately two hours based on the paper.

A proposal for the document must be approved in writing by all members of the guidance committee no less than one calendar year before the oral examination can occur.

The student must have completed successfully all of the required course work (with the exception of Music 997), the comprehensive examinations, the four conducting appearances, and the scholarly paper before the final oral examination may take place.

A final copy of the document will be retained by the college as part of the permanent degree record. This final copy must be approved by the guidance committee and submitted to the Graduate Studies Office before the degree can be completed.

6. Students majoring in choral conducting must complete MUS 891 Special Topics and enroll in the section on Score Study and Interpretation through String Bowing.
7. Students majoring in choral conducting must demonstrate proficiency in vocal pedagogy by taking MUS 340 Methods and Literature for Voice. These credits will not count toward those required for the degree. This requirement will be waived if the student's transcript shows successful completion of a similar course at another institution.
8. Students majoring in choral or orchestral conducting must demonstrate proficiency in French, German, Italian, English, and Latin through an assessment administered as part of the audition process. Lack of proficiency in any language must be addressed by enrolling in MUS 845 Secondary or Specialist Emphasis: Voice, which will focus on repertoire in the deficient language(s) and will include a jury for the voice faculty.

Academic Standards

Doctoral study presumes continuing excellence in course work, reading, and writing. **A student may accumulate no more than 6 credits with a grade below 3.0 in courses that are to be counted toward the degree.** Credit will not be awarded for any course in which the student receives a grade less than 2.0.

The student's performance on the final oral examination and the scholarly paper on which the examination is based must be approved by the members of the student's guidance committee with not more than one dissenting vote. Should the committee fail to accept the final oral examination or the paper, the student shall be allowed to repeat the final oral examination, or to rewrite the paper, only once.

The examination must be retaken, or the paper must be rewritten, within one year, during a Fall or Spring semester.

Music Education

Master of Music

In addition to meeting the requirements of the University and of the College of Music, students must meet the requirements specified below.

Admission

To be admitted to the Master of Music degree program in music education on regular status, an applicant must have a bachelor's degree in music education from a recognized educational institution, or have completed the courses in music education that are required for the Bachelor of Music degree in music education at Michigan State University or their equivalents.

The program is available under both Plan A (with thesis) and Plan B (without thesis). A total of 30 credits is required for the degree under Plan A or Plan B. The student's program of study must be approved by the student's academic advisor. The student must meet the requirements specified below:

Requirements for the Master of Music Degree in Music Education (Plan A and Plan B)

1.

Complete four of the following courses in music education (12 credits):	Credits
MUS 860 Philosophical Consideration in Music Education	3
MUS 861 Seminar in Psychology of Music Education	3
MUS 862 Seminar in Music Curriculum and Methodology	3
MUS 863 Seminar in Sociology of Music Education	3
MUS 864 Research in Music Education	3
2. Complete a minimum of 10 credits including:
 - a. A minimum of 3 credits in graduate courses in musicology.
 - b. A minimum of 3 credits in graduate courses in music theory.
 - c. A minimum of 2 credits in graduate courses in music performance or music conducting.
 - d. A minimum of 2 credits of 800-level courses in music conducting, music performance, composition, music theory, or musicology.
3. Complete 4 additional credits in graduate courses within or outside the College of Music. Please see Electives list under the 'Advising Materials' section for a list of options.
4. A student who completes fewer than 1 credit of music performance in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Master of Music degree with a major in music education must pass a performance test on an instrument or in voice. The test will be administered by one faculty member in music education and one faculty member in either instrumental or vocal music performance.
5. Participate in music activities during two semesters or two summer sessions of enrollment in the program. The activities must be approved by the student's academic advisor and must be selected from band, chorus, jazz band, and orchestra.

Additional Requirements for Plan A

1.

Complete the following course:	Credits
MUS 899 Master's Thesis Research	4

2. Complete and submit a thesis under the direction of a member of the music education faculty that is acceptable to the final oral certifying committee consisting of the student's thesis advisor, another member from the music education area, and a faculty member from music faculty. A copy of the thesis must be submitted to the Graduate School and to the office of the Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and will be retained as part of the permanent degree record.

Additional Requirements for Plan B

1. Complete 4 additional credits in graduate courses in music education.
2. Pass a 3-hour written comprehensive examination administered by the final oral certifying committee consisting of the student's thesis advisor, another member from the music education area, and a faculty member from music faculty.

Academic Standards

A grade of 3.0 or higher is required for Music 899.

Doctor of Philosophy

In addition to meeting the requirements of the University and of the College of Music, students must meet the requirements specified below.

Admission

To be considered for admission to the Doctor of Philosophy degree program in music education, an applicant must:

1. Submit to the College of Music their master's thesis, if a thesis was required for the master's degree. An applicant who did not complete a thesis must submit a comparable sample of their academic or professional writing.
2. Have completed successfully at least three years of employment as a music teacher, as evidenced in letters of recommendation and other documents submitted in support of the application.
3. Include, in the letter required by the College, a 500- to 700-word essay about the applicant's professional experience and future professional goals.

To be admitted to the program on regular status, an applicant must have a master's degree in music education or a total of 30 credits of approved graduate course work.

Students who are admitted to the doctoral program in music education **must have completed each of the following graduate courses with a grade of at least 3.0 (B)**: two courses in either historical musicology or ethnomusicology and one music theory course in advanced analysis.

A student who has not completed such courses will be required to complete those courses, in addition to completing the courses that are required for the doctoral degree.

Guidance Committee

The student's guidance committee, which must be formed in the first year of graduate study, should consist of an advisor, who must be a music education faculty member, two additional music education faculty members, and one member of the faculty in the student's cognate area.

Requirements for the Doctor of Philosophy Degree in Music Education

The student must:

**** Effective Fall 2023, the PhD in Music Education was revised.**

**** The following requirements are for students who enter the program Fall 2023 or later.**

1. Complete a minimum of 36 credits of course work as specified below:

a. Research Core:

All of the following (9 credits):	Credits
MUS 864 Seminar in Measurement in Music Education	3
MUS 965 Conducting Research in Music Education	3
MUS 966 Seminar in Qualitative Research in Music Education	3

b. Music Education Core:

(1)

Both of the following (6 credits):	Credits
MUS 962 Advanced Studies in the Philosophy of Music Education	3
MUS 967 Music Teaching and Learning Across the Lifespan	3
MUS 864 Seminar in Measurement in Music Education	3
MUS 965 Conducting Research on Music Education	3
MUS 966 Seminar in Qualitative Research in Music Education	3

(2)

A Minimum of 2 credits from the following courses	Credits
MUS 488 Disability Studies and Music Education **	2
MUS 859 Race Issues in Music Teaching	3
MUS 860 Philosophical Considerations in Music Education	3
MUS 861 Seminar in Psychology of Music Education	3
MUS 862 Seminar in Music Curriculum and Methodology	3
MUS 863 Seminar in the Sociology of Music Education	3
MUS 888 Seminar in Disability Studies and Music Education	1
MUS 964 Seminar in College Teaching	2

**** If MUS 488 is used to satisfy this requirement, the student must enroll concurrently in MUS 888**

c. Music Cognate:

9 credits in graduate courses in *one* of the following areas: composition, conducting, jazz, musicology, theory, or performance. Students may also design their own cognate within or outside of the College in consultation with their guidance committee.

d. Electives:

9 credits in graduate courses within or outside the College of Music as approved by the student's guidance committee.

2. Demonstrate competency in teaching. This requirement must be met by teaching a college-level music course or ensemble under the guidance of a faculty member.
3. Demonstrate competency in scholarship. This requirement must be met by writing and submitting for publication a scholarly paper on an aspect of music education and presenting the paper at an on-campus or off-campus colloquium that has been approved by the student's academic advisor.
4. Complete 24 credits of MUS 999 Doctoral Dissertation Research and a dissertation under the direction of a member of the music education faculty that is acceptable to the student's guidance committee. A copy of the dissertation must be submitted to the Graduate School and to the office of the Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and will be retained as part of the permanent degree record.

Submission of the Dissertation

A copy of the dissertation must be submitted to the Graduate School. Please visit '[Electronic Theses and Dissertation Submissions](#)' for details on formatting and for deadlines. A missed deadline will delay your graduation. After this is approved by the Graduate School, please submit a **pdf** copy to musgrad@msu.edu.

Academic Standards

Doctoral study presumes continuing excellence in course work. A student may accumulate no more than 6 credits with a grade below 3.0 in courses that are to be counted toward the degree.

Master of Music Performance

Master of Music

In addition to meeting the requirements of the University and of the College of Music, students must meet the requirements specified below.

Admission

When applying for admission to the Master of Music degree program in music performance, an applicant must specify one of the following three broad performance areas that he or she wishes to pursue: instrumental music, instrumental specialist, or vocal music.

An applicant who selects the **instrumental music** area must also specify the **major** instrument or group of instruments (e.g., piano, harp, flute, or percussion instruments) from the categories listed below:

- Brass and percussion: trumpet, horn, trombone, euphonium, tuba, and percussion
- Keyboard: piano
- Stringed instruments: harp, violin, viola, cello, double bass
- Woodwinds: flute, oboe, clarinet, saxophone, bassoon

An applicant who selects the **instrumental specialist** area must also specify one of the following three **major** specialties: brass instruments specialist, stringed instruments specialist, or woodwind instruments specialist.

- An applicant who selects **brass instruments specialist** must specify the major brass instrument and two secondary brass instruments.
- An applicant who selects **stringed instruments specialist** must specify the major stringed instrument and one secondary stringed instrument.
- An applicant who selects **woodwind instruments specialist** must specify the major woodwind instrument and three secondary woodwind instruments. (Refer to the categories listed above.)

To be considered for admission to the Master of Music degree program in music performance, an applicant must present a live performance audition before a committee of faculty in the applicant's broad performance area. For an applicant who has a Bachelor of Music degree in music performance from Michigan State University, the live performance audition may be waived at the discretion of the faculty in the applicant's **major** area. With the approval of the faculty in an applicant's **major** area, an applicant may be considered for admission to the program on the basis of a high-quality recording of a recent performance, rather than on the basis of a live performance audition.

An applicant who selects the **instrumental music, instrumental specialist, or vocal music** area must submit either an audio or a video recording. An applicant who submits a recording may be admitted only on **provisional** status pending the presentation of a live performance audition before a faculty committee in the applicant's broad performance area. The audition must be presented before the end of the first semester of enrollment in the program and must meet the requirements that are specified below.

The requirements for the audition are specified below:

1. **Instrumental music:** The audition must be on the **major** instrument or group of instruments that the applicant specifies.
2. **Instrumental specialist:**
 - a. **Brass instruments specialist:** The audition must be on the **major** brass instrument and on the two secondary brass instruments that the applicant specifies. If trombone is not the major instrument, it must be one of the secondary instruments.

- b. **Stringed instruments specialist:** The audition must be on the **major** string instrument and on the secondary stringed instrument that the applicant specifies. If the major instrument is violin or viola, the secondary instrument must be cello or double bass. If the major instrument is cello or double bass, the secondary instrument must be violin or viola.
- c. **Woodwind instruments specialist:** The audition must be on the **major** woodwind instrument and on two of the three secondary woodwind instruments that the applicant specifies.

3. Vocal music: The audition must be in voice.

To schedule an audition, an applicant should contact the College of Music Admissions Office.

To be admitted to the Master of Music degree program in music performance on regular status, an applicant must have:

1. A bachelor's degree in music performance from a recognized educational institution, or have completed the courses in music performance that are required for the Bachelor of Music degree in music performance from Michigan State University or their equivalents.
2. Presented a live performance audition that was acceptable to the committee of faculty in the broad performance area.

When applying for admission to the Master of Music degree program in music performance, an applicant must specify one of the following three broad performance areas that he or she wishes to pursue: instrumental music, instrumental specialist, or vocal music.

Requirements for the Master of Music Degree in Music Performance

The student must meet the requirements for one of the following three broad areas of music performance: instrumental music, instrumental specialist, or vocal music.

**** Effective Fall 2022, the MM in Music Performance was revised.**

- a. *Students who entered the program BEFORE Fall 2022, must refer to the appropriate Graduate Degree Requirements link and meet with Mr. Dan Hanrath (hanrathd@msu.edu, Room 205 MPB) for advising.*

*** The following requirements are for students who enter the program Fall 2022 or later.**

Instrumental Music

The student must meet the requirements for one of the following five major areas of instrumental music: piano, brass instruments, stringed instruments, woodwind instruments, or percussion instruments:

1. Piano

The program is available only under Plan B (without thesis). A total of 30 credits is required for the degree. The student's program of study must be approved by the student's academic advisor. The student must meet the requirements specified below:

a.

Complete all of the following courses (14 credits)	CREDITS
MUS 896 Master's Performance	14

These credits must include at least 6 credits of instruction in piano (1 to 2 credits for each of four semesters), 4 credits of piano performance (1 credit for each of four semesters), and 4 credits of instruction in chamber music (1 credit for each of four semesters).

One movement of a concerto with orchestra or second piano accompaniment must be included in the piano recital performance.

- b. Complete 6 credits in musicology at the 400-level or above and two courses in music theory (4 to 6 credits) at the 400-level or above (10 to 12 credits).
- c. Complete 4 to 6 elective credits in music courses at the 400-level or above, exclusive of additional MUS 896 credits. Please see Electives list under the 'Advising Materials' section.
- d. Perform a piano recital under the guidance of the student's applied music instructor and approved by a committee from the piano area in a pre-recital hearing. A recording of the recital must be submitted to the office of the Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and will be retained by the College as part of the permanent degree record.
- e. Complete the final oral certifying examination administered by a committee consisting of the student's applied music instructor, another member from the piano area, and a faculty member from either the music theory or musicology area.

2. Brass Instruments

The program is available only under Plan B (without thesis). A total of 30 credits is required for the degree. The student's program of study must be approved by the student's academic advisor. The student must meet the requirements specified below:

a.

Complete all of the following courses (14 credits)	CREDITS
MUS 896 Master's Performance	14

These credits must include at least 6 credits of instruction in the major instrument (1 to 2 credits for each of four semesters), 4 credits of major ensemble (1 credit for each of four semesters), and 4 credits of instruction in chamber music (1 credit for each of four semesters).

- b. Complete 6 credits in musicology at the 400-level or above and two courses in music theory (4 to 6 credits) at the 400-level or above (10 to 12 credits).
- c. Complete 4 to 6 elective credits in music courses at the 400-level or above, exclusive of additional MUS 896 credits. Please see Electives list under the 'Advising Materials' section.
- d. Perform a recital on the student's major instrument under the guidance of the student's applied music instructor and approved by a committee from the brass area in a pre-recital hearing. A recording of the recital must be submitted to the office of the Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and will be retained by the College as part of the permanent degree record.
- e. Complete the final oral certifying examination administered by a committee consisting of the student's applied music instructor, another member from the brass area, and a faculty member from either the music theory or musicology area.

3. Stringed Instruments

The program is available only under Plan B (without thesis). A total of 30 credits is required for the degree. The student's program of study must be approved by the student's academic advisor. The student must meet the requirements specified below:

a.

Complete all of the following courses (14 credits)	CREDITS
MUS 896 Master's Performance	14

These credits must include at least 6 credits of instruction in the major instrument (1 to 2 credits for each of four semesters), 4 credits of major ensemble (1 credit for each of four semesters), and 4 credits of instruction in chamber music (1 credit for each of four semesters).

- b. Complete 6 credits in musicology at the 400-level or above and two courses in music theory (4 to 6 credits) at the 400-level or above (10 to 12 credits).
- c. Complete 4 to 6 elective credits in music courses at the 400-level or above, exclusive of additional MUS 896 credits. Please see Electives list under the 'Advising Materials' section.

- d. Perform a recital on the student's major instrument under the guidance of the student's applied music instructor and approved by a committee from the string area in a pre-recital hearing. A recording of the recital must be submitted to the office of the Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and will be retained by the College as part of the permanent degree record.
- e. Complete the final oral certifying examination administered by a committee consisting of the student's applied music instructor, another member from the string area, and a faculty member from either the music theory or musicology area.

4. **Woodwind Instruments**

The program is available only under Plan B (without thesis). A total of 30 credits is required for the degree. The student's program of study must be approved by the student's academic advisor. The student must meet the requirements specified below:

a.

Complete all of the following courses (14 credits)	CREDITS
MUS 896 Master's Performance	14

These credits must include at least 6 credits of instruction in the major instrument (1 to 2 credits for each of four semesters), 4 credits of major ensemble (1 credit for each of four semesters), and 4 credits of instruction in chamber music (1 credit for each of four semesters).

- b. Complete 6 credits in musicology at the 400-level or above and two courses in music theory (4 to 6 credits) at the 400-level or above (10 to 12 credits).
- c. Complete 4 to 6 elective credits in music courses at the 400-level or above, exclusive of additional MUS 896 credits. Please see Electives list under the 'Advising Materials' section.
- d. Perform a recital on the student's major instrument under the guidance of the student's applied music instructor and approved by a committee from the woodwind area in a pre-recital hearing. A recording of the recital must be submitted to the office of the Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and will be retained by the College as part of the permanent degree record.
- e. Complete the final oral certifying examination administered by a committee consisting of the student's applied music instructor, another member from the piano area, and a faculty member from either the music theory or musicology area.

5. **Percussion Instruments**

The program is available only under Plan B (without thesis). A total of 30 credits is required for the degree. The student's program of study must be approved by the student's academic advisor. The student must meet the requirements specified below:

a.

Complete all of the following courses (14 credits)	CREDITS
MUS 896 Master's Performance	14

These credits must include at least 6 credits of instruction in the major instrument (1 to 2 credits for each of four semesters), 4 credits of major ensemble (1 credit for each of four semesters), and 4 credits of instruction in chamber music (1 credit for each of four semesters).

- b. Complete 6 credits in musicology at the 400-level or above and two courses in music theory (4 to 6 credits) at the 400-level or above (10 to 12 credits).
- c. Complete 4 to 6 elective credits in music courses at the 400-level or above, exclusive of additional MUS 896 credits. Please see Electives list under the 'Advising Materials' section.
- d. Perform a percussion recital under the guidance of the student's applied music instructor and approved by a committee from the percussion area in a pre-recital hearing. A recording of the recital must be submitted to the office of the Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and will be retained by the College as part of the permanent degree record.

- e. Complete the final oral certifying examination administered by a committee consisting of the student's applied music instructor, another member from the piano area, and a faculty member from either the music theory or musicology area.

Instrumental Specialist

The student must meet the requirements for one of the following three major specialties: brass instruments specialist, stringed instruments specialist, or woodwind instruments specialist:

1. Brass Instruments Specialist

The program is available only under Plan B (without thesis). A total of 30 credits is required for the degree. The student's program of study must be approved by the student's academic advisor. The student must meet the requirements specified below:

a.

Complete all of the following courses (16 credits)	Credits
MUS 847 Secondary or Specialist Emphasis: Brass	2
MUS 896 Master's Performance	14

Each of the 2 credits of MUS 847 is associated with instruction in one of the student's two required secondary instruments. The 14 credits of MUS 896 must include at least 6 credits of instruction in the major instrument (1 to 2 credits for each of four semesters), 4 credits of major ensemble (1 credit for each of four semesters), and 4 credits of instruction in chamber music (1 credit for each of four semesters).

- b. Complete 6 credits in musicology at the 400-level or above and two courses in music theory (4 to 6 credits) at the 400-level or above (10 to 12 credits).
- c. Complete 2 to 4 elective credits in music courses at the 400-level or above, exclusive of additional MUS 896 credits. Please see Electives list under the 'Advising Materials' section.
- d. **Present a performance on each of the student's two required secondary instruments. The performance must be acceptable to a committee of faculty in the area of brass instruments. You do not need to submit a recording for these.**
- e. Perform a recital on the student's primary instrument under the guidance of the student's applied music instructor and approved by a committee from the brass area in a pre-recital hearing. A recording of the recital must be submitted to the office of the Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and will be retained by the College as part of the permanent degree record.
- f. Complete the final oral certifying examination administered by a committee consisting of the student's applied music instructor, another member from the brass area, and a faculty member from either the music theory or musicology area.

2. Stringed Instruments Specialist

The program is available only under Plan B (without thesis). A total of 30 credits is required for the degree. The student's program of study must be approved by the student's academic advisor. The student must meet the requirements specified below:

a.

Complete all of the following courses (15 credits)	Credits
MUS 846 Secondary or Specialist Emphasis: String	1
MUS 896 Master's Performance	14

The credit of MUS 846 is associated with instruction in the student's secondary instrument. The 14 credits of MUS 896 must include at least 6 credits of instruction in the major instrument (1 to 2 credits for each of four semesters), 4 credits of major ensemble (1 credit for each of four semesters), and 4 credits of instruction in chamber music (1 credit for each of four semesters).

- b. Complete 6 credits in musicology at the 400-level or above and two courses in music theory (4 to 6 credits) at the 400-level or above (10 to 12 credits).

- c. Complete 3 to 5 elective credits in music courses at the 400-level or above, exclusive of additional MUS 896 credits. Please see Electives list under the 'Advising Materials' section.
- d. **Present a performance on the student's secondary instrument. The performance must be acceptable to a committee of faculty in the area of string instruments. You do not need to submit a recording for these.**
- e. Perform a recital on the student's primary instrument under the guidance of the student's applied music instructor and approved by a committee from the string area in a pre-recital hearing. A recording of the recital must be submitted to the office of the Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and will be retained by the College as part of the permanent degree record.
- f. Complete the final oral certifying examination administered by a committee consisting of the student's applied music instructor, another member from the string area, and a faculty member from either the music theory or musicology area.

3. **Woodwind Instruments Specialist**

The program is available only under Plan B (without thesis). A total of 30 credits is required for the degree. The student's program of study must be approved by the student's academic advisor. The student must meet the requirements specified below:

a.

Complete all of the following courses (17 credits)	Credits
MUS 848 Secondary or Specialist Emphasis: Woodwind	3
MUS 896 Master's Performance	14

Each of the 3 credits of MUS 848 is associated with instruction in one of the student's three required secondary instruments. The 14 credits of MUS 896 must include at least 6 credits of instruction in the major instrument (1 to 2 credits for each of four semesters), 4 credits of major ensemble (1 credit for each of four semesters), and 4 credits of instruction in chamber music (1 credit for each of four semesters).

- b. Complete 6 credits in musicology at the 400-level or above and two courses in music theory (4 to 6 credits) at the 400-level or above (10 to 12 credits).
- c. Complete 1 to 3 elective credits in music courses at the 400-level or above, exclusive of additional MUS 896 credits. Please see Electives list under the 'Advising Materials' section.
- d. Present a performance on the student's secondary instrument. The performance must be acceptable to a committee of faculty in the area of woodwind instruments. You do not need to submit a recording for these.
- e. Perform a recital on each of the student's three required secondary instruments under the guidance of the student's applied music instructor and approved by a committee from the woodwind area in a pre-recital hearing. A recording of the recital must be submitted to the office of the Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and will be retained by the College as part of the permanent degree record.
- f. Complete the final oral certifying examination administered by a committee consisting of the student's applied music instructor, another member from the woodwind area, and a faculty member from either the music theory or musicology area.

4. **Vocal Music**

The program is available only under Plan B (without thesis). A total of 30 credits is required for the degree. The student's program of study must be approved by the student's academic advisor. The student must meet the requirements specified below:

a.

Complete all of the following courses (11 credits)	Credits
MUS 435 Opera Theatre	1
MUS 896 Master's Performance	10

The credits of MUS 896 must include at least 8 credits of instruction in voice (2 credits for each of four semesters) and 2 credits of major ensemble (1 credit each of two semesters).

- b. Complete 6 credits in musicology at the 400-level or above and two courses in music theory (4 to 6 credits) at the 400-level or above (10 to 12 credits).

- c. Complete 7 to 9 elective credits in music courses at the 400-level or above, exclusive of additional MUS 896 credits. Please see Electives list under the 'Advising Materials' section.
- d. Complete one semester of study each in French, German, and Italian. Credits in courses in a foreign language may **not** be counted toward the requirements for the Master of Music degree. Courses completed as part of an undergraduate degree program or an on-line course from an accredited university (and approved by the Associate Dean for Graduate Studies) may be used to satisfy this requirement. Courses from the MSU Evening College cannot be used.
- e. Perform a vocal recital under the guidance of the student's applied music instructor and approved by a committee from the vocal arts area in a pre-recital hearing. A recording of the recital must be submitted to the office of the Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and will be retained by the College as part of the permanent degree recording.
- f. Complete the final oral certifying examination administered by a committee consisting of the student's applied music instructor, another member from the vocal arts area, and a faculty member from either the music theory or musicology.

Academic Standards

A grade of 3.0 or higher is required for Music 896.

Doctor of Musical Arts Performance

In addition to meeting the requirements of the University and of the College of Music, students must meet the requirements specified below.

Admission

To be admitted to the Doctor of Musical Arts degree program in music performance on regular status, an applicant must have:

1. A master's degree in music from a recognized educational institution or a total of 30 credits of approved graduate course work.
2. Presented a live performance audition that was acceptable to the committee appointed by the Dean of the College of Music.

When applying for admission to the Doctor of Musical Arts degree program with a major in music performance, an applicant must specify one of the following two broad performance areas that he or she wishes to pursue: instrumental music or vocal music.

An applicant who selects the **instrumental music** area must also specify the **major** instrument or group of instruments (e.g., piano, harp, flute, or percussion instruments) from the categories listed below:

- Brass and percussion: trumpet, horn, trombone, euphonium, tuba, and percussion
- Keyboard: piano
- Stringed instruments: harp, violin, viola, cello, double bass
- Woodwinds: flute, oboe, clarinet, saxophone, bassoon

To be considered for admission to the Doctor of Musical Arts degree program in music performance, an applicant must present a live performance audition before a faculty committee appointed by the Dean of the College of Music.

Applicants selecting the **instrumental music** area must present a live 40-minute audition, including the performance of 3 major works and approximately 10 minutes of discussion on one or more of the works, that is acceptable to the committee appointed by the Dean of the College of Music. Applicants selecting the **vocal music** area must present a live 40-minute audition, performing 30 minutes of music and 10 minutes of discussion on one or more of the works, that is acceptable to the committee appointed by the Dean of the College of Music. (Required languages: English, French, German, and Italian. Required repertoire: art songs, one opera aria, one baroque or classical aria, one 20th-

21st century work). In the case of both the instrumental and vocal music areas, applicants must also be prepared to respond to questions from the audition panel on the entire program.

With the approval of the faculty in an applicant's *major* area, an applicant may be considered for admission to the program on the basis of a high-quality recording of a recent performance, rather than on the basis of a live performance audition. An applicant who selects the **instrumental music or vocal music** area must submit either an audio or a video recording. An applicant who submits a recording may be admitted only on **provisional** status pending the presentation of a live performance audition before a faculty committee appointed by the Dean of the College of Music. The audition must be presented before the end of the first semester of enrollment in the program.

Guidance Committee

The Associate Dean for Graduate Studies or their designee must be a member of the student's guidance committee and must serve as its chairperson. The student's major professor, a second faculty member from the student's area, one faculty member from the area of musicology, and one faculty member from the area of music theory must be members of the student's guidance committee. In instances where additional expertise would be beneficial it is recommended that the guidance committee include a faculty member from within or outside the College of Music.

Requirements for the Doctor of Musical Arts Degree in Music Performance

The student must meet the requirements specified below:

Each student in the program has a major professor who provides instruction in the student's major instrument or in voice, oversees the musical content of the student's program, guides the preparation of required recitals, oversees the preparation of the scholarly paper, lecture-recital(s) and the final oral examination. Normally, the student studies with the major professor for six semesters.

The student must meet the requirements for one of the following two broad performance areas: instrumental music or vocal music.

**** Effective Fall 2022, the DMA in Music Performance was revised.**

- a. **Students who entered the program BEFORE Fall 2022, must refer to the appropriate Graduate Degree Requirements link and meet with Mr. Michael Armendariz (armenda2@msu.edu, Room 210 MB) for advising.**

**** The following requirements are for students who enter the program Fall 2022 or later.**

The student must:

1. Select, from the categories below, a major instrument or group of instruments (e.g. piano, harp, flute, or percussion instruments) or voice:
 - a. Piano
 - b. Stringed instruments: harp, violin, viola, cello, double bass
 - c. Wind instruments: flute, oboe, clarinet, saxophone, bassoon, trumpet, horn, trombone, euphonium, tuba
 - d. Percussion instruments
 - e. Voice
2. Complete the courses that are specified by the student's guidance committee including:
 - a. 3 credits of Music 830 Research Methods and Materials in Music
 - b. 6 credits of 800- or 900-level courses in musicology
 - c. Three courses in music theory at the 800- or 900-level. Students with a master's degree from Michigan State University will be required to take only two courses
 - d. 6 credits of elective courses, exclusive of additional credits of Music 996
3. Pass the written comprehensive examinations in musicology and music theory. Students become eligible to take the comprehensive examination in either of these areas during the semester in which they are

completing the required course work in that area. See page 18 for details about the comprehensive examination.

4. Complete the following requirements in lieu of 24 credits of Music 999, a doctoral dissertation, and a final oral examination in defense of the dissertation:
 - a. Complete 24 credits of Music 996.

For those students whose major instrument is piano, these credits must include at least six semesters of instruction in applied piano, four semesters of instruction in chamber music (1 credit for each of four semesters), and four semesters of instruction in piano performance (1 credit for each of four semesters). These requirements may be met concurrently.

For those students whose major instrument is a stringed, brass, woodwind or percussion instrument, these credits must include at least six semesters of instruction in the major instrument, six semesters of instruction in band or orchestra (1 credit for each for six semesters), and four semesters of instruction in chamber music (1 credit each of four semesters). These requirements may be met concurrently.

For those students whose major instrument is voice, these credits must include at least six semesters of instruction in voice and two semesters of instruction in opera theater, chamber music, or choir (1-2 credits for each)
 - b. Perform four public recitals that have been approved in a pre-recital hearing by a committee of faculty from the student's area. Three of the recitals must be solo recitals, two of which must be presented within two consecutive semesters, excluding summers. The fourth recital must be a chamber music recital.

For those students whose major instrument is a stringed, woodwind, brass or percussion instrument, a mock audition for a professional orchestra or wind ensemble, as outlined in the Graduate Handbook, may substitute for one solo recital with the prior approval of the applied teacher and the area chair.

For those students whose major instrument is voice, a significant opera role, as determined by the faculty of the voice area, may substitute for the chamber music recital. A second significant opera role may substitute for one of the solo recitals. A recording of each of the four recitals, mock auditions, or opera roles must be submitted to the Office of the Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and will be retained by the college as part of the permanent degree record.
 - c. Complete one of the following three options:
 1. Present a **lecture-recital** twice, first to the student's guidance committee as part of an oral examination and then to the public **and** submit a **scholarly paper** upon which the lecture-recital is based. In no case may the lecture-recital be presented publicly until it has been approved by the committee. The oral examination will be a defense of the lecture-recital and the paper. An AUDIO recording of the lecture-recital and a program, are required and must be submitted to the Graduate Studies Office.
 2. Present **two lecture-recitals**. Each lecture-recital must be presented twice, first to the student's guidance committee as part of an oral examination and then to the public. In no case may the lecture-recital be presented publicly until it has been approved by the committee. Each oral examination will be a defense of one of the lecture-recitals. An AUDIO recording of each lecture-recital and a program, are required and must be submitted to the Graduate Studies Office.
 3. With the unanimous consent of the student's guidance committee, submit a **scholarly paper** of major scope, comparable to a traditional dissertation, and take a final oral examination based on the paper. The final document must be submitted as a pdf to musgrad@msu.edu.

A proposal for each lecture-recital and the scholarly paper, if applicable, must be approved in writing by all members of the guidance committee no less than SIX months before the oral examination on that lecture-recital may occur. A recording of the public lecture-recital(s) and the scholarly paper will be retained by the College as part of the permanent degree record.

In the case of (1) and (3) above, the student must have completed successfully all of the required course work (with the exception of Music 996 Doctoral Recital Performance), the comprehensive examination, the required public recitals, and the scholarly paper before the final oral examination may occur.

In the case of (2) above, the student must have completed successfully all of the required course work (with the exception of Music 996), the comprehensive examination, and the required public recitals before either of the oral examinations may occur.

**** Mock Audition Information**

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.**

**** Alternatives to the 'Lecture-Recital' option**

Beginning Fall 2022, the College will pilot a program that implements an expanded definition of 'lecture recital'. This will allow students to substitute alternatives such as a pedagogical presentation, a series of pedagogical or stylistic videos, development of a website that has scholarly and performance components, a professional level recording with a scholarly component, etc. In all cases the presentation must contain both a scholarly and a performance component

For the purpose of implementing this pilot program, the following language will apply.

- i. A presentation supported by a scholarly paper. The presentation may take the form of a traditional lecture-recital or an alternative format appropriate to the individual discipline and approved by the student's guidance committee. The presentation must contain both a scholarly and a performance component and must be given first to the guidance committee as part of an oral examination, which will be a defense of the presentation and the paper. Following a successful oral examination, the presentation must be given to the public.
- ii. Two presentations on discrete topics. Each presentation may take the form of a traditional lecture-recital or an alternative format appropriate to the individual discipline and approved by the student's guidance committee. Each presentation must contain both a scholarly and a performance component and must be given first to the student's guidance committee as part of an oral examination. Following a successful oral examination, each presentation must be given to the public.

Academic Standards

Doctoral study presumes continuing excellence in course work, reading, and writing. **A student may accumulate no more than 6 credits with a grade below 3.0 in courses that are to be counted toward the degree.** Credit will not be awarded for any course in which the student receives a grade less than 2.0.

With regard to 4. (c) (1) above, the student's performance on the lecture-recital and the related scholarly paper and the final oral examination based on the lecture-recital and the paper must be approved by the members of the student's guidance committee with not more than one dissenting vote. Should the committee fail to accept the student's performance on the lecture-recital and the related paper or the final oral examination, the student shall be allowed to repeat the performance of the lecture-recital or to revise the related paper or to repeat the final oral

examination. The lecture-recital must be repeated or the paper revised or the oral examination repeated within one year, during a fall or spring semester.

With regard to 4. (c) (2) above, the student's performance on each of the two lecture-recitals and the final oral examination based on each lecture-recital must be approved by the members of the student's guidance committee with not more than one dissenting vote. Should the committee fail to accept the student's performance on either lecture-recital or the final oral examination, the student shall be allowed to repeat the performance of the lecture-recital or to repeat the final oral exam. The lecture-recital must be repeated or the oral examination repeated within one year, during a fall or spring semester.

With regard to 4. (c) (3) above, the student's performance on the scholarly paper and the final oral examination based on the paper must be approved by the members of the student's guidance committee with not more than one dissenting vote. Should the committee fail to accept the student's performance on the paper or the final oral examination, the student shall be allowed to revise the related paper or to repeat the final oral exam. The paper must be revised or the oral examination repeated within one year, during a fall or spring semester.

Music Theory

Master of Music

In addition to meeting the requirements of the University and of the College of Music, students must meet the requirements specified below.

NOTE: The College of Music also offers a 'Certificate in Music Theory'. Please visit page 57 for details.

Admission

To be considered for admission to the Master of Music degree program in music theory, an applicant must submit to the College of Music:

1. A one-page, type-written statement, written in English that addresses the applicant's interest in the field of music theory and in MSU's music theory program.
2. At least two examples of original compositions, arrangements, orchestrations, or counterpoint exercises, as well as a scholarly writing sample. Applicants are invited to include items representative of their work in music theory.

To be admitted to the program on regular status, an applicant must have a bachelor's degree in music theory from a recognized educational institution, or have completed the courses in music theory that are required for the Bachelor of Music degree music theory at Michigan State University or their equivalents.

**** Effective Fall 2023, the MM in Music Theory was revised.**

- a. Students who entered the program BEFORE Fall 2023, must refer to the appropriate Graduate Degree Requirements link and meet with Mr. Dan Hanrath (hanrathd@msu.edu, Room 205 MPB) for advising.***

The following requirements (30 credits) are for students who enter the program Fall 2023 and later.

1.

All of the following courses (15 credits):	Credits
MUS 874 Schenkerian Analysis	2
MUS 876 Keyboard Skills and Practical Musicianship	3
MUS 970 Pedagogy of Theory I	3
MUS 971 Pedagogy of Theory II	3
MUS 974 Proseminar in Post-Tonal Theory and Analysis	2
MUS 979 Proseminar in Music Theory	2

2.

One of the following courses (3 credits):	Credits
MUS 870 Advanced Modal Counterpoint	3
MUS 871 Advanced Tonal Counterpoint	3

Students who take both MUS 870 and 871 may count one of the courses towards requirement 3. below.

3.

A minimum of 5 credits from the following courses:	Credits
MUS 875 Analysis of Musical Scores	3
MUS 972 Advanced Keyboard Skills	3
MUS 976 Performance and Analysis	3
MUS 977 Schenkerian Analysis II	3
MUS 978 Analysis of Contemporary Music	2

4. Complete two semesters of MUS 973 Readings in Music Theory totaling 4 credits.
If a student completes a third semester of MUS 973, it may be counted toward requirement #3 above.
5. Complete 3 credits in musicology at the 400-level or above. MUS 830 may not be used to fulfill this requirement.
6. Participate in music activities during two semesters of enrollment in the program. The activities must be approved in advance by the student's academic advisor, and selected from band, chamber ensemble, chorus, jazz band, new-music ensemble, and orchestra.
7. Complete a Teaching Demonstration. The demonstration must take place after the student has completed MUS 970 Pedagogy of Theory I. The demonstration will occupy a class period of an undergraduate course in music theory to be determined by the area chairperson. It will be graded by a three-person committee selected by the area chairperson and comprised of the course supervisor, another member of the Music Theory faculty, and one faculty member from outside the Theory area. The grade will be pass/fail, based upon a majority vote of the three committee members.
8. Present a capstone research project and publicly present it at a music theory colloquium, to be advised and approved by a member of the music theory faculty. The project may be on either a research-related or a pedagogical topic, and must be similar in scope and format to a conference presentation. Students may choose a project begun or completed as part of a graduate seminar in music theory (*such as MUS 971, MUS 973, MUS 974, MUS 977, MUS 978, or MUS 979*) and revise and expand it as determined by the faculty advisor or, they may work on a new project or expansion of a research paper from a different course.
9. **A signed completion form is required as proof of completion of the above requirements. The form is available from the Theory Area Chair and our Graduate Studies website.**

Procedures for the Capstone Requirements of the Master of Music in Music Theory Degree

Teaching Demonstration:

The Teaching Demonstration may be undertaken once the student has completed MUS 970 Pedagogy of Theory I. If the student plans to take MUS 971 Pedagogy of Theory II, they are urged to wait until after completion of that course as well. The student must teach an entire 50-minute lecture of an undergraduate music theory course different from the one the student is currently teaching as a graduate assistant. The Music Theory area chairperson determines which course and assembles a committee of three faculty members, of which at least two must be on the Music Theory faculty. The student works with the course instructor, in consultation with the other committee members, to determine a date, topics, and learning objectives. All three committee members sign the Capstone Requirement Form upon the student's successful completion of the Teaching Demonstration.

Capstone Research Project:

The capstone presentation must be completed no earlier than the student's enrollment in the course on which the essay is based: either MUS 973 Readings in Music Theory or MUS 971 Pedagogy of Theory II. The student must work under the guidance of a member of the music theory faculty, who approves the final version of the presentation in advance as well as the student's public presentation of it. The public presentation will be in the format of a conference presentation, with a lecture of approximately 30 minutes followed by an opportunity for questions from those in attendance.

Academic Standards

A grade of 3.0 or higher is required to graduate.

Musicology

Master of Arts

In addition to meeting the requirements of the University and of the College of Music, students must meet the requirements specified below.

Admission

To be admitted to the Master of Arts degree program in musicology on regular status, an applicant must have a bachelor's degree in musicology, or have completed the courses in musicology that are required for the Bachelor of Arts degree in music at Michigan State University or their equivalents.

Requirements for the Master of Arts Degree in Musicology

The program is available under both Plan A (with thesis) and Plan B (without thesis). A total of 32 credits is required for the degree under either Plan A or Plan B. The student's program of study must be approved by the student's academic advisor. The student must meet the requirements specified below:

Requirements for Both Plan A and Plan B

**** Effective Fall 2023, the MA in Musicology was revised.**

- a. Students who entered the program BEFORE Fall 2023, must refer to the appropriate Graduate Degree Requirements link and meet with Mr. Dan Hanrath (hanrathd@msu.edu, Room 205 MPB) for advising.*

The following requirements (32 credits) are for students who enter the program Fall 2023 and later.

- | | | | |
|---|--|-----------|----|
| MUS 830 Research Methods and Materials in Music | | 3 credits | 1. |
|---|--|-----------|----|
2. Complete 15 credits of musicology courses in addition to MUS 830. At least three of the courses must be at the 800-level or above.
If a 400-level course is to be used to satisfy this requirement, the student must enroll concurrently in 1 credit of MUS 892A Seminar in Music History.
Students interested in ethnomusicology are encouraged to take MUS 833 Field Work in Ethnomusicology. Students may count up to 3 credits of MUS 890 Independent Study toward this requirement.
 3. Complete 2 or 3 credits in music theory at the 800-level or above.
 4. Complete 3 credits at the 400-level or above in a cognate outside the College of Music. Both the cognate area and the related courses must be approved by the musicology area faculty.
 5. Demonstrate a reading knowledge of one foreign language, approved by the chair of musicology. Credits in courses in a foreign language may **not** be counted toward the requirements for the Master of Arts degree in musicology.
 6. Complete 4 or 5 additional credits in music excluding musicology, MUS 898 and MUS 899.

7. Participate in all area colloquia and guest lectures.

Additional Requirements for Plan A

Complete the following course:	Credits
MUS 899 Master's Thesis Research	4

1. Complete a thesis under the direction of a member of the musicology faculty that is acceptable to the final oral certifying committee consisting of the student's thesis advisor, another member from the musicology area, and a member of the university faculty. A copy of the thesis must be submitted to the Graduate School and to the office of the Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and will be retained as part of the permanent degree record.

Additional Requirements for Plan B

Complete the following course:	Credits
MUS 898 Master's Research	4

1. Complete a research project a research project of similar scope to the thesis under the direction of a member of the musicology faculty that is acceptable to the final oral certifying committee consisting of the student's thesis advisor, another member from the musicology area, and a member of the university faculty. A copy of the project must be submitted to the Graduate School and to the office of the Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and will be retained as part of the permanent degree record.

Submission of the Thesis

A copy of the Thesis must be submitted to the Graduate School. Please visit '[Electronic Theses and Dissertation Submissions](#)' for details on formatting and for deadlines. A missed deadline will delay your graduation. After this is approved by the Graduate School, please submit a **pdf** copy to musgrad@msu.edu.

Academic Standards

A grade of 3.0 or higher is required for Music 896 and 898.

Piano Pedagogy

Master of Music

In addition to meeting the requirements of the University and of the College of Music, students must meet the requirements specified below.

Admission

To be considered for admission to the Master of Music degree program in piano pedagogy, an applicant must present a live performance audition before and be interviewed by a committee of faculty of the piano area. For an applicant who has a Bachelor of Music degree in music performance from Michigan State University, the live performance audition and the interview may be waived at the discretion of the faculty in the piano area. With the approval of the faculty in the piano area, an applicant may be considered for admission to the program on the basis of (a) a high-quality audio or video recording of a recent performance, (b) a video recording of him or her teaching a piano lesson to a young child, and (c) a written statement of their teaching philosophy. An applicant who submits recordings and a written statement may be admitted only on **provisional** status pending the presentation of a live performance audition before and an interview with the faculty in the piano area. The live performance and the interview must be completed before the end of the first semester of enrollment in the program and must meet the requirements of the piano area. To be admitted to the Master of Music degree program in piano pedagogy on regular status, an applicant must have a bachelor's degree in piano pedagogy, a bachelor's degree in piano performance or a bachelor's degree in music education with a major in piano from a recognized educational institution.

In addition, an international applicant is required to have fulfilled the University's English language proficiency requirement for regular admission as described in the *Graduate Education* section of this catalog. Provisional admission as a result of English language scores is not possible for this degree program.

Requirements for the Master of Music Degree in Piano Pedagogy

The program is available under Plan B (without thesis). A total of 30 credits is required for the degree under Plan B. The student's program of study must be approved by the student's academic advisor. The student must meet the requirements specified below.

**** Effective Fall 2023, the Piano Pedagogy Master's Program has been revised.**

- a. Students who entered the program BEFORE Fall 2023, must refer to the appropriate Graduate Degree Requirements link and meet with Mr. Dan Hanrath (hanrathd@msu.edu, Room 205 MPB) for advising.*

**** The following requirements are for students who enter the program Fall 2023 or later.**

1.

Complete all of the following courses (18 credits)	Credits
MUS 466 Internship in Music	1
MUS 843 Seminar in Piano Pedagogy	8
MUS 896 Master's Performance	10

The credits of MUS 896 must include at least 4 credits of instruction in piano (1 credit for each of four semesters), 4 credits of piano performance class (1 credit for each of four semesters), and 2 credits of instruction in chamber music (1 credit for each of two semesters).

2. Complete 2 or 3 credits in music theory at the 800 level or above.

3. Complete 3 credits in musicology at the 400 level or above.

4.

Complete 4 credits from the following	Credits
MUS 413 Keyboard Literature to the Mid-19th Century	2
MUS 414 Keyboard Literature since the Mid-19th Century	2
MUS 465 Music in Early Childhood	2
MUS 496 Your Music Business	1 or 2
MUS 830 Research Methods and Materials in Music	3
MUS 850J Jazz Piano	1 or 2
MUS 864 Research in Music Education	3

5. Perform a piano recital under the guidance of the student's applied music instructor and approved by a committee from the piano area in a pre-recital hearing. A recording of the recital must be submitted to the office of the Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and will be retained by the College as part of the permanent degree record.

6. Complete 2 credits of MUS 898 Master's Research, completing a research project and a one-semester teaching project with cumulative portfolio under the guidance of the Director of Piano Pedagogy.

7. Complete the final oral certifying examination administered by a committee consisting of the Director of Piano Pedagogy, another member from the piano area, and a faculty member from either the music theory or musicology area.

Academic Standards

A grade of 3.0 or higher is required for Music 896 and 898

Timeline/Process for Lecture-recital and Supporting Document for DMA Students

1-2 YEARS PRIOR TO THE DEFENSE

It is to your advantage (though certainly not required) to develop some general ideas about your lecture-recital/document topic early in your DMA studies. Prior to registering for your third semester of study you are required to schedule a meeting with your guidance committee to determine your specific curriculum (Guidance Committee Report). <https://music.msu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/24-25-Grad-Handbook-8-5-24.pdf> During those meetings it is helpful to discuss possible topics so that your required coursework can provide “support” for those topics. It is particularly helpful to have some ideas about possible topics prior to taking MUS 830, because you will actually research and write a proposal during this class.

The major professor, as chair of the guidance committee, has primary responsibility to oversee work on the lecture-recitals and scholarly paper. History and theory representatives also play an active role in the development of the proposal and in shaping the focus and content of the lecture-recital. Overseeing the supporting scholarly paper is the responsibility of the major professor, who will determine its scope and content.

As you formulate a topic, you should discuss it with your major professor and with members of your guidance committee to garner their support and gain their insights AND to see if there are strenuous objections to it.

9-12 MONTHS PRIOR TO DEFENSE

Once the members of your guidance committee have agreed to the topic, you should commence work on the proposal itself. In consultation with your major professor, you should determine one person on your committee who will advise you in writing the proposal. This can be your major professor or the music history or music theory representative on your guidance committee. (This is not something the history or theory faculty are required to do automatically. You should consult with your major professor and then, if appropriate, speak to the history or theory faculty member in person, not via email.) It is also most appropriate to seek guidance from other committee members at this point, but you should avoid having multiple advisors, each of whom is looking at drafts of your proposal. A helpful guide to writing the proposal can be found at <https://music.msu.edu/resource/mm-dma-documents-and-lecture-recitals/>.

It will likely be necessary for you to produce several (3-5) drafts of your proposal before it is ready to be sent to the full guidance committee. When you submit a draft of your proposal to your advisor, you should anticipate at least a two-week “turn-around time.” Particularly after the mid-point of spring semester, your advisor may inform you that it will take significantly longer to return the proposal. It is your responsibility to build this turn-around time into your timetable.

7-8 MONTHS PRIOR TO DEFENSE

Once your proposal advisor has determined that the proposal is ready to be sent to the committee, you should seek the “OK” of your major professor if they are not acting as the advisor. You should then email the final version of the proposal to all committee members and request their approval. This email should contain a brief reminder about when you hope to defend your lecture-recital and document. Ask each committee member to REPLY ALL and either approve the proposal as is or provide suggestions for improvement. Once you have your completed Proposal Acceptance Form, turn it in to the Graduate Office, #207 MPB.

This form can be signed electronically or in-person. E-mail approvals are no longer acceptable. Again, you should anticipate at least a two-week “turn-around time.” Remember that it is possible that one or more members of your committee will require you to make changes and this could add as much as a month, so be sure to build this into your timetable.

6-7 MONTHS PRIOR TO DEFENSE

The guidance committee must approve the proposal at least six months in advance of the defense, but you should seek to gain the approval of all committee members well in advance of that deadline.

Discuss with your advisor, how s/he would like to handle the various drafts of the document. Do they want to read each chapter as it is completed? Do they want to wait until the entire document is finished? Etc. You should anticipate at least a 2-3 week “turn-around time” with each submission, more if it is a particularly busy time of the year for your advisor. It is likely that your document will need to undergo several revisions before it is ready to be sent to the entire committee. Build each of these factors into your planning. It is generally not a good idea to share preliminary drafts of your document with committee members other than your advisor. This can sometimes lead to confusion.

1 MONTH PRIOR TO DEFENSE

Once your advisor has approved the final draft of your document, you should submit it to all guidance committee members. This must be done no later than one month prior to your defense.

At the same time, you should schedule a defense. (It might be a good idea to begin scheduling the defense IN ADVANCE of submitting your document to the committee, particularly if you are defending during the last part of spring semester.) This is your responsibility. Plan on 90 minutes for a lecture-recital/document defense. You should consider your own schedule and room availability in the College to determine a large number of potential times for your defense. Then send an email to the committee asking for their availability during those times. You must understand that faculty have complicated schedules and that successfully scheduling your defense may take a number of emails back and forth. Once all have agreed on a date and time, you should send a confirmation email to each committee member.

1 WEEK PRIOR TO DEFENSE

You should send each committee member an email reminder with date, time, and location of the defense. You should also send them a second reminder one or two days prior to the defense.

THE DEFENSE

The format of the defense begins with a presentation to the guidance committee of the lecture-recital itself. The student should communicate meaningfully about the music to the audience by both speaking and playing. The student may speak from an outline, note cards, or Powerpoint (strongly encouraged) but should not read the lecture. The musical performance need not be memorized. The lecture-recital should be approximately 60 minutes in length, more or less evenly divided between the lecture and the music. The musical performance may follow the lecture or may be interspersed throughout. The student must be prepared to perform all of the music, but may, at the discretion of the committee, be asked to perform only representative excerpts. Following the lecture-recital presentation the committee will likely have questions and suggestions both about the content and the presentation. They will likely also have comments and suggestions about the document. The student should be prepared to respond to questions in a coherent, thoughtful, and organized manner.

The student should provide a copy of the appropriate Defense form (available at <http://music.msu.edu/information-for-students/for-graduate-students/doctoral-degrees-forms/>) to the committee. It is the responsibility of the student to return one signed form to the Graduate Office. This may be in paper format or sent through e-mail to musgrad@msu.edu.

AFTER THE DEFENSE

If the lecture-recital is approved at the defense, the student may then proceed to the public performance of the lecture-recital. This may be done on or off campus; members of the guidance committee are not required to attend. As with other degree recitals, the front office will produce a program if requested. The student is responsible for ensuring that an **audio** recording of the performance is made and submitted to the Graduate Office. The front office will provide a copy of the program to the Graduate Studies Office. Student must upload their recording(s) using FileDepot. Directions are on our website. If the lecture-recital is not approved at the defense, the chair of the committee will instruct the student as to next steps.

At the defense, the committee will either approve the document as is, approve the document subject to changes to be made and approved by the advisor, or ask to see a revised copy of the document. Consult with your advisor after the defense as to the status of your document.

Once the document has been approved by all committee members, you must submit one **pdf** copy of the final version to the College of Music Graduate Office. You do NOT need to submit a copy to the Graduate School. As a courtesy, you should also provide a copy to your advisor and any other committee member who requests a copy.

Chart for Timeline/Process of lecture-recital and document

Student: Print this page and use it to help prepare for your successful defense.

When	What	Notes
1-2 years before the defense	Develop ideas for a topic	1. 2. 3. 4.
9-12 months before the defense	Work on the proposal with advisor and determine if IRB approval is required and follow through the process as needed.	1. Draft 1 submitted _____ 2. Draft 2 submitted _____ 3. Draft 3 submitted _____ IRB ____ <i>yes</i> ____ <i>no</i>
6-7 months before the defense	Send proposal to all committee members. Once approved, submit to the Graduate Studies Office.	<i>Who on committee has approved:</i> 1. (Chair) _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____
	Work on document with advisor. Submit multiple drafts.	
1 month before the defense	With approval of your advisor, submit final copy to your committee and schedule defense.	TENTATIVE: Date: Time: Location:
1 week before the defense	Send reminder note to committee.	Date e-mail reminder sent: _____
Defense	Defense	Date: Time: Location:
Complete lecture-recital. Complete any changes in document required by your committee and submit a pdf to Graduate Office. An Audio recording of the lecture-recital is also required and is submitted via FileDpot.to musgrad@msu.edu	After the Defense	Date of L-R: _____ Date for submission of Oral Defense form: _____ Date for submission of the pdf: _____

Timeline/Process for Two Lecture-Recital Option for DMA Students

1-2 YEARS PRIOR TO THE DEFENSE

It is to your advantage (though certainly not required) to develop some general ideas about your lecture-recital topic(s) early in your DMA studies. Prior to registering for your third semester of study you are required to schedule a meeting with your guidance committee to determine your specific curriculum (Guidance Committee Report).

<https://music.msu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/24-25-Grad-Handbook-8-5-24.pdf>

During those meetings it is helpful to discuss possible topics so that your required coursework can provide “support” for those topics. It is particularly helpful to have some ideas about possible topics prior to taking MUS 830, because you will actually research and write a proposal during this class.

The major professor, as chair of the guidance committee, has primary responsibility to oversee work on the lecture-recitals. History and theory representatives also play an active role in the development of the proposal and in shaping the focus and content of the lecture-recital.

As you formulate a topic, you should discuss it with your major professor and with members of your guidance committee to garner their support and gain their insights AND to see if there are strenuous objections to it.

The following timeline refers to only one lecture-recital. It is possible (and strongly encouraged) to work simultaneously on both lecture-recitals. Each lecture-recital requires a separate proposal, and you will need to apply this timeline to each of them.

6-9 MONTHS PRIOR TO DEFENSE

Once the members of your guidance committee have agreed to the topic, you should commence work on the proposal itself. In consultation with your major professor, you should determine one person on your committee who will advise you in writing the proposal. This can be your major professor or the music history or music theory representative on your guidance committee. (This is not something the history or theory faculty are required to do automatically. You should consult with your major professor and then, if appropriate, speak to the history or theory faculty member in person, not via email.) It is also most appropriate to seek guidance from other committee members at this point, but you should avoid having multiple advisors, each of whom is looking at drafts of your proposal. A helpful guide to writing the proposal can be found at <https://music.msu.edu/resource/mm-dma-documents-and-lecture-recitals/>.

It will likely be necessary for you to produce several (3-5) drafts of your proposal before it is ready to be sent to the full guidance committee. When you submit a draft of your proposal to your advisor, you should anticipate at least a two-week “turn around time.” Particularly after the mid-point of spring semester, your advisor may inform you that it will take significantly longer to return the proposal. It is your responsibility to build this into your timetable.

3-4 MONTHS PRIOR TO DEFENSE

Once your proposal advisor has determined that the proposal is ready to be sent to the committee, you should seek the “OK” of your major professor if s/he is not acting as the advisor. You should then email the final version of the proposal to all committee members and request their approval. This email should contain a brief reminder about when you hope to defend your lecture-recital. Ask each committee member to REPLY ALL and either approve the proposal as is or provide suggestions for improvement. Once you have your completed Proposal Acceptance Form, turn it in to the Graduate Office.

This form can be signed electronically or in-person. E-mail approvals are no longer acceptable. Again, you should anticipate at least a two-week “turn-around time.” Remember that it is possible that one or more members of your committee will require you to make changes and this could add as much as a month, so be sure to build this into your timetable.

1-2 MONTHS PRIOR TO DEFENSE

The guidance committee must approve the proposal at least one month in advance of the defense. Once the committee has approved the proposal, you should schedule a defense. This is your responsibility. Plan on 75 minutes for a lecture-recital defense. You should consider your own schedule and room availability in the College to determine a large number of potential times for your defense. Then send an email to the committee asking for their availability during those times. You must understand that faculty have complicated schedules and that scheduling your defense may take a number of emails back and forth. Once all have agreed on a date and time, you should send a confirmation email to each committee member.

1 WEEK PRIOR TO DEFENSE

You should send each committee member an email reminder with date, time, and location of the defense. This email should include a copy of the approved proposal to remind them of its content. You should also send them a reminder one or two days prior to the defense.

THE DEFENSE

The format of the defense begins with a presentation to the guidance committee of the lecture-recital itself. The student should communicate meaningfully about the music to the audience by both speaking and playing. The student may speak from an outline, note cards, or Powerpoint (strongly encouraged) but should not read the lecture. The musical performance need not be memorized. The lecture-recital should be approximately 60 minutes in length, more or less evenly divided between the lecture and the music. The musical performance may follow the lecture or may be interspersed throughout. The student must be prepared to perform all of the music, but may, at the discretion of the committee, be asked to perform only representative excerpts. Following the lecture-recital presentation the committee will likely have questions and suggestions both about the content and the presentation. The student should be prepared to respond to questions in a coherent, thoughtful, and organized manner.

The student should provide a copy of the appropriate Defense form (available at <http://music.msu.edu/information-for-students/for-graduate-students/doctoral-degrees-forms/>) to the committee. It is the responsibility of the student to return one signed form to the Graduate Office. This may be in paper format or sent through e-mail to musgrad@msu.edu.

AFTER THE DEFENSE

If the lecture-recital is approved at the defense, the student may then proceed to the public performance of the lecture-recital. This may be done on or off campus; members of the guidance committee are not required to attend. As with other degree recitals, the front office will produce a program if requested. The student is responsible for ensuring that an **audio** recording of the performance is made and submitted to the Graduate Office.

The front office will provide a copy of the program to the Graduate Studies Office. Students must upload their recording(s) using FileDepot. Directions are on our website. If the lecture-recital is not approved at the defense, the chair of the committee will instruct the student as to next steps.

Chart for Timeline for two lecture-recitals

Student: Print this page and use it to help prepare for your successful defense.

When	What	Notes
Develop ideas for a topic.	1-2 years before the defense	1. 2. 3. 4.
Work on the proposal with advisor.	6-9 months before the defense Determine if IRB approval is required and follow through the process as needed.	1. Draft 1 submitted _____ 2. Draft 2 submitted _____ 3. Draft 3 submitted _____ IRB ____ <i>yes</i> ____ <i>no</i>
Send proposal to all committee members. Once approved, submit to the Graduate Studies Office.	3-4 months before the defense	<i>Who on committee has approved:</i> 1. (Chair) 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____
With approval of the committee, schedule defense.	1-2 months before the defense	TENTATIVE: <i>Date:</i> <i>Time:</i> <i>Location:</i>
Send reminder note to committee.	1 week before the defense	<i>Date e-mail reminder sent:</i> _____
Defense	Defense	<i>Date:</i> <i>Time:</i> <i>Location:</i>
Complete lecture-recital(s). Audio recordings and programs of EACH of the lecture-recitals are required and are submitted via FileDepot to musgrad@msu.edu	After the defense	Date of L-R #1: _____ <i>Date for submission of Oral Defense form:</i> _____ Date of L-R #2: _____ <i>Date for submission of Oral Defense form:</i> _____