

DOCTOR OF MUSICAL ARTS

Major Field: VOICE PERFORMANCE + PEDAGOGY

DEGREE PLAN

REQUIREMENTS

I. ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS. As shown below, the D.M.A. degree requires 6 credits of graduate-level course work in musicology (not counting Music Bibliography) prior to enrolling in MUSC 6822 and 6 graduate credits in music theory prior to enrolling in MUSC 6801.* These preparatory academic courses do *not* need to be officially transferred, but they must be validated in writing by the Associate Dean for Graduate Studies *before* the student enrolls in 6000-level courses. Also note that Preliminary Exam requirements in musicology and theory must be completed *prior* to registration for 5000-level or higher courses in the respective academic disciplines.

Musicology course work* in preparation for MUSC 6822	<i>credit hours</i> (0-6)
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Advanced Studies in Musicology (MUSC 6822). Prerequisite: Introduction to Music Bibliography and Research (MUSC 5708) or equivalent.* With instructor's permission, a Ph.D. seminar in musicology (MUSC 7822 or MUSC 7832) may be substituted.	3
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Music Theory course work* in preparation for MUSC 6801	(0-6)
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Advanced Topics in Theory (MUSC 6801). Prerequisite: Introduction to Music Bibliography and Research (MUSC 5708) or equivalent.* With instructor's permission, a Ph.D. seminar in theory (MUSC 7801) may be substituted.	3
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<i>subtotal:</i>	<u>6 - 18</u>
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*Graduate-level course work from a master's degree may apply. Upon the recommendation of the area faculty, these courses may be validated in writing by the Associate Dean. In general, these credits do *not* need to be officially transferred to CU.

II. MAJOR AREA

Applied study voice (PMUS 6726)	4
Vocal Pedagogy	
Vocal Pedagogy (MUSC 5444) ^	0-2
^required based on Field Exam result	
Repertory for the Voice Teaching Studio (MUSC 5454)	2
Voice Acoustics/Teaching Technology (MUSC 5474)	2
Graduate Seminar in Vocal Pedagogy (MUSC 5484)	2
Cognate	
Contemporary Issues in College Teaching (MUSC 7138)	3
Research in Music Teaching (MUSC 5183)	2
Quantitative Research in Music Education (MUSC 7113)	
OR Qualitative Research in Music Education (MUSC 7143)	3
Elective to support Dissertation Research	
Voice and Resonance Disorders (SLHS 5332)^	0-3
^^instructor approval needed	

subtotal: 18-23

III. DISSERTATION PROJECTS

The TMUS Dissertation Projects usually are undertaken after successful completion of the first semester of study at CU. Students must have passed all required Preliminary Examinations or have begun enrolling in remedial coursework before they are permitted to present their first recital. If a recital or project is not completed during the same semester as registration, an IP ("In Progress") grade is recorded. The IP grade is later replaced with the letter grade assigned by the faculty advisory committee, and the student does not need to register again for the same TMUS project.

Although the Dissertation Projects are numbered sequentially below, students are strongly encouraged to complete their second recital Dissertation Project during their second year in residence. For each non-recital project, the Director of Vocal Pedagogy will serve as the main advisor and committee chair who will guide the student in preparing a written prospectus, which is then submitted to the faculty advisory committee for their suggestions and approval. Before the student proceeds with the project, the student will get a second member of the committee, along with the Director of Vocal Pedagogy to serve as first and second readers, who will guide the project to the final draft, which is then presented to the committee as a whole.

Dissertation Project 1

Solo/Chamber Music Recital (TMUS 8219)	3
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Dissertation Project 2

Solo/Chamber Music Recital (TMUS 8229) OR Lecture-Recital and Document (TMUS 8269)	3
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Dissertation Project 3

Pedagogy Project* (TMUS 8329)	6
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Dissertation subtotal:	12
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Total	36-53
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For further details and essential information for all DMA students, please consult the *General DMA Degree Guidelines* at the College of Music website.

* Please read the *University of Colorado Catalog* and the *General D.M.A. Degree Guidelines* carefully. The following statements supplement both in matters relevant to the voice program. Nothing that follows is intended to supersede or contradict those documents. Your attention is particularly directed to the following paragraphs, which apply in their entirety to your program.

Prerequisites
Program
Requirements
Residence
Requirements
Continuous
Registration

Degree Plan
Language Requirement
Course Requirements
Dissertation

Supplementary statements that follow are related to the paragraph headings in the *Catalog*.

Major Field Examination. In addition to the Preliminary Examinations, there is a Major Field Examination in voice that is a written diagnostic exam focused on Vocal Pedagogy. The following resource materials are suggested for study for the major field exam for voice students.

Vocal Pedagogy: LeBorgne and Rosenberg, *The Vocal Athlete* 3rd. ed. 2025.; Ragan, A *Systematic Approach to Voice*, 2nd ed. 2026.

Piano Requirement. The Voice Faculty recognizes the piano as an important studio teaching aid. All individuals who hold a Doctor of Musical Arts Degree in Voice Performance and Pedagogy should possess a reasonable level of proficiency at the keyboard. In order to determine the proficiency level, all entering students are required to take a piano proficiency examination during the week prior to the first week of fall semester classes, administered by the Voice Faculty. Those who do not pass the exam must take an appropriate undergraduate-level keyboard class or self-study and retest by the end of the second semester.

The Student's Doctoral Committee. Please note that the five-member faculty advisory committee must be formed by the conclusion of the first year of the degree in order to satisfy the academic progress report for the graduate school.

Language Requirement. Voice students must complete and pass a minimum of one year of study in three foreign languages or demonstrate proficiency by passing a College of Music foreign language translation examination. Currently, the College of Music offers year 1 and year 2 foreign language translation exams in French, German, Italian, and Spanish. A student can:

- Petition the Associate Dean to take a foreign language translation exam in another language. To receive approval, a proficiency exam and grader must be available, and the alternate foreign language request must be approved by the student's advisory committee.
- Petition the voice department to accept two years of study in one language as equivalent to one year of study in two foreign languages.
- DMA voice students can petition the voice faculty to have their native language (not English) meet the proficiency requirement for one of the three required languages.

Proficiency in all three languages must be completed prior to taking the comprehensive examination. Language study may be completed at other accredited colleges and universities.

Comprehensive Examinations. The comprehensive examination in voice, consisting of two parts (written and oral), may include:

Anatomy, Physiology, Models of Voice Production, Perception and Acoustics of Singing Vocology (including voice disorders and when to refer), Vocal Pedagogy Methodology and Strategies, History (including style) of Vocal Literature, Repertoire for Singers

Thesis Requirements. The written dissertation project must be prepared in accordance with the most recent edition of Turabian's *A Manual for Writers*. For more information regarding the Vocal Pedagogy Dissertation Project please see Addendum on Vocal Pedagogy Theses and Dissertations. All dissertation project performances are professionally recorded and kept on file in the library.

Final Oral Examination. After all dissertation requirements have been met, an oral examination in defense of the Vocal Pedagogy Project shall be conducted. This examination in two parts will include a presentation by the candidate, that may or may not be open to the public, and a private examination of the document and related topics by the committee. The candidate must be registered at the time of the final examination.

Dissertation Requirements. There is a total of 128 credit hours in dissertation projects, including 1 full Solo/Chamber Recital (3 credits), an additional Solo/Chamber OR Lecture recital (3 credits), and the 6 credit Vocal Pedagogy Dissertation project.

TMUS 8219 (3 cr.) Solo/Chamber Music Recital

TMUS 8229 (3 cr.) Solo/Chamber Music Recital

TMUS 8329 (6 cr.) Major Pedagogy Project: In coordination with the Director of Vocal Pedagogy, the student will determine a gap in Vocal Pedagogy literature or one of its interdisciplinary sub-fields. The project's subject area should help to inform the student's choice in completing their doctoral committee, who will give approval of the intended project. The student will complete a project and/or paper to fill this gap in the literature and contribute original work to the field of Vocal Pedagogy. This project may or may not relate directly to the content of a lecture recital. For further information, please refer to Graduate Vocal Pedagogy Thesis and Dissertation Project Guidelines.

REPERTORY REQUIREMENTS

A singer completing a DMA in Voice Performance and Pedagogy should have a broad knowledge of the larger repertoire of vocal literature for use in future performance and teaching. In coordination with the studio teacher, each student is encouraged to utilize DMA recitals to fill any major gaps in their personal repertoire. Through coursework and applied teaching during the DMA students are expected to expand their awareness of styles and genres that go beyond their own core repertoire to include various traditions, time periods, languages, and styles that require diverse techniques. During the comprehensive exams, each candidate should be prepared to demonstrate a thorough awareness of the ever-expanding body of vocal music literature.