

Doctor of Musical Arts, DMA

Learning Outcomes

- Acquisition of the highest level of knowledge and skills in performance that will prepare students for careers in performance or academia.
- Advanced competencies in repertoire, historical understanding, performance practice, and overall musicianship.
- Acquisition of knowledge and skills at the highest professional level in all facets and modes of performance within the student's area of study.
- Learning of effective approaches to pedagogy in the student's area of study.
- Knowledge and skills in one or more fields of music outside the student's area of study, such as theory, musicology, performance, composition, etc.

Requirements

The Doctor of Musical Arts (DMA) requires a minimum of 72 s.h. of graduate credit. Students must maintain a Graduate College program grade-point average of at least 3.00 to earn the degree. The DMA offers subprograms in brass, choral conducting, collaborative piano, orchestral conducting, organ, percussion, piano pedagogy, piano performance, string, voice, wind conducting, and woodwind. A minimum of 39 s.h. for the degree must be taken at the University of Iowa after formal program admission.

Entering DMA students must take School of Music advisory examinations in the areas of music history and music theory. These examinations are given on the Friday and Saturday preceding the opening of classes in the fall semester. For more information, visit the School of Music website.

Common Requirements

Introductory Courses

All students complete MUS:5300 Introduction to Graduate Study in Music (3 s.h.) and MUS:7140 Seminar in Music Research (2 s.h.) on an A-F graded basis.

Students in the brass, collaborative piano, organ, percussion, piano pedagogy, piano performance, string, voice, and woodwind subprograms are required to take MUS:7899 DMA Qualifying Recital (0 s.h.) once. Students in choral, orchestral, or wind conducting are not held to this requirement.

Music Theory Requirement

All students complete 9 s.h. from the following course list taken on an A-F graded basis.

Course #	Title	Hours
MUS:4200	Counterpoint Before 1600	3
MUS:4201	Counterpoint After 1600	3
MUS:4730	Jazz Theory	3
MUS:5235	Tonal Analysis	3
MUS:5236	Non-Tonal Analysis	3
MUS:5237	Analysis of Popular Music	3

MUS:5240	Special Topics in Theory and Analysis (may be repeated)	3
MUS:6211	Theoretical Approaches to Music	3
MUS:6215	Music Theory Pedagogy	3

Music History Requirement

All students complete 9 s.h. from the following course list taken on an A-F graded basis; a maximum of one course numbered 4000-4999 is permitted.

Course #	Title	Hours
MUS:6305	Teaching Music History and Culture	3
MUS:6310	Topics in Musicology (may be repeated)	3
MUS:6312	Historical Approaches to Music	3
MUS:6314	Topics in Ethnomusicology (may be repeated)	3
MUS:6315	Foundations of Ethnomusicology	3
MUS:6375	Music Editing	3
A maximum of one of these:		
MUS:4320	Music and Gender	3
MUS:4330	Early Music	3
MUS:4335	Eighteenth-Century Music	3
MUS:4340	Nineteenth-Century Music	3
MUS:4345	Twentieth-Century Music	3
MUS:4350	Advanced Jazz History	3
MUS:4355	American Music	3
MUS:4360	Jazz Matters	3
MUS:4610	Studies in Film and Music (may be repeated)	3

Additional Courses Requirement

All students are required to complete additional coursework to reach the 72 s.h. for the degree. This is done through fulfillment of the following areas. Students work closely with their advisor to determine the amount of credits they should enroll in for each of these areas.

DMA Recital

All students except those in the collaborative piano and wind conducting subprograms are required to take MUS:7900 DMA Recital three times for 1-2 s.h. each, for a minimum of 3 s.h. and a maximum of 6 s.h. toward the degree. Students in the collaborative piano and wind conducting subprograms are required to take this course three times for 2 s.h. each.

DMA Essay/Thesis

All students are required to take MUS:7970 DMA Thesis for a minimum of 2 s.h. Students are allowed to complete additional enrollments in MUS:7970 for a total maximum of 6 s.h. toward the degree.

Electives

Students complete elective coursework as needed to reach a total of 72 s.h. Courses taken to fulfill the world language proficiency requirement or the secondary area of music requirement are permitted to apply toward electives if numbered 3000 or above.

Students may select electives from music courses (prefix MUS) numbered 3000 or above, excluding MUS:5200. Additional non-music courses or graduate transfer coursework may be permitted with the approval of the student's advisor.

World Language Proficiency or Secondary Area of Music Requirement

Students in the choral conducting, collaborative piano, organ, and voice subprograms are required to fulfill their subprograms' respective world language proficiency requirements.

Students in the brass, orchestral conducting, percussion, piano pedagogy, piano performance, string, wind conducting, and woodwind subprograms may complete either their subprograms' respective world language proficiency requirement or a secondary area of music.

World Language Proficiency

Students should consult with their faculty advisor in their respective subprogram if they wish to demonstrate proficiency in a world language that is not listed as an option below.

- Brass, orchestral conducting, piano pedagogy, piano performance, string, wind conducting, and woodwind students who pursue world language proficiency are required to achieve fourth-level proficiency with a grade of B or above in French or German.
- Choral conducting students are required to achieve second-level of proficiency with a grade of C or above in two languages chosen from French, German, and Italian. One requirement must be met by the end of the student's third semester. The second requirement must be met by the time the thesis proposal is approved.
- Collaborative piano students are required to achieve fourth-level proficiency with a grade of B or above in French, German, or Italian.
- Organ students are required to achieve second-level proficiency with a grade of B or above in two languages, typically French and German.
- Percussion students who pursue world language proficiency are required to achieve fourth-level proficiency with a grade of B or above in a language offered by the University of Iowa.
- Voice students are required to achieve second-level proficiency with a grade of B or above in each of the three major singing languages, French, German, and Italian, prior to taking comprehensive exams. In addition, advanced reading knowledge in one of the required languages must be demonstrated through a written exam administered by the subprogram.

Students may satisfy the proficiency requirement in one of these ways:

1. Testing out of the language at the University of Iowa by individual testing through the world language area. Students should check with their subprogram regarding this option.
2. Taking the language course at the University of Iowa. Refer to the GE CLAS Core page for a list of courses and languages that satisfy this requirement and their respective levels of proficiency.
3. Completing a course of similar scope from another institution within the last 10 years. Students should check with their subprogram before enrolling in a course.

Secondary Area of Music Option

Students in the brass, orchestral conducting, percussion, piano pedagogy, piano performance, string, wind conducting, and woodwind subprograms may complete a secondary area of music instead of world language proficiency.

The secondary area of music option is an opportunity for students to individualize their course of study according to their strengths, personal interests, and career aspirations. The secondary area will enhance their viability in the job market and broaden the students' professional profile and competence.

The student, the subprogram advisor, and a professor from the secondary area will define this individualized component of the DMA course of study by the end of the first year of study. A contract listing the required coursework or other specific outcomes will be filed with the student's records in the Academic Office in the School of Music. The required coursework will include a minimum of 6 s.h. These hours may not include any courses required to fulfill other degree requirements. The student's comprehensive examination committee will include the secondary area advisor, who will provide questions pertaining to the secondary area.

Possible secondary areas include conducting, music education, jazz studies, music theory, musicology, chamber music, audio recording, or a secondary applied area. Secondary areas may not be specialized areas of the primary performance/pedagogy or conducting area.

Subprograms

Coursework taken for the music MA at the University of Iowa may apply toward DMA requirements, including ensemble, applied lessons, and chamber music. Students with a non-UI graduate degree in music will have their transfer credit evaluated to determine the amount of credit that can be applied toward DMA requirements.

Brass

Brass Required Courses

Course #	Title	Hours
All of these:		
MUS:5111	Advanced Brass Pedagogy and Literature I	2
MUS:5112	Advanced Brass Pedagogy and Literature II	2
MUS:5115	Advanced Brass Ensemble Literature	2

Brass Ensemble

Course #	Title	Hours
8 s.h. from these:		
MUS:3160	Symphony Band/Concert Band (may be repeated)	1
MUS:3180	Orchestra (may be repeated)	1

Brass Applied Lessons

Students must choose one instrument for all 16 s.h. in applied lessons.

Course #	Title	Hours
One of these:		
MUS:6032	Major Horn (taken eight times for 2 s.h. each)	16

MUS:6033	Major Trumpet (taken eight times for 2 s.h. each)	16
MUS:6034	Major Trombone (taken eight times for 2 s.h. each)	16
MUS:6035	Major Euphonium (taken eight times for 2 s.h. each)	16
MUS:6036	Major Tuba (taken eight times for 2 s.h. each)	16

Brass-Wind Chamber Music

Course #	Title	Hours
4 s.h. from these:		
MUS:3485	Wind Chamber Music (may be repeated)	1
MUS:3489	Chamber Music Residency Program (may be repeated)	1

Brass Additional Courses

Brass students must total 15 s.h. in the Additional Courses Requirement; see the preceding section titled Additional Courses Requirement for more details.

Choral Conducting

Choral Conducting Required Courses

Course #	Title	Hours
All of these:		
MUS:6120	Graduate Secondary Performance - Voice	1
MUS:6561	Seminar: Choral Literature and Analysis I	2
MUS:6562	Seminar: Choral Literature and Analysis II	2
MUS:6563	Seminar: Choral Literature and Analysis III	2
MUS:6564	Seminar: Choral Literature and Analysis IV	2
MUS:6581	Advanced Choral Conducting I	2
MUS:6582	Advanced Choral Conducting II	2
MUS:6583	Advanced Choral Conducting III	2
MUS:6584	Advanced Choral Conducting IV	2
MUS:6585	Score Reading	1

Choral Conducting Ensemble

Course #	Title	Hours
4 s.h. from these:		
MUS:3170	Kantorei (may be repeated)	1
MUS:3172	Camerata Singers (may be repeated)	1
MUS:3174	University Choir (may be repeated)	1

Choral Conducting Additional Courses

Choral conducting students must total 27 s.h. in the Additional Courses Requirement; see the preceding section titled Additional Courses Requirement for more details.

Collaborative Piano

Collaborative Piano Required Courses

Course #	Title	Hours
All of these:		
MUS:3489	Chamber Music Residency Program (taken twice for 2 s.h. each)	4
MUS:5420	Collaborative Piano Literature I: Strings	3
MUS:5421	Collaborative Piano Literature II: Woodwinds and Brass	3
MUS:5510	Graduate Diction	2
MUS:6021	Major Piano (taken ten times for 2 s.h. each)	20
MUS:7401	Special Studies in Piano Accompaniment and Chamber Music (taken six times for 1 s.h. each)	6
One of these:		
MUS:6541	Survey of Song Literature I	3
MUS:6542	Survey of Song Literature II	3

Collaborative Piano Additional Courses

Collaborative piano students must total 8 s.h. in the Additional Courses Requirement; see the preceding section titled Additional Courses Requirement for more details. Students are strongly encouraged to enroll in MUS:3001 Introduction to Jazz Improvisation, MUS:4210 Keyboard Harmony, and MUS:6585 Score Reading.

Orchestral Conducting

Orchestral Conducting Required Courses

Course #	Title	Hours
All of these:		
MUS:5510	Graduate Diction	2
MUS:6120	Graduate Secondary Performance - Voice	1
MUS:6580	Advanced Orchestral Conducting (taken six times for 2 s.h. each)	12
MUS:6585	Score Reading	1
MUS:6586	Advanced Orchestral Literature and Professional Development (taken six times for 2 s.h. each)	12

Orchestral Conducting Applied Lessons

Course #	Title	Hours
One of these:		
MUS:6120	Graduate Secondary Performance - Voice	1
MUS:6121	Graduate Secondary Performance - Piano	1
MUS:6122	Graduate Secondary Performance - Organ	1
MUS:6123	Graduate Secondary Performance - Violin	1
MUS:6124	Graduate Secondary Performance - Viola	1

MUS:6125	Graduate Secondary Performance - Cello	1
MUS:6126	Graduate Secondary Performance - String Bass	1
MUS:6127	Graduate Secondary Performance - Flute	1
MUS:6128	Graduate Secondary Performance - Oboe	1
MUS:6129	Graduate Secondary Performance - Clarinet	1
MUS:6130	Graduate Secondary Performance - Bassoon	1
MUS:6131	Graduate Secondary Performance - Saxophone	1
MUS:6132	Graduate Secondary Performance - Horn	1
MUS:6133	Graduate Secondary Performance - Trumpet	1
MUS:6134	Graduate Secondary Performance - Trombone	1
MUS:6135	Graduate Secondary Performance - Euphonium	1
MUS:6136	Graduate Secondary Performance - Tuba	1
MUS:6137	Graduate Secondary Performance - Percussion	1

Orchestral Conducting Ensemble Requirement

Choral

Course #	Title	Hours
One of these:		
MUS:3170	Kantorei	1
MUS:3172	Camerata Singers	1
MUS:3174	University Choir	1

Orchestral

Course #	Title	Hours
An additional 3 s.h. from these (all courses may be repeated):		
MUS:3160	Symphony Band/Concert Band	1
MUS:3170	Kantorei	1
MUS:3172	Camerata Singers	1
MUS:3174	University Choir	1

Orchestral Conducting Additional Courses

Orchestral conducting students must total 16 s.h. in the Additional Courses Requirement; see the preceding section titled Additional Courses Requirement for more details.

Organ

Organ Required Courses

Course #	Title	Hours
All of these:		
MUS:4450	Organ Literature Survey (taken two times for 2 s.h. each)	4
MUS:5452	Organ Pedagogy	2

MUS:5475	Organ Literature Special Topics (taken two times for 2 s.h. each)	4
MUS:6022	Major Organ (taken eight times for 2 s.h. each)	16
4 s.h. from these:		
MUS:4452	Liturgics	2
MUS:4454	Service Playing and Improvisation	2
MUS:5450	History of Organ Building and Design	2
MUS:5452	Organ Pedagogy	2
additional enrollments in MUS:5475, beyond the two required		

Organ Ensemble Requirement

Course #	Title	Hours
8 s.h. from these (all courses may be repeated):		
MUS:3160	Symphony Band/Concert Band	1
MUS:3170	Kantorei	1
MUS:3172	Camerata Singers	1
MUS:3174	University Choir	1
MUS:3180	Orchestra	1

Organ Additional Courses

Organ students must total 11 s.h. in the Additional Courses Requirement; see the preceding section titled Additional Courses Requirement for more details.

Percussion

Percussion Required Courses

Course #	Title	Hours
All of these:		
MUS:5130	Advanced Percussion Pedagogy and Literature	2
MUS:6037	Major Percussion (taken eight times for 2 s.h. each)	16
8 s.h. from these:		
MUS:3150	Percussion Ensemble (may be repeated)	1
MUS:3151	Percussion Chamber Ensemble (may be repeated)	1

Percussion ensemble

Course #	Title	Hours
8 s.h. from these:		
MUS:3160	Symphony Band/Concert Band (may be repeated)	1
MUS:3180	Orchestra (may be repeated)	1

Percussion Additional Courses

Percussion students must total 15 s.h. in the Additional Courses Requirement; see the preceding section titled Additional Courses Requirement for more details.

Piano Pedagogy

Piano Pedagogy Required Courses

Course #	Title	Hours
This course:		
MUS:6021	Major Piano (taken ten times for 2 s.h. each)	20
Three of these:		
MUS:3400	Methods of Teaching Piano	2
MUS:5400	Piano Pedagogy I	2
MUS:5401	Piano Pedagogy II	2
MUS:5990	Graduate Special Studies (may only count once toward this requirement)	2
One of these:		
MUS:5410	Piano Literature I	2
MUS:5411	Piano Literature II	2

Piano Pedagogy Ensemble Requirement

Course #	Title	Hours
This course:		
MUS:7401	Special Studies in Piano Accompaniment and Chamber Music (taken four times for 1 s.h. each)	4
4 s.h. from these (all courses may be repeated):		
MUS:3480	Piano Accompaniment (minimum 1 s.h. required unless exempt by piano area)	1
MUS:3481	Piano Chamber Music (maximum of 2 s.h. permitted)	1
MUS:3489	Chamber Music Residency Program	1

Piano Pedagogy Additional Courses

Piano pedagogy students must total 13 s.h. in the Additional Courses Requirement; see the preceding section titled Additional Courses Requirement for more details.

Piano Performance

Piano Performance Required Courses

Course #	Title	Hours
This course:		
MUS:6021	Major Piano (taken ten times for 2 s.h. each)	20
Two of these:		
MUS:3400	Methods of Teaching Piano	2
MUS:5400	Piano Pedagogy I	2
MUS:5401	Piano Pedagogy II	2
MUS:5990	Graduate Special Studies (may only count once toward this requirement)	2
4 s.h. from these:		
MUS:5410	Piano Literature I (may be repeated)	2
MUS:5411	Piano Literature II (may be repeated)	2

Piano Performance Ensemble Requirement

Course #	Title	Hours
This course:		
MUS:7401	Special Studies in Piano Accompaniment and Chamber Music (taken four times for 1 s.h. each)	4
4 s.h. from these (all courses may be repeated):		
MUS:3480	Piano Accompaniment (minimum 1 s.h. required unless exempt by piano area)	1
MUS:3481	Piano Chamber Music (maximum of 2 s.h. permitted)	1
MUS:3489	Chamber Music Residency Program	1

Piano Performance Additional Courses

Piano performance students must total 13 s.h. in the Additional Courses Requirement; see the preceding section titled Additional Courses Requirement for more details.

String

String Required Courses

Course #	Title	Hours
All of these:		
MUS:3180	Orchestra (taken eight times for 1 s.h. each)	8
MUS:5121	Advanced String Methods and Literature I	2
MUS:5122	Advanced String Methods and Literature II	2

String Applied Lessons

Students must choose one instrument for all 16 s.h. in applied lessons.

Course #	Title	Hours
One of these:		
MUS:6023	Major Violin (taken eight times for 2 s.h. each)	16
MUS:6024	Major Viola (taken eight times for 2 s.h. each)	16
MUS:6025	Major Cello (taken eight times for 2 s.h. each)	16
MUS:6026	Major String Bass (taken eight times for 2 s.h. each)	16

String Chamber Music

Course #	Title	Hours
6 s.h. from these:		
MUS:3482	String Chamber Music (may be repeated)	1
MUS:3489	Chamber Music Residency Program (may be repeated)	1

String Additional Courses

String students must total 15 s.h. in the Additional Courses Requirement; see the preceding section titled Additional Courses Requirement for more details.

Voice

Voice Required Courses

Course #	Title	Hours
All of these:		
MUS:5510	Graduate Diction	2
MUS:6020	Major Voice (taken six times for 2 s.h. each)	12
MUS:6520	Voice Pedagogy (teaching assistants are required to take this course in their first year)	3
MUS:6530	Topics in Vocal Performance (taken two times for 2 s.h. each)	4
MUS:6540	Survey of Operatic Literature	3
MUS:6541	Survey of Song Literature I	3
MUS:6542	Survey of Song Literature II	3

Voice Ensemble

Course #	Title	Hours
4 s.h. from these (all courses may be repeated):		
MUS:3170	Kantorei	1
MUS:3172	Camerata Singers	1
MUS:3174	University Choir	1

Voice Opera/Musical Theater

Course #	Title	Hours
Two of these (all courses may be repeated):		
MUS:3140	Audition Repertoire	1
MUS:3500	Opera Workshop	2
MUS:3502	Opera Production	2-4
MUS:3503	Vocal/Operatic Coaching	1
MUS:3530	Musical Theatre Workshop	2
MUS:3851	Introduction to the Alexander Technique	3
MUS:6535	Opera Theater Directing Seminar	3

Voice Additional Courses

Voice additional courses must bring the total credit for the degree to a minimum of 72 s.h.; see the preceding section titled Additional Courses Requirement for more details.

Wind Conducting

Wind Conducting Required Courses

Course #	Title	Hours
All of these (24 s.h.)		
MUS:3160	Symphony Band/Concert Band (taken eight times for 1 s.h. each)	8
MUS:6589	Advanced Wind Conducting (taken four times for 2 s.h. each)	8
MUS:6590	Seminar in Advanced Band Literature and Band History (taken four times for 2 s.h. each)	8
3 s.h. from these:		
MUS:3665	Arranging for Band	3

MUS:3666	Marching Band Techniques	1
MUS:6127	Graduate Secondary Performance - Flute (may be repeated)	1
MUS:6128	Graduate Secondary Performance - Oboe (may be repeated)	1
MUS:6129	Graduate Secondary Performance - Clarinet (may be repeated)	1
MUS:6130	Graduate Secondary Performance - Bassoon (may be repeated)	1
MUS:6131	Graduate Secondary Performance - Saxophone (may be repeated)	1
MUS:6132	Graduate Secondary Performance - Horn (may be repeated)	1
MUS:6133	Graduate Secondary Performance - Trumpet (may be repeated)	1
MUS:6134	Graduate Secondary Performance - Trombone (may be repeated)	1
MUS:6135	Graduate Secondary Performance - Euphonium (may be repeated)	1
MUS:6136	Graduate Secondary Performance - Tuba (may be repeated)	1
MUS:6137	Graduate Secondary Performance - Percussion (may be repeated)	1
MUS:6583	Advanced Choral Conducting III	3
MUS:6584	Advanced Choral Conducting IV	3
MUS:6585	Score Reading	1
MUS:6586	Advanced Orchestral Literature and Professional Development	2

Wind Conducting Additional Courses

Wind conducting students must total 22 s.h. in the Additional Courses Requirement; see the preceding section titled Additional Courses Requirement for more details.

Woodwind

Woodwind Required Courses

Course #	Title	Hours
All of these:		
MUS:5101	Advanced Woodwind Pedagogy and Literature I	2
MUS:5102	Advanced Woodwind Pedagogy and Literature II	3

Woodwind Ensemble

Course #	Title	Hours
8 s.h. from these:		
MUS:3160	Symphony Band/Concert Band (may be repeated)	1

MUS:3180	Orchestra (may be repeated)	1
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Woodwind Applied Lessons

Students must choose one instrument for all 16 s.h. in applied lessons.

Course #	Title	Hours
One of these:		
MUS:6027	Major Flute (taken eight times for 2 s.h. each)	16
MUS:6028	Major Oboe (taken eight times for 2 s.h. each)	16
MUS:6029	Major Clarinet (taken eight times for 2 s.h. each)	16
MUS:6030	Major Bassoon (taken eight times for 2 s.h. each)	16
MUS:6031	Major Saxophone (taken eight times for 2 s.h. each)	16

Woodwind Chamber Music

Course #	Title	Hours
4 s.h. from these:		
MUS:3485	Wind Chamber Music (may be repeated)	1
MUS:3489	Chamber Music Residency Program (may be repeated)	1

Woodwind Additional Courses

Woodwind students must total 16 s.h. in the Additional Courses Requirement; see the preceding section titled Additional Courses Requirement for more details.

Graduate Education

Graduate education prepares students with advanced knowledge and skills in specialized fields. At the University of Iowa, the Graduate College advocates for student-centered graduate education and supports equitable application of rules and policies across graduate programs.

Academics

University of Iowa graduate credentials are regulated by policies and requirements found in the Graduate College Manual of Rules and Regulations. This includes minimum grade-point average (GPA) requirements for academic standing and degree conferral. The Graduate College sets the minimum requirement. Individual graduate programs may establish higher GPA requirements.

Admissions

Graduate student applicants must meet admission requirements for both the Graduate College and the program to which they have applied. University of Iowa graduate admission requirements are published by the Graduate College and on the Graduate Admissions website.

Financial Support

Graduate students might be eligible for financial support. Several contingencies apply, including degree program and award type, satisfactory progress toward degree, satisfactory completion of all duties related to an appointment, and availability of funding. Graduate students should inquire directly with their program for more information about funding

availability. The Graduate Student Employment Standards govern the employment relationship between the University of Iowa and all graduate teaching and research assistants in all matters except wages, which are covered by an existing collective bargaining agreement or the conditions of an applicable federal grant.

Admission

Applicants must audition and/or submit supporting materials in their area of concentration in order to be considered for admission. Information about Graduate College admission and curriculum requirements for each area is available on the School of Music website.

For detailed information about Graduate College admission and policies, see the Manual of Rules and Regulations on the Graduate College website.

Career Advancement

The Grad Success Center within the Graduate College offers multiple resources to help students explore their potential career options.