

2026-27

DMA in Music (Performance, piano pedagogy emphasis)

Area Coordinator: Hannah Creviston

School of Music, Dance and Theatre graduate check sheet and guide

This document is meant to help you navigate your coursework. This program requires 90 credit hours, a research paper, a written and oral comprehensive exam. Students with a completed master's degree from an accredited institution recognized by the ASU Graduate College are given up to 30 blanket hours toward the DMA, leaving 60 credit hours of coursework to complete. Shaded sections of the check sheet represent the 30 blanket hours for the master's degree.

Required Core (4 credit hours)

Prefix	#	Title	Hours Needed	Hours Taken	Semester/Year	Notes
MUP	727	Studio Instruction	4			Doctoral Level

Performance Concentration (24 credit hours)

Prefix	#	Title	Hours Needed	Hours Taken	Semester/Year	Notes
MUP	727	Studio Instruction	4			Doctoral Level
MUP	727	Studio Instruction	4			
MUP	727	Studio Instruction	4			
MUP	796	Solo Performance (Recital)	4			3 recitals are required. To finish coursework in two years, you can take 3 credits of MUP 796 per semester but can be taken in any combination. When you complete a recital, submit a recital result form indicating pass/fail from committee
MUP	796	Solo Performance (Recital)	4			
MUP	796	Solo Performance (Recital)	4			

Emphasis Area (23 credit hours)

Prefix	#	Title	Hours Needed	Hours Taken	Semester/Year	Notes
MUP		Studio Instruction	2			Master's Level
MUP		Studio Instruction	2			
MUP		Studio Instruction	2			
MUP		Studio Instruction	2			

MUP	596	Solo Performance (Recital)	1			
MUP	597	Solo Performance (Recital)	1			
MUP	581	Pedagogy: Beginner	2			Required in DMA if not taken in MM or at the request of studio faculty.
MUP	581	Pedagogy: Intermediate	2			
MUP	581	Pedagogy: Advanced	2			
MUP	507	Group Piano Practicum	2			
MUP	751	Piano Lecture	2			
MUP	791	Seminar (Pedagogy)	3			
			0			Elective coursework selected in consultation with faculty advisor. Can be an area outside of music. Ensembles or additional lessons may count here.

Research (12 credit hours)

Prefix	#	Title	Hours Needed	Hours Taken	Semester/Year	Notes
MUP	792	Research	3			Credit hours may be taken in any combination. You can register for 3 credit hours per semester for 4 semesters to complete in two years.
MUP	792	Research	3			
MUP	792	Research	3			
MUP	792	Research	3			

Other Studies in Music - Musicology and Music Theory (27 credit hours)

Five courses are required at the doctoral level. Two courses (3 credits each) in musicology or ethnomusicology (MHL prefix). Two courses (3 credits each) in music theory (MTC prefix). You may choose your fifth course from either MHL or MTC. Courses are offered on a rotational basis.

Prefix	#	Title	Hours Needed	Hours Taken	Semester/Year	Notes
MHL	532	Music Bibliography	3			Required in DMA if not taken in MM. See handbook for exemption requirements.
						Include if MHL 532 taken in DMA

MHL			3			
MTC			3			
MTC			3			
MHL			3			
MHL			3			
MTC		Must be an analytical course	3			Visit the MTC Course list on Canvas for information on course work selection.
MTC			3			
						MHL or MTC elective

Your Degree Guide, Timeline and Best Practices

Academic Advising

Your studio professor and Hannah Creviston will serve as your faculty advisors and can assist you with coursework selection. Additionally, your staff advisor in the School of Music, Dance and Theatre Office of Academic Affairs will assist you with filing your Plan of Study.

MDT Graduate Student Resource Site

Enroll in the [MDT Graduate Student Resources site](#). The site is where you can find your handbooks, academic forms, and other important information related to your studies.

Student Handbooks

There are student handbooks that you should reference throughout your degree. Your handbooks are meant to help you understand various policies and procedures required for your studies.

- The DMA Graduate Music Handbook is located on the MDT Graduate Student Resources Site.
- [The ASU Graduate policies and procedures Handbook](#).
- Students with a TA should also review the TA/RA Policies and Procedures handbook through the ASU Graduate College

Tips on Selecting Coursework

Many courses are offered on a rotational basis and are not necessarily offered every semester. Every course taken for your degree must have a graduate course number (500+). You will not receive graduate credit for courses at the 400-level or below. You may take courses at the 400-level or below, but the courses will not count toward your degree but will count towards your overall GPA. The [class search](#) is where you can find which courses are offered. Students on an F1/J1 visa should register for at least 9 credit hours this semester. Students on federal aid should register for at least 9 credit hours this semester to be considered full-time.

Degree Requirements and Timeline

There are several milestones and requirements throughout the DMA program in addition to the required coursework listed above. All work towards a doctoral degree must be completed within eight consecutive years from the semester of entry.

Task/Milestone	Timeline
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Complete diagnostic exams in musicology and music theory	Before your first semester (Jun.15 for fall admission).
Degree recitals	Complete recitals. All recitals must be completed 3 weeks before the defense.
File plan of study	Beginning of your third semester. Schedule an appointment with the Office of Academic Affairs.
Finalize your committee	Must be finalized on your plan of study before you take your written comprehensive exam. All committee members must approve degree recitals 2-5.
Written Comprehensive Exam	After completion of coursework, typically in your fourth semester of a six semester program.
Oral Comprehensive Exam	Scheduled after the written exam is complete. Can be scheduled in the same semester as the written exam or in a later semester as approved by the committee.
Identify a Thesis Topic	Can be done as early as the first semester.
Complete IRB training , if required	Must be done before any human subject research is conducted.
Research proposal exam	Scheduled at any time during coursework but it needs to be completed one semester before your defense semester.
Complete Defense	Graduation semester.

Research Paper Defense Timeline - Completed in final semester

Task/Milestone	Timeline
Review defense timeline	By the end of the first week of class.
Final review of your Plan of Study	By the second month of your final semester. Fix any course issues/committee updates.
Apply for Graduation and submit the Z-Y Spreadsheet	Oct.1 for fall/ Feb.15 for spring/ Jun.15 for summer.
Submit final draft to committee	At least three weeks before your thesis defense.
Pick a defense date	Determine thesis defense date with committee (at least three weeks before defense date).
Chair submits the Defense Request form	A minimum of three weeks before the defense date.
Schedule your defense in MyASU and upload document to your Plan of Study for format review	After receiving approval from the Office of Academic Affairs, schedule your defense at least 10 business days before your date.
Complete survey of earned Doctorates	For current semester deadlines and more detailed information, go to the MDT Graduate Student Resources canvas site for defense information .
Submit final format revisions to ASU Graduate College	

Graduate Curriculum Breakdown

Arizona State University is accredited through the National Association for Schools of Music (NASM) and the DMA in Music with a concentration in composition meets the NASM curricular standards and guidelines as indicated below.

Studies in Major Area (63 credits) MUP 527 Studio Instruction (master's level) (8) MUP 727 Studio Instruction (4 credits per semester) (16) MUP 596 Solo Performance (master's level) (1) MUP 597 Solo Performance (master's level) (1) MUP 751 Seminar in Piano Literature (2) MUP 507 Group Piano Practicum (2) MUP 581 Pedagogy (6) MUP 791 Seminar (Pedagogy) (3) MUP 796 Solo Performance (any combination of credits) (12) MUP 792 Research (12)	Other Studies in Music (21 credits) MHL 532: Music Bibliography (3) MHL Coursework (master's level) (3) MHL Coursework (DMA level) (6) MTC Coursework (master's level) (6) MTC Coursework (DMA level, analytical course) (3) Electives (6 credits) MTC or MHL Elective (DMA level) (3) MTC or MHL Elective (master's level) (3)
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Sample Plan of Study

Most students take two or three years (not including summers) to finish coursework followed by another one or two years to complete recitals and research. Course work can be completed in two academic years with careful planning. Here is a typical full-time plan.

Coursework (# of credit hours)	Priority Tasks
SEMESTER 1 (FALL)	
MUP 727 Studio Instruction (4) MUP 796 Recital (3) MHL or MTC course (3) Piano Pedagogy Class (2-3)	- Results from your graduate diagnostic exam in theory and musicology should be reviewed by your faculty advisor. - MHL 532 Bibliography should be completed if not taken in MM. - MUP 792 Research and MUP 796 Recital credits should be discussed with advisor. - Check your ASU ID Sun Card for access. - Students on F-1/J-1 visa should discuss Curriculum Practicum Training option with the MDT Office of Academic Affairs. - Consider what electives might interest you both in the school and in other academic units. - Join a student group, chamber ensemble, etc. - Plan when you will complete your first recital.
SEMESTER 2 (SPRING)	
MUP 727 Studio Instruction (4) MUP 796 Recital (4) MHL or MTC course (3) Piano Pedagogy Class (2-3)	- Identify a research topic with your faculty advisor. - Complete first recital (1 of 3) and submit recital result form.
SEMESTER 3 (FALL)	

MUP 727 Studio Instruction (4) MUP 796 Recital (4) MHL or MTC course (3) Piano Pedagogy Class (2-3)	• Meet with the MDT Office of Academic Affairs to fill out your Plan of Study and ensure that you are on track. • Finalize your committee. • Plan your second recital.
SEMESTER 4 (SPRING)	
MUP 727 Studio Instruction (4) MUP 792 Research MHL or MTC course (3) Piano Pedagogy Class (2-3)	• Update any course changes on your Plan of Study by the end of the fourth semester. • Complete second recital (2 of 3) and submit recital result form
SEMESTER 5 (FALL)	
MUP 792 Research (6) MHL or MTC course (3) Piano Pedagogy Class (2-3)	• The Committee Chair reserves space for written and oral comprehensive exams. • Submit Research proposal to the MDT Office of Academic Affairs by end of semester. • All recital result forms should be on file with the MDT Office of Academic Affairs.
SEMESTER 6 (SPRING)	
MUP 792 Research (6)	• Review graduation deadlines on the MDT Graduate Student Resources site in Canvas. • Confirm that you have an approved Plan of Study before the graduation deadline. • Schedule and complete defense. • Apply for graduation through MyASU. • RSVP to graduation ceremonies through your MyASU, order graduation regalia and ask your committee chair to hood you at the ceremony.

2025-26

DMA in Music (Performance, piano pedagogy emphasis)

Area Coordinator: Hannah Creviston
(Hannah.Creviston@asu.edu)
Staff Advisor: Julie Krause
(Julie.A.Krause@asu.edu)

School of Music, Dance and Theatre
graduate check sheet and guide

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Other Studies in Music - Musicology and Music Theory (27 credit hours)

Five courses at the doctoral level are required. Two courses (3 credits each) must be in musicology or ethnomusicology (MHL prefix). Two courses (3 credits each) must be in music theory (MTC prefix). 500-level courses that are double-listed as a 400-level course may not be used toward the MHL/MTC requirement. In special cases, a substitution may be allowed for this requirement. Visit the MHL + MTC Course website for information on course work selection.

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- Students with a TA should also review the TA/RA Policies and Procedures handbook through the ASU Graduate College

Tips on Selecting Coursework

Each semester, the courses offered in musicology (MHL) and music theory (MTC) are listed on the student canvas site. Courses are offered on a rotational basis and are not necessarily offered every semester. The MTC courses are identified as either an analytical or non-analytical course. Refer to the MDT graduate student resources canvas site for the most current list of course offerings.

Degree Requirements and Timeline

There are several milestones and requirements throughout the DMA program in addition to the required coursework listed above. All work towards a doctoral degree must be completed within ten consecutive years from the semester of entry.

Task/Milestone	Timeline
Complete diagnostic exams in musicology and music theory	Before your first semester (Jun.15 for fall admission)
Degree recitals	Complete recitals. All recitals must be completed 3 weeks before the defense.
File program of study	Beginning of your third semester. Schedule an appointment with the Office of Academic Affairs.
Finalize your committee	Must be finalized on your plan of study before you take your written comprehensive exam. All committee members must approve degree recitals 2-5.
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Submit final format revisions to ASU Graduate College	
Upload document to ETD/ProQuest	

Graduate Curriculum Breakdown

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	Theatre Office of Academic Affairs. • Consider what electives might interest you both in the school and in other academic units. • Join a student group, chamber ensemble, etc. • Begin to plan when you will complete your first recital. Recital sign ups located on music website
SEMESTER 2 (SPRING)	
MUP 727 Studio Instruction (4) MUP 796 Recital (4) MHL or MTC course (3) Piano Pedagogy Class (2-3)	• Begin process to identify a research topic with faculty advisor. • Complete first recital (1 of 3) and submit recital result form.
SEMESTER 3 (FALL)	
MUP 727 Studio Instruction (4) MUP 796 Recital (4) MHL or MTC course (3) Piano Pedagogy Class (2-3)	• Meet with the Office of Academic Affairs to fill out your Plan of Study and ensure that you are on track to degree completion. • Begin finalizing your graduate committee. Review your student handbook for requirements. • Plan your second recital.
SEMESTER 4 (SPRING)	
MUP 727 Studio Instruction (4) MUP 792 Research MHL or MTC course (3) Piano Pedagogy Class (2-3)	• Update any course changes on your Plan of Study by the end of the fourth semester. • Complete second recital (2 of 3) and submit recital result form
SEMESTER 5 (FALL)	
MUP 792 Research (6) MHL or MTC course (3) Piano Pedagogy Class (2-3)	• Complete the Steps to Graduation Workshop • Committee Chair reserves space for written and oral comprehensive exams • Submit Research/Dissertation proposal to School of Music, Dance and Theatre Office of Academic Affairs by end of semester • All recital result forms should be on file with the School of Music, Dance and Theatre Office of Academic Affairs
SEMESTER 6 (SPRING)	
MUP 792 Research (6)	• Review graduation deadlines on the MDT Graduate Student Resources site in Canvas. • Confirm that you have an approved Plan of Study and complete a committee on file before the graduation deadline. • Schedule and complete defense • Committee chair schedules Defense • Apply for graduation through MyASU by October 1 (fall graduation) or February 15 (spring graduation).

	• RSVP to graduation ceremonies through your MyASU. • Order graduation regalia. • Ask your committee chair to hood you at the ceremony.
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