



Lyric Diction Requirements 2026

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Proficiency Information

Italian, French, and German diction proficiency tests and/or classes are:

- REQUIRED* for Undergraduate Voice Performance Transfer (BM and BMA) and Graduate Voice Performance majors, all doctoral Conducting majors, and Master of Music Choral Conducting majors.
- Italian and French diction proficiency tests are given only during summer orientation.
- German diction proficiency test is administered in December.

Testing Policy

The use of any external resources, including AI tools, is explicitly forbidden for lyric diction exams. Any indication that these resources were used to form partial or full answers after accessing a lyric diction exam may be subject to consequences at the discretion of the faculty, including failure of the exam.

Exams are not open books. Please do not use other resources or cheat in any way. If you do, it will only be to your detriment, as placing out of a class or into a higher level will only place you in an academically and professionally disadvantageous position later on. The time limit should be self-administered, meaning you may use the stopwatch feature on your phone or device.

Appointments

- Italian and French diction proficiency tests will be hosted on the Graduate Orientation Canvas (both written and recorded portions). Further instructions are on Canvas.
- The singing portion will be recorded and uploaded.
- If you have any questions, contact Professor Timothy Cheek.

Testing Format

One language test is about 45 minutes long**:

1. 35 minute written test using the International Phonetic Alphabet
2. Recorded performance of one song or aria in the language. Non-singers can feel free to drop octaves.
 - a. Recording files can be uploaded directly to Canvas, though a YouTube link is preferred. You may paste the YouTube link into a document and upload the document to Canvas.

Preparation

Recommended texts:

- *A Handbook of Diction for Singers*, by David Adams, Oxford University Press;
- *Singing in French*, by Thomas Grubb, Schirmer Books;
- *German for Singers*, by William Odom, Plural Publishing;
- *Perfect Italian Diction for Singers*, by Timothy Cheek and Anna Toccafondi, Rowman & Littlefield

*The lyric diction requirement is a different requirement from your foreign language requirements.

**You also have the option to forego taking a diction test, and take the class instead. If this is your preference, then make sure to contact Prof Cheek. Classes are in high demand, and you will need permission to join.