

PIANO PERFORMANCE

Degree Requirements

Doctor of Musical Arts (D.M.A.)

Requirements listed here are in addition to Graduate Council policies listed under GCAC-700 Professional Degree Policies (<https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/>).

The Doctor of Musical Arts is offered with a major in Piano Performance. Four semesters in residence are required. The degree is designed to provide students with a thorough background of preparation and experience in professional-level performance and in the literature of the instrument, while becoming sufficiently knowledgeable about the discipline of music as a whole, in order to teach at the collegiate or university level. This background knowledge would include, but not be limited to, music theory, analysis, and history. The School of Music sponsors many musical ensembles, and candidates for performance degrees are required to participate in positions of responsibility.

Sixty credits are required beyond the Master of Music; if an exceptional student is admitted before completion of a prior Master of Music degree, the student will complete a total of 30 credits in categories equivalent to those required for the M.Mus., in addition to the 60 required for the D.M.A. Minimum course requirements (post-Master's degree) include 16 credits (four semesters at 4 credits/semester) of KEYBD 580; 4 credits of advanced ensembles; 10 credits of literature and pedagogy in the major area; and 18 credits in the broader discipline of music.

A qualifying examination will follow upon two semesters completed in residence. The comprehensive examination will occur upon the completion of course work, before the final recital. The culminating experience of the D.M.A. degree is public performance: three memorized solo recitals are required (the final recital is prepared independently), and two recitals of chamber music. Although no written dissertation is required, a lecture-recital is required, with a pre-approved monograph text.