

# Conducting, DMA

FACONDDMA

Advance your craft as a conductor while you develop your conducting skills. You'll receive individual mentorship from the conducting faculty and have opportunities for significant podium time with an instrumental or choral ensemble.

## Program description

### **Degree awarded: DMA Music (Conducting)**

The DMA program in music with a concentration in conducting offers emerging conductors the opportunity to improve their art, craft and scholarship while becoming well-versed in multiple areas of conducting.

Those pursuing this degree take several common courses regardless of emphasis and become acquainted with the repertory and conducting issues for each medium. Coursework emphasizes a thorough knowledge of repertory, historical and analytical issues; an understanding of efficient, effective rehearsal technique; and clear, expressive conducting technique. Doctoral students of conducting receive considerable individual attention and have regular opportunities to rehearse and to conduct a variety of ensembles.

There are three tracks in this degree program:

Choral conducting --- Conductors specializing in choral conducting expand their expertise in global, intercultural approaches to communal vocal musicking and work to integrate this into their pedagogy and rehearsal process. Score study integrates musical, textual and socio-critical analysis, enabling students to gain insights into the unique interpretive demands of each work. Gestural study regards integrated approaches of Western ideals of conducting with Laban movement principles, diverse dance forms and body mapping. Conductors receive a plethora of podium time, both as primary conductors of ASU choral ensembles and as assistant conductors for faculty-led ensembles.

Orchestra and opera conducting --- Conductors specializing in orchestra and opera conducting work closely with the director of orchestras and the artistic director of the music theatre and opera program, and gain a breadth of experience in both orchestral and opera conducting. Time in front of an ensemble is essential; therefore, conductors have significant podium time and twice-weekly studio chamber orchestra classes. Study includes conducting technique, rehearsal technique, leadership, interpretation, score study, audience development and outreach, and career development.

Wind band conducting --- Conductors specializing in wind band conducting study privately with the director of bands and work closely with other members of the conducting faculty, including the director of athletic bands, to develop their conducting and rehearsal skills. If interested, wind band conducting students also have opportunities to enhance their work with athletic bands and, if desired, may elect individual study with the director of athletic bands. Furthermore, many students select integrated conducting as their cognate, allowing for in-depth work in a second conducting area.

The doctoral program lecture recital is a performance with the top pool of wind and percussion players in the School of Music, Dance and Theatre and includes a repertoire chosen from the complete body of wind band and chamber wind literature.

## At a glance

- **College/School:** [Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts](#)
- **Location:** [Tempe](#)

## Degree requirements

90 credit hours, a written comprehensive exam, an oral comprehensive exam and a research paper

### Conducting Core (18 credit hours)

### Specialty Courses (9 credit hours)

### Electives (9 credit hours)

### Cognate (integrated conducting, instrumental performance or music learning and teaching) (9 credit hours)

### Music History and Music Theory (21 credit hours)

### Recitals and Research (24 credit hours)

### Other Requirement

Completion of diagnostic exams in musicology and music theory is required of all new graduate music students prior to course enrollment in the School of Music, Dance and Theatre.

### Additional Curriculum Information

Thirty credit hours from a master's degree may be applied toward the 90 credit hour degree requirement. Once admitted to the program, a student is required to be enrolled continuously, excluding summer sessions, until all requirements for the degree have been fulfilled. In general, the student should expect to

spend at least the equivalent of three academic years beyond the bachelor's degree in the program. A minimum of two semesters must be spent in continuous full-time residence at ASU. At least 54 credit hours must be completed in residence at ASU.

Additional information on degree requirements for this degree is available on the curriculum check sheet located at the bottom of [the school's degree page](#).

## Admission requirements

Applicants must fulfill the requirements of both the Graduate College and the Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts.

Applicants are eligible to apply to the program if they have earned a bachelor's or master's degree from a regionally accredited institution. Students seeking admission typically hold an MM degree. Applicants with other degrees are considered if they have received graduate training similar to that normally expected in a Master of Music program.

Applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 (scale is 4.00 = "A") in the last 60 hours of their first bachelor's degree program, or applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 (scale is 4.00 = "A") in an applicable master's degree program.

All applicants must submit:

1. [graduate admission application](#) and application fee
2. official transcripts
3. [School of Music, Dance and Theatre Application](#), including a resume and personal statement; also, from choral applicants, an uploaded writing sample
4. prescreening video
5. three letters of recommendation
6. proof of English proficiency

### Additional Application Information

An applicant whose native language is not English must provide proof of [English proficiency](#) regardless of their current residency.

The School of Music, Dance and Theatre does not offer conditional admission under any circumstances.

Students should see the program website for application deadlines. An applicant may be invited for a live audition after receipt of complete application materials, including recommendation letters, transcripts and English proficiency requirements, and review of prescreening materials. Information on the audition may be found at the [School of Music, Dance and Theatre auditions page](#).

## Tuition information

When it comes to paying for higher education, everyone's situation is different. Students can learn about [ASU tuition and financial aid](#) options to find out which will work best for them.

## Application deadlines

Fall

[expand](#)

## Program learning outcomes

Program learning outcomes identify what a student will learn or be able to do upon completion of their program. This program has the following program outcomes:

- Synthesize performance practices in the context of diverse musical settings and genres.
- Evaluate specific conducting repertoire and pedagogy to support a unique and professional musical style.
- Implement an independent research project that makes a unique contribution to the discipline of music performance.

## Career opportunities

School of Music, Dance and Theatre graduate programs inspire and empower students to become creative leaders who transform society through music.

Musicians with expertise in performing, composing, teaching, and researching; in arts advocacy; and in serving as therapists are in high demand across many sectors and industries, including performing arts organizations, educational institutions, entertainment companies, health and wellness industries, and community arts organizations. Skills such as creativity, collaboration, innovation, and entrepreneurship, as well as the focused discipline needed for success as a musician, are all highly valued by a wide range of companies and professions.

Career examples include:

- artistic director
- arts administrator
- community arts advocate
- performing musician
- public or community school teacher
- university professor

## Contact information

[School of Music, Dance and Theatre](#) | MUSIC E167

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[Admission deadlines](#)

