

Music (Performance), DMA

FAPERFDMA

Reach your highest level of academic achievement as a performer by immersing yourself in a musical environment where your creativity and passion are showcased through numerous performance experiences at ASU and throughout the greater Phoenix area.

Program description

Degree awarded: DMA Music (Performance)

The DMA in music with a concentration in performance is a professional degree program for advanced musicians who desire high levels of performance instruction as well as preparation for teaching positions at the university level.

Students work with faculty mentors to achieve a professional level of performance through individual recitals, chamber music and ensembles, including wind bands and choral, orchestral, brass, jazz, musical theatre and opera ensembles, depending on their area of emphasis.

Performance opportunities on and off campus further develop the knowledge and abilities required to become a leader in a musical community through teaching, performing or arts advocacy. Students work closely with an individual faculty mentor and distinguished guest artists to enhance musical growth. Students serve as leaders, mentors and models for their younger colleagues in performances, pedagogical experiences and community engagement. Collaboration with music scholars, theorists, composers, educators, dancers and theatre artists provides students with the variety of experiences and skills they need for artistic excellence and leadership.

Students learn skills they will need to be a highly successful working musician, including audition preparation, networking, learning organizational strategies, opportunity creation and developing an entrepreneurial mindset.

At a glance

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

Degree requirements

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

Required Core (4 credit hours)

MUP 727 Studio Instruction (4)

Performance Concentration (24 credit hours)

MUP 727 Studio Instruction (12)

MUP 796 Solo Performance: Recital (12)

Emphasis Area Coursework (23 credit hours)

Music History and Music Theory (27 credit hours)

Research (12 credit hours)

MUP 792 Research (12)

Culminating Experience (0)

Research paper in the form of a bound document

Additional Curriculum Information

Students select an area of emphasis from the following: piano pedagogy, collaborative piano, instrumental, keyboard and voice. Emphasis coursework depends on the area selected. Students should work in consultation with their academic advisor in the development of their plan of study.

The performance concentration requires at least three recitals after admission to the program and a research paper. Five recitals are required for the collaborative piano emphasis.

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

Thirty credit hours from a previously awarded master's degree may be applied toward the 90 credit hour degree requirement with approval from the academic unit and the Graduate College. 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.

Vocalists: Placement tests in foreign language diction are required upon entry into the program. Students who are judged to be deficient in diction are required to complete and pass a diction review course.

Additional information on degree requirements for this degree is available on the curriculum check sheet located at the bottom of the [school's program 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 U.S. bachelor's degree or higher from a regionally accredited institution or the equivalent of a U.S. bachelor's degree from an institution in another country that is officially recognized by that country. Students seeking admission typically hold a Master of Music 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 achieved a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 (scale is 4.00 = "A") in the last 60 semester hours or 90 quarter 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. [School of Music, Dance and Theatre application](#), including a resume, personal statement and repertoire list
3. official transcripts
4. prescreening recording
5. three letters of recommendation
6. teaching demonstration video (piano pedagogy applicants)
7. writing sample (solo piano and piano pedagogy applicants)
8. 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. To meet English proficiency requirements, students should have a TOEFL iBT score of at least 80; an IELTS overall band score of at least 6.5; or a Pearson Test of English score of at least 60.

Students should see the program website for application deadlines.

After the applicant's complete application materials are received, including recommendation letters, transcripts and English proficiency, and a review has been conducted of prescreening materials, an applicant may be invited for a live audition. Information about the audition may be found at the [school website](#).

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

Spring

[expand](#)

[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, demonstrating mastery with the literature of one's instrument.
- Assess an instrument's repertoire and pedagogy to develop a unique and professional musical style.
- Implement an independent research project that makes a unique contribution to the discipline of music performance.

Career opportunities

Musicians with expertise in performing, composing, teaching, researching, arts advocacy and 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. The School of Music, Dance and Theatre graduate programs inspire and empower students to become creative leaders who transform society through music.

Career examples include:

- arts administrator
- community arts advocate
- composer for film, video games and television
- music therapist
- performing musician
- public or community school teacher
- university professor

Contact information

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

MDTAdmissions@asu.edu | 480-965-5069

[Admission deadlines](#)

