

School of Music Graduate Program Timeline

Music Doctoral Degree Program, PhD, and DMA

These are general timelines for degree completion, based on regular admission, full-time enrollment, and satisfactory progress. We expect our students to make every effort to complete their degree within three-four years (average for most programs, including part-time programs). Enrollment in the summer is not required for doctoral students but may reduce your time to degree if courses are available. The following timeline summarizes the School of Music's expectations for student progress. Please note the academic year runs from fall (late August) through summer (end of July).

Year One

- Attend [New Graduate Student Orientation](#) and any required trainings (e.g. New [GTA Training](#)).
- Complete all diagnostic exams (see [graduate calendar](#) for details) and any required deficiency courses before the end of your third semester (see [Diagnostic Exam](#) information for details).
- Begin coursework (700+ level recommended) to complete core requirements – Note some courses are only offered in a given semester or year, so plan accordingly.
- All doctoral students must take MUSC 801 or request a waiver from the Musicology [area coordinator](#).
- Identify your faculty advisor and track your program [degree requirements](#). > [Graduate Credit Policy](#)
- Create your Doctoral [Graduate Advisory Committee](#) (minimum of four members of the [Graduate Faculty](#))
- Participate in academic & professional development activities and apply for [Student Opportunity](#) and [Graduate Student Travel Fund](#).

Year Two

- Continue research or performance enrollment and plan for any language requirements (Voice & Musicology students only, refer to [handbook](#)) – Send updates to Degree Progress Check Sheet to musicgrad@ku.edu.
- Schedule and plan for milestones: DMA recitals and Doctoral Qualifying Exams (Music History, Music Theory, and Major Field - refer to [handbook](#) for details on these exams and waiver options), and any professional presentations.
- Identify your faculty committee (minimum of 4 Graduate Faculty > [committee requirements](#)) and submit the [Advisory Committee Approval Form](#).

Year Three +

- Complete coursework and work with advisor to finalize DMA document or dissertation topic in collaboration with your doctoral committee – Send updated Degree Progress Check Sheet to musicgrad@ku.edu to request a graduation audit.
- Complete all milestones, including Diagnostic Exams, Recitals, Oral Comprehensive Exam, and final Doctoral Defense/Exam (may include a lecture-recital).
- Doctoral students submit the [Research Proposal Approval Form](#) for committee approval of final research topic.
- Finalize Degree Progress Check Sheet and submit your [Exam Authorization Form](#) to musicgrad@ku.edu at least 2 weeks prior to the oral comprehensive and final doctoral defense/exam - Contact your committee members to discuss your progress and plan for exam and recital requirements.
- Complete [Graduation Checklist](#) Requirements and verify all programs and recordings are on file (performance students only). Graduation Deadlines for each semester are posted in the [School of Music Graduate Calendar](#).

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Additional Resources

- [KU Academic Catalog](#)
- [Graduate Student Welcome Guide](#)
- [Graduate Policies](#) (grading, graduate credit, full-time enrollment, academic standing)
- [Benefits for GTAs](#)
- [Recital Scheduling](#)
- [Request a Locker](#)
- [Exam & Graduation Information](#)
- [Graduate Student Health Insurance](#)
- [Application for Continuing or Multiple Degrees/Certificates](#)
- [Leave of Absence Request](#)
- [School of Music Opportunity Fund](#)
- [Graduate Student Travel Award](#)
- [Financial Aid & Scholarships](#)
- [Tuition & Fee Calculator](#)
- [International Support Services \(ISS\)](#)
- [KU Registrar](#)
 - [Academic Calendar](#)
 - [Tuition & Fee Schedule](#)
 - [Schedule Change Info and Forms](#) (see error message section)
 - [Fee Petition Form](#)
 - [FacEx Appeals](#)

