Information for Thornton students applying to a Graduate Program

Current USC Thornton students applying to a graduate degree program must:

1. Submit the USC Application for Graduate Admission, available online here.

2. Submit Thornton's SlideRoom application, and pay the SlideRoom submission fee ($25). A link to the SlideRoom portal can be found inside the USC Application for Graduate Admission, in the "Program Materials" section. Current USC Thornton students are required to submit an audition recording in SlideRoom, but in some cases alternative arrangements might be made (see point 5 below).

3. Transcripts – Upload pdf scans of official transcripts from all schools you've attended, including USC, in both SlideRoom and USC's Graduate Application. Please avoid using transcripts obtained from an on-line student portal as those can be difficult for the faculty to interpret, and they often lack critical GPA data and graduation information.

4. Meet all posted deadlines. This applies to all application materials including GRE, TOEFL, and IELTS scores.

5. Submit an audition recording in SlideRoom. Some applicants may be allowed to use a recital or jury as their audition, and some departments might allow current Thornton students to make special arrangements for an audition in lieu of uploading a recording. Please check with your teacher or department chair **BEFORE** you submit the SlideRoom form to determine what is possible in your case. Be sure to check the specific requirements for your program, or inquire with your department chair, department coordinator, or teacher if you would like to discuss your specific circumstances. To submit SlideRoom, at least one video file must be uploaded. If you have approval from your department to use a recital, jury, or other alternative arrangement, please upload a short video in which you give an explanation of your audition plans, in lieu of submitting an audition recording. (Classical Piano students pursuing certain piano performance degrees at Thornton are eligible for modified or reduced requirements for the audition. Please contact the Keyboard Studies Department for details.) (Vocal Arts students are not required to submit a first round audition recording, but are required to perform a "live" on-line second round audition.)

6. International Students who have earned a degree at USC Thornton are not necessarily exempt from the TOEFL / IELTS requirement. Please contact Kit Bellamy in the Thornton Admission office to discuss your specific circumstances. keb@usc.edu

7. All DMA and PHD applicants, as well as Master's applicants in Early Music, Community Music, and Music Teaching and Learning must take Thornton's Graduate Academic Admission Examination. The exam will be offered during the second round audition period from mid-January to mid-February. Details are available here.

8. DMA and PHD applicants must also submit the "Doctoral Introductory Video" and at least one recommendation letter from a professor who has assessed a substantial research or analysis paper that the student has written. See details here.

****

Current USC Thornton students applying to GC, Masters, or Doctoral programs **may be exempt from the following**:

1. Recommendation letters from performance faculty. Most departments do not require letters of recommendation from performance faculty. Please check with your department chair to find out what your department requires.

2. TRANSCRIPTS – as mentioned above, you must upload pdf scans of official transcripts in SlideRoom and in the USC Gradate Application.
- There is no need to submit official USC transcripts to the USC Graduate Admission office.
- If you completed a BM, BA, MM, MA, DMA, or PHD at USC within the past 10 years, it should not be necessary for you to submit official transcripts to the USC Graduate Admission office from any of the institutions you attended prior to earning your USC degree. Official transcripts submitted with your prior application should still be on file. However, in some rare cases, it may be necessary to submit official transcripts. If this is the case for you, the USC Graduate Admission office will inform you after your application has been submitted and reviewed.
- If you completed a Graduate Certificate ONLY at USC Thornton, it is more likely that you will have to submit official transcripts from your previous institutions. To find out what may be required in your specific case, please contact Kit Bellamy in the Thornton Admission office at keb@usc.edu or (213) 821-1245.
- In all cases, you must still upload pdf scans of all official transcripts in both SlideRoom and in the USC Graduate Application.

3. APPLICATION FEES
- International applicants must pay the USC Graduate Application fee regardless of their history at USC.
- Domestic applicants who are currently enrolled in a degree program or have previously earned a bachelors, masters or doctoral degree at USC are eligible to request a fee waiver. Application fee waivers must be requested in advance following the guidelines outlined here.
- All Applicants must pay the SlideRoom submission fee ($25).