

**Doctor of Musical Arts in Composition**  
**Degree Requirements List for Catalogue Year 2021-2022**

Requirement	Units	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS (MGEEs) – 0 units</b>		
<i>Pass each examination or corresponding review course</i>		
Aural Skills (or MUCO 333 - 1 unit)	—	
Theory/Analysis (or MUCO 300 - 1 unit)	—	
Choral Conducting (MUCD 340 - 2 units)	—	
Instrumental Conducting (MUCD 343 - 2 units)	—	
Orchestration (MUCO 339 - 1 unit)	—	
Counterpoint (review as approved by faculty)	—	
NOTE: Review courses will not count toward the 65 total units required for degree completion.		
<b>LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT – 0 units</b>		
<i>Pass examination, meet prior requirements, or take corresponding reading course</i>		
Select from French, German, Italian, Spanish, or other pre-approved language	—	
NOTE: Reading courses will not count toward the 65 total units required for degree completion.		
<b>RESIDENCE REQUIREMENT – 0 units</b>		
<i>At least two consecutive semesters (not summers) of 6 units or more must be completed in residence.</i>		
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<b>GRADUATE COMMITTEE INTERVIEW – 0 units</b>		
<i>Generally held during the second semester in residence</i>		
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<b>BASIC DMA CURRICULUM – 20 units</b>		
Analysis (MUCO): 501 (tonal) and 502 (post-tonal)	4	— —
Conducting (MUCD): 441 (choral) and 443 (instrumental)	4	— —
Music Teaching and Learning (MTAL): 505 (teaching and learning)	2	—
Music History (MUHL): 570 and three 500-level electives	8	— — — —
Ensemble: 2 units (1-1)	2	— —
<b>MAJOR FIELD (MUCO) – 20 units (minimum grade = B)</b>		
Advanced Orchestration I: 536 (2)	2	—
Advanced Orchestration II: 636 (2)	2	—
Selected topics seminar: 592 (2-2)	4	— —
Advanced Composition II: 637 (2-2)	4	— —
Advanced Composition III: 737 (2-2)	4	— —
“Six Pieces” presentation as part of the Comprehensive Exams	0	—
Dissertation: 794ab (2-2) and continue as needed until completion	4	— —
<b>ACADEMIC FIELD – 8-12 units</b>		
Coursework to be arranged with appropriate faculty	8-12	— — — — —
Comprehensive Examination	0	—
<b>ELECTIVE FIELD #1 – 6-8 units</b>		
Coursework to be arranged with appropriate faculty	6-8	— — — —
Comprehensive Examination	0	—
<b>ELECTIVE FIELD #2 – 6-8 units</b>		
Coursework to be arranged with appropriate faculty	6-8	— — — —
Comprehensive Examination	0	—
<b>ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS – 0 units</b>		
Admission to Candidacy (after all Comprehensive Examinations are passed)		—
Recital		—
Dissertation		—
<b>TOTAL UNITS REQUIRED</b>	<b>65</b>	
<i>Of the total 65 units required, 30 may be transferred from a Master’s degree, per approval by USC and the appropriate faculty.</i>		

*Important Note: This requirements list is designed to facilitate the process of planning toward degree completion. All information included here is subject to change. The USC Catalogue ([catalogue.usc.edu](http://catalogue.usc.edu)) for the appropriate academic year is the sole and authoritative source of actual curricular requirements for all USC Thornton programs.*