

USC Thornton

School of Music

**New Graduate Student
Orientation**

Monday, August 5, 2024

Presentation Overview

- Icebreaker
- Academic Community
- Thornton Student Affairs
- Academic Policies
- Resources & Opportunities
- Welcome Week Events
- DMA Break-Out Session

Icebreak-out Rooms

- Name
- Major
- Hometown/where you are coming from
- Share something fun or interesting you did this summer

“Three distinct divisions, one extraordinary school.”



Cristian Grases

Sean Holt

Rotem Gilbert

Vice Deans

Department Faculty Chair

Department Coordinator

Department offices by major program

Faculty offices/studios and mailboxes

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ACADEMIC COMMUNITY

Prof. Brian Head

Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

*Associate Professor of Practice,
Classical Guitar & Composition*

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Thornton Admission & Student Affairs

TMC 200

Phillip Placenti

Associate Dean of Admission and Student Affairs

Administrative Services

Ligaya Lewis

Madeline Doyle

Yesenia Nava

Admission

Kit Bellamy

Brittany Jimenez

International Programs

Vito Grillo

Student Affairs

Viet Bui

Nancy Wong

Job Springer

Daniel Andrade

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**THORNTON
STUDENT AFFAIRS**

Services Provided

- Personalized academic advisement for each semester of registration for all Thornton programs
- Assistance through the registration process
- Help navigate USC and Thornton School policies and processes
- Guidance in accessing campus-wide resources and support

→ *WHEN IN DOUBT . . . ASK US!!*

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ACADEMIC POLICIES

Academic Standards

- Minimum cumulative GPA for graduation: 3.0
- Complete total number of units required
- Complete non-course requirements
- Minimum passing grade for credit in the department of your major: B
- Minimum passing grade for credit in other departments: C
- Minimum passing grade for MGEE review classes: B-
- All courses must be taken for letter grade

Music Graduate Entrance Exams (MGEE)

- Different exams required for different majors
- Any exam that is not passed will require a review course in that same subject area
- *TAKE ALL REQUIRED EXAMS! Refer to the MGEE website for exam schedule.*
 - <https://music.usc.edu/students/music-graduate-entrance-exam-mgee/>

MGEE Completion Policy

All MGEE requirements must be fulfilled within the first two semesters in a graduate degree program.

Failure to fulfill all MGEE requirements by the beginning of the third semester – either through exams or review courses – may delay permission to fulfill degree requirements such as recitals, qualifying examinations, thesis projects, and dissertations, and could have a negative effect on financial aid eligibility.

Advisement & Registration

Each semester, follow these steps to plan your schedule and register for classes:

1. Schedule an appointment with your advisor through online portal (Advise USC)
2. Prepare for your advising appointment
3. Meet with your advisor and obtain D-clearances
4. Register (using Web Registration)
5. Save your registration confirmation email

Registration-Related Items

Tuition Refund Insurance

Accept or decline as part of the registration process each semester

Individual Instruction Fee

Added to tuition for each unit of individual instruction

Settling Your Bill

Always settle by 5pm on the Friday before the first day of classes

Grade Options

Do not change the grade option to pass/no pass or audit for any classes. You will not receive degree credit.

Important Registration Deadlines

Deadline to Register and Pay Bill

Friday before the first day of classes

This semester - August 23

Deadline to Drop & Add (regular session)

Friday of the 3rd week of the semester

This semester – September 13

Deadline to Withdraw (regular session)

Friday of the 12th week of the semester

This semester - November 15

Verification of Prior Degrees

All graduate students (degree, certificate, and diploma) must verify that they have completed prerequisite degrees.

Timing: As soon as possible, but no later than the end of first semester. This can be a very time-consuming process, so get started on it early!

How: Log on to MyUSC and visit OASIS for registration restrictions. If you have a degree verification restriction, refer to the Thornton New Graduate Orientation website for instructions.

International Students

Important issues for international students to remember.

- [Office of International Services \(OIS\)](#) located in Royal Street Parking Structure, Suite 101
- **Immigration Status Verification (ISV) must be completed before registering.**
- Full-time registration required every semester: 6 units (DMA, PhD), 8 units (MA, MM, MS), 4 units (GCRT, ARTD)
- International Student English Examination (ISE) — required only for students in a degree program if specified as a condition of admission
- American Language Institute (ALI) — required for some students based on the results of ISE exam

Federal Education Rights & Privacy Act

(aka FERPA or Buckley Amendment)

- Your academic records are your personal property
- This does not mean on-demand access
- We cannot legally discuss your academic record with anyone who is not you unless you grant permission.
- Permission for others to access your academic records can be granted via the OASIS system (link through your MyUSC page) under “Guest Account History.”

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**RESOURCES &
OPPORTUNITIES**

Music Operations Office

Booth Hall (BMH 101)

OBTAIN YOUR 2024-25 MUSIC STICKER

- Grants card-reader access to practice rooms & online scheduling
- Get one at the start of each academic year
- Music Operations will be emailing students in mid-August with instructions on how to sign up for services and access.

Safety and Wellness

USC IS AN URBAN CAMPUS

- Be cautious
- Be aware of your surroundings
- Know your resources

USC Department of Public Safety

Emergency: 213-740-4321

Non-emergency : 213-740-6000

dps.usc.edu

USC Lyft Rides Program

Free car rides within the USC neighborhood; book with Lyft app

Safety and Wellness



LiveSafe App

<http://dps.usc.edu/services/safety-app/>

Sign up for text alerts

TrojansAlert is a mobile notification system that pushes updates to your phone or email in an emergency. [learn more »](#)

The image shows four speech bubble icons: one with three yellow dots, one with three blue dots, one with two red exclamation marks, and one with a single red exclamation mark.

Trojans Alert

<https://dps.usc.edu/services/trojans-alerts/>

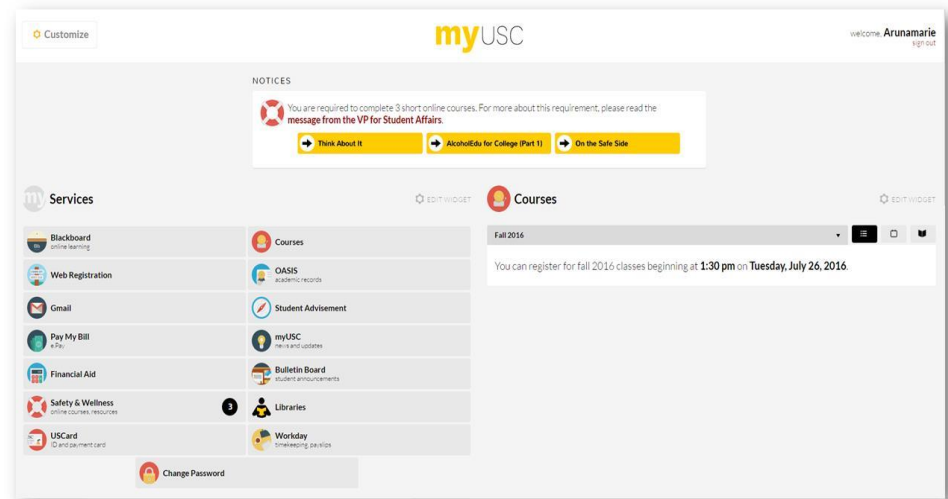
Safety and Wellness

Mandatory Online Training Modules

- *Think About It*
- *Staying Safe*

Available on your MyUSC page

<https://sites.usc.edu/pems/>



DEADLINE: First day of classes on August 26

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Safety and Wellness

Musician's Health and Wellness

- Online Resources: <https://music.usc.edu/health-wellness/>
- Information Sessions and workshops

Mindful USC

- Online Resources: mindful.usc.edu
- Classes
- Campus Events

USC Thornton Community Engagement Program

Unique learning opportunities for young students in our local community and significant service-learning opportunities for our students.



Students from all majors in Thornton are welcome to participate.

<https://music.usc.edu/departments/community-engagement/>

Financial Aid

Financial aid application deadlines are very important. Eligibility is re-evaluated each year. Start the application process during winter break.

Work-Study Jobs

Available in various Thornton School offices and throughout USC
Work Study Job Fair: Friday, August 23, on Trousdale (on-campus)

Scholarships & TA-ships

Know the terms and conditions of your award and whether it is renewable. Questions can be directed to thornton.awards@usc.edu.

THORNTON NEW GRADUATE STUDENT WELCOME

Thursday, August 22

11:30 AM – 1:00 PM, Herklotz Courtyard

- New Student Welcome Experience
 - Informal opportunity to meet faculty, staff, and fellow students
 - Learn about Thornton School resources
 - Lunch will be provided

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM, Newman Recital Hall

- New Graduate Student Welcome
 - Presentation by Dean King and other school leaders

Next Steps of Fall 2024 Advisement & Registration

- You should have received an email by now from your advisor with details about when your advisement meeting will take place.
- You will register during or after the advisement meeting as long as you do not have a registration hold (e.g. hold for ISV).

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QUESTIONS



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**BREAK-OUT SESSION
for DMA Students**