

Doctor of Musical Arts in Composition
Degree Requirements List for Catalogue Year 2025-2026

Requirement	Units	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS (MGEEs) – 0 units		
<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)	—	
<i>NOTE: Review courses will not count toward the 65 total units required for degree completion.</i>		
LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT – 0 units		
<i>Pass examination, meet prior requirements, or take corresponding reading course</i>		
Select from French, German, Italian, Spanish, or other pre-approved language	—	
<i>NOTE: Reading courses will not count toward the 65 total units required for degree completion.</i>		
RESIDENCE REQUIREMENT – 0 units		
<i>At least two consecutive semesters (not summers) of 6 units or more must be completed in residence.</i>		
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GRADUATE COMMITTEE INTERVIEW – 0 units		
<i>Generally held during the second semester in residence</i>		
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BASIC DMA CURRICULUM – 20 units		
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	— —
MAJOR FIELD (MUCO) – 20 units (minimum grade = 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	— —
ACADEMIC FIELD – 8-12 units		
<i>Coursework to be arranged with appropriate faculty</i>	8-12	— — — — —
Comprehensive Examination	0	—
ELECTIVE FIELD #1 – 6-8 units		
<i>Coursework to be arranged with appropriate faculty</i>	6-8	— — — —
Comprehensive Examination	0	—
ELECTIVE FIELD #2 – 6-8 units		
<i>Coursework to be arranged with appropriate faculty</i>	6-8	— — — —
Comprehensive Examination	0	—
ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS – 0 units		
Admission to Candidacy (after all Comprehensive Examinations are passed)		—
Recital		—
Dissertation		—
TOTAL UNITS REQUIRED	65	
<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) for the appropriate academic year is the sole and authoritative source of actual curricular requirements for all USC Thornton programs.