

Information for current Thornton students applying to a Graduate Program

Current USC Thornton students applying to a new graduate program must submit a complete application and perform an audition. Some application requirements can be waived in certain cases, and some departments allow auditions to be performed in alternative manner (recital, jury . . .). Complete details are below. Applicants may contact Thornton's Office of Admission with questions. (uscmusic@usc.edu 213-740-8986)

Current Thornton students MUST do the following

1. **Submit the USC Graduate Application** online, [here](#).
2. **Submit Thornton's SlideRoom application** and pay the \$35 SlideRoom submission fee. A link to the SlideRoom portal can be found inside the USC Application for Graduate Admission, in the "Program Materials" section.
Most current USC Thornton students are not required to submit a pre-screen recording, but they must still complete and submit the SlideRoom application. **(Note: Artist Diploma Applicants must submit a pre-screen recording)**
To submit SlideRoom, at least one video file must be uploaded. In lieu of a performance video, please make and upload a short video in which you explain that you are a current Thornton student, thus the pre-screen requirement is waived.
3. **Transcripts** – applicants must upload pdf scans of official transcripts from all schools you have attended, **including USC**, in both SlideRoom and USC's Graduate Application. If you need to order transcripts, be sure to do that well in advance of the application deadline so you receive them in time. Most schools now offer electronic transcripts, which is the fastest option; you may need to allow more time for schools to send official transcripts to you by post. **Upload scans of official transcripts only** - Do not upload transcripts obtained from an on-line student portal.
You may feel it is redundant or unnecessary to upload an official USC transcript. We ask for the official USC transcript so the faculty and Graduate Admission Committee will be able to easily review your USC academic achievement. If you do not upload your USC transcript, the faculty and Graduate Admission Committee will not be able to review it, and that will negatively impact the outcome of your application.
4. **[Meet all posted deadlines](#)**. This applies to all application materials including test scores.
5. **Perform an audition**. Many programs allow current Thornton students to use a fall recital or jury as their audition, however the vocal arts program requires a live audition on one of our regular audition dates. Classical Piano students pursuing certain piano performance degrees at Thornton are eligible for modified or reduced audition requirements. Please refer to the Keyboard Studies Department Handbook to begin planning your audition process, and contact the Keyboard Studies department coordinator if you have any questions.
Juries or recitals can be used as auditions, but only if scheduled before the last regular audition date (approx. Feb 6). Please check the specific requirements for your program, or inquire with your department chairman or Kit Bellamy if you would like to discuss your specific circumstances.
6. **TOEFL / IELTS Scores** – Are required from international applicants.
Exceptions:
 - International applicants who earned or will earn a Bachelor's or Master's degree at USC are not required to submit language test scores.
 - International applicants who have completed a Bachelor's or Master's degree in an Anglophone country are not required to submit language test scores, ONLY IF the entire degree was completed in the

Anglophone country, and IF the degree is awarded before your USC graduate application is submitted. Note that USC does not consider Singapore or South Africa to be Anglophone Countries.

[Complete language proficiency requirements are available here.](#) Please contact Kit Bellamy in the Thornton Admission office if you would like to discuss your specific circumstances. keb@usc.edu

7. **Graduate Academic Admission Examination** - All DMA applicants except those in Teaching and Learning, must take Thornton's Academic Admission Examination. The exam will be administered in person, with pen and paper during regularly scheduled audition events and interview dates. Details about the exam are available on the [Thornton website, on the Program Requirements Page](#) that corresponds to your intended degree. (On the program requirements page, scroll to the bottom and click "Graduate Academic Admission Examination.")
8. **DMA Introductory Video** - DMA applicants must submit an "Introductory Video." Details about this requirement are available on the [Thornton website, on the Program Requirements Page](#) that corresponds to your intended degree. (On the program requirements page, scroll to the bottom and click "Doctoral Introductory Video – DMA Only.")
9. **DMA Recommendation Letter** - DMA applicants must submit at least one recommendation letter from an academic professor who has assessed a substantial written assignment such as a research or analytical paper. Do not submit a letter from your private instructor, a conductor, coach, or music director.
10. **SlideRoom submission fee (\$35)** - This fee can't be waived.

Possible Exemptions

Current USC Thornton students applying to graduate certificate, masters, or doctoral programs **may be exempt** from the following application requirements:

1. **Pre- Screen Recording** – is waived for most current Thornton students. (See #2 above)
All Artist Diploma applicants must submit a pre-screen recording, even if currently studying at USC Thornton.
2. **Recommendation letters** from USC Thornton 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.
3. **Transcripts** – as mentioned above, you must upload pdf scans of official transcripts from all prior institutions, including USC in SlideRoom and in the USC Graduate Application. However:
 - It is acceptable to upload an unofficial USC transcript if you have no other choice.
 - There is no need to ask the USC Registrar's office to send official USC transcripts electronically or by post to the USC Graduate Admission office or to Thornton Admissions.
4. **Application Fee – USC Graduate Application (Liaison)**
 - Applicants who are currently enrolled at USC or have previously earned a bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degree at USC are eligible to request a waiver of the USC Graduate Application fee. Application fee waivers must be requested in advance following the [guidelines outlined here](#). Be sure to request your fee waiver well in advance of the application deadline. The deadline will not be extended for applicants who fail to request a fee waiver in time.