

Doctor of Musical Arts in Performance – Piano
Degree Requirements List for Catalogue Year 2026-2027

Requirement	Units	☒
ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS (MGEEs) – 0 units		
<i>Pass each examination or corresponding review course</i>		
Aural Skills (or MUCO 333 - 1 unit)	—	<i>NOTE: Review courses will not count toward the 65 total units required for degree completion.</i>
Theory/Analysis (or MUCO 300 - 1 unit)	—	
Choral Conducting (MUCD 340 - 2 units)	—	
Instrumental Conducting (MUCD 343 - 2 units)	—	
Orchestration (MUCO 339 - 1 unit)	—	
Piano Literature (MPKS 520, review section - 2 units)	—	
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 (MPKS) – 18 units (minimum grade = B)		
Individual Instruction: 653 (2 units per semester)	12	— — — — — —
Special Studies in Solo Repertoire: 520 (2-2-2)	6	— — —
These three MPKS 520 classes may include the review course.		
ACADEMIC FIELD – 8-12 units		
Coursework to be arranged with appropriate faculty	8-12	— — — — —
Comprehensive Examination	0	—
ELECTIVE FIELD #1 – 6-8 units		
Coursework to be arranged with appropriate faculty	6-8	— — — —
Comprehensive Examination	0	—
ELECTIVE FIELD #2 – 6-8 units		
Coursework to be arranged with appropriate faculty	6-8	— — — —
Comprehensive Examination	0	—
ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS – 0 units		
Admission to Candidacy (after all Comprehensive Examinations are passed)	—	<i>* Recitals: Only one recital may be performed before the Graduate Committee Interview. Two recitals must be performed before Comprehensive Examinations.</i>
Two solo recitals *	— —	
One chamber recital *	—	
One lecture-recital *	—	
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.