

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

Requirement

Units



ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS (MGEEs) – 0 units

Pass each examination or corresponding review course

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)

NOTE: Review courses will not count toward the 65 total units required for degree completion.

LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT – 0 units

Pass examination, meet prior requirements, or take corresponding reading course

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.

RESIDENCE REQUIREMENT – 0 units

At least two consecutive semesters (not summers) of 6 units or more must be completed in residence.

GRADUATE COMMITTEE INTERVIEW – 0 units

Generally held during the second semester in residence

BASIC DMA CURRICULUM – 20 units

Analysis (MUCO): 501 (tonal) and 502 (post-tonal)

Conducting (MUCD): 441 (choral) and 443 (instrumental)

Music Teaching and Learning (MTAL): 505 (teaching and learning)

Music History (MUHL): 570 and three 500-level electives

Ensemble: 2 units (1-1)

MAJOR FIELD – 12 units (minimum grade = B) for Violin, Viola, Violincello, Harp, and Double-Bass

Individual Instruction (MPST): 653 (2 units per semester)

String Chamber Music Ensembles (MUEN): 527* four units (1-1-1-1)

(* Double-Bass does not have this particular Strings Dept. curriculum requirement.)

ACADEMIC FIELD – 8-12 units

Coursework to be arranged with appropriate faculty

Comprehensive Examination

ELECTIVE FIELD #1 – 6-8 units

Coursework to be arranged with appropriate faculty

Comprehensive Examination

ELECTIVE FIELD #2 – 6-8 units

Coursework to be arranged with appropriate faculty

Comprehensive Examination

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS – 0 units

Admission to Candidacy (after all Comprehensive Examinations are passed)

Two solo recitals *

Two other appropriate performances * (as approved by faculty)

Participation in large ensemble (strings, winds, and percussion only)

** Recitals: Only one recital may be performed before the Graduate Committee Interview. Two recitals must be performed before Comprehensive Examinations.*

Majors in strings must participate in a large ensemble each semester if enrolled in four or more units.

TOTAL UNITS REQUIRED

65

Of the total 65 units required, 30 may be transferred from a Master's degree, per approval by USC and the appropriate faculty.

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.