

**JMU SCHOOL OF MUSIC
VOICE AREA
GRADUATE HANDBOOK**

2024-25

Revised: 10/22/24

Table of Contents

1. Master of Music in Vocal Performance: Goals and Objectives	2
2. Doctor of Musical Arts in Vocal Performance Pedagogy and Literature: Goals and Objectives	2
3. JMU Assistantship Financial Aid.....	3
4. Program of Study	3
5. Recital Hearings	3
6. Recital Memorization and Content	3
7. DMA Substitution of two opera roles for the chamber music recital.....	4
8. Jury Examinations	5
9. DMA Recital Committees	5
10. DMA and MM Recital Program notes	5
11. Lecture Recital Procedures.....	5
12. Vocal Coaching and Musical Preparation.....	6
13. Language Prerequisites.....	6
DMA Opera Role Recital Substitution Petition Form	7
JMU SOM DMA VOICE AREA RECITAL JURY PASS FORM	8
JMU SOM COMMENT FORM FOR VOICE DMA RECITALS	9
Doctor of Musical Arts in Vocal Performance Checklist for Graduation	10
Master of Music in Vocal Performance	14
Checklist for Graduation.....	14

1. Master of Music in Vocal Performance: Goals and Objectives

Masters Candidates in Vocal Performance at JMU are expected to meet the goals and objectives set out in the paragraph entitled “Master of Music in Performance” as well as the “Objectives” expected upon graduation under “Music Performance” in the [JMU School of Music Graduate Handbook](#): All voice majors should familiarize themselves with this part of the handbook. In addition to the general requirement of completing a minimum of 32 semester hours of graduate credit, specific requirements of the voice area include:

1. Extensive applied study at the 600 level in voice lessons, and both chamber and large ensembles.
2. Complete a required full recital with at least 50 minutes of music, which includes standard repertoire in Italian, French and German and English and incorporates Baroque, Classical, Romantic and Modern styles of music appropriate to the candidate’s vocal category and technical levels.
3. Study the pedagogy and literature of their own voice type, as well as seeking a general knowledge of all vocal repertoire for teaching purposes.

Current courses to be taken are detailed in the checklist at the end of this document. The list reflects the degree curriculum for the Fall of 2022. Candidates are encouraged to review the requirements for their degree listed in the JMU Graduate Catalogue for their year, which is used as the final resource for graduation requirements.

2. Doctor of Musical Arts in Vocal Performance Pedagogy and Literature: Goals and Objectives

Candidates for a Doctor of Musical Arts Degree with a Vocal Performance concentration are advised to note that this D.M.A. has required courses in Pedagogy and Literature, both in core and area requirements. Candidates are reminded that the JMU D.M.A. is considered a terminal degree in performance and teaching and designed for musicians who have the potential to pursue the highest level of achievement in both disciplines. Furthermore, students are expected to expand their knowledge of music literature and pedagogy during their studies.

Candidates are advised that the list of competencies they are expected to display at the end of the degree is large—and they should familiarize themselves with goals and objectives in the paragraph entitled “Doctor of Musical Arts in Performance/Conducting, Pedagogy, Literature” as well as the specific requirements under “Performance, Pedagogy, and Literature” in the [JMU School of Music Graduate Handbook](#).

Current courses to be taken are detailed in the checklist at the end of this document. The list reflects the degree curriculum for the Fall of 2022. Candidates are encouraged to review the requirements for their degree listed in the JMU Graduate Catalogue for their year, which is used as the final resource for graduation requirements.

3. JMU Assistantship Financial Aid

Assistantship aid does not automatically guarantee MM and DMA candidates that they will have ALL of their tuition paid. Undergraduate courses taken to remediate a deficiency in a prerequisite do not necessarily receive tuition remission. The maximum number of graduate credits per semester paid for by a JMU MM assistantship is nine hours and for a DMA assistantship, it is twelve hours.

4. Program of Study

All DMA and MM students will prepare a program of study document with the Director of Graduate Studies, Dr. William Dabback, which will be checked and undersigned by their advisor - the student's studio teacher. (An exception is when the studio teacher is an Adjunct Professor. In that case, the Voice Area Coordinator becomes the student's advisor.) This document is to be completed during the first semester of study at JMU. The original document remains on file with the Graduate Coordinator, and a copy of the original must be submitted to the studio teacher.

Candidates will submit copies of previous degree recitals and a comprehensive list of repertoire performed, including dates and venues, and present these documents to the studio teacher at the time that the program of study is created.

5. Recital Hearings

Hearings for MM recitals will take place 10-14 days before the MM recital is to be given. 25 minutes of a 50-minute recital will be chosen, and the candidate will have the right to offer the first piece selected with the following numbers selected by the voice faculty members in attendance. The student will be assigned a grade by the voice faculty at the time of the hearing. Hearings for DMA recitals will take place 20-28 days before the scheduled recital date. Each recital should contain approximately 50 minutes of repertoire, and 25 minutes of repertoire may be required by the voice faculty for hearing. The first piece may be selected by the candidate. In the event of a candidate not passing a hearing, the earliest re-scheduling of a hearing will take place 4-6 weeks after the original hearing, or at the beginning of the next semester. The DMA hearing is not graded, but permission to perform the credit recital is either granted or not, with the final grade for the recital assigned after the recital by the recital committee.

6. Recital Memorization and Content

All recital repertoire is to be memorized. Exceptions can be made for oratorio works and complex ensemble pieces, but this must be approved by the studio teacher in advance of the hearing. As a general policy, no more than two pieces which fit the guidelines above can be used as exceptions, and generally, at least 80% of the repertoire for the recital involving these types of

pieces must be memorized. Exceptions to this guideline can be made at the discretion of the studio teacher, in collaboration with the Voice Area faculty.

Repertoire which the candidate presents should not have been previously performed before attending JMU, and reflect the work done in the voice studio with the applied teacher's supervision. Submission of old repertoire without the full knowledge of the voice teacher is considered a violation of the JMU honor code. Exceptions to this rule should be petitioned to the studio teacher.

MM candidates are required to give one 50-minute recital of classical music which includes the major languages of French, German, Italian and English repertoire and style periods which include Baroque, Classical, Romantic and Modern.

DMA candidates are expected to perform three 50-minute recitals and one lecture recital. Students should meet the following guidelines for these four recitals:

1. A **Standard Recital** including classical repertoire which encompasses the major languages of French, German, Italian and English repertoire and style periods which include Baroque, Classical, Romantic and Modern. Compositional styles chosen may also reflect the vocal category of the candidate.
2. A **Chamber Music Recital**, with repertoire involving various instrumental and/or vocal ensembles composing at least half of the program. The selections should be chosen from various eras and be in contrasting languages and styles.
3. A **Themed Recital** with repertoire which reflects special musical academic interests of the candidate. This may be a specific composer and his/her works, or a specific literary and/or musical subject.
4. A **Lecture Recital** is most often a combination of a lecture and a performance illustrating the scholarly research and discoveries the candidate has made in his/her MUS 763 document. See the [JMU School of Music Graduate Handbook](#) under the headings "The Graduate Recital or Lecture Recital," and "MUS 763 Document Information."

7. DMA Substitution of two opera roles for the chamber music recital

If a student has successfully completed a combination of 'leading' and 'feature' opera roles in JMU Opera productions, the student may petition the voice faculty to substitute two operatic

roles performed at JMU to substitute for the chamber music recital. The decision to allow this exception is at the discretion of the Voice Area faculty. AGMA guidelines for roles considered “Leading” or “Feature” may be submitted along with the request, but the voice faculty reserves the right to consider each student and each role as a separate case for consideration. The operas submitted for approval should optimally be of contrasting styles and periods. In the semester in which one hopes to exercise the option of substitution of two opera roles for the chamber music recital, it is essential for the student enroll in MUS 761 to get the credit.

8. Jury Examinations

All MM and DMA vocal performance students who are enrolled in applied voice lessons for credit will be required to present a jury at the end of every semester in which they have not given a recital hearing or performed a major operatic role.

The requirement for jury examinations for graduate-level voice instruction for non-majors at the end of the semester is at the discretion of the student’s applied voice instructor.

9. DMA Recital Committees

The committee for a DMA vocal recital will consist of 1) The student’s applied teacher 2) one other voice area member 3) one music faculty member who is NOT part of the voice faculty. The final grade assigned to the recital by the committee must be an average of the three grades given by each committee member. Committee members must be notified at least two weeks in advance of the recital and sign a form of consent that they will be in attendance. Under exceptional circumstances, a member of the committee may not be able to attend the performance, and the student will be allowed to submit a video for viewing by that member at a later date. It is the responsibility of the student to provide the video recording for the absent committee member.

10. DMA and MM Recital Program notes

DMA and MM candidates are required to furnish program notes for their recital which reflect a scholarly knowledge and understanding of the repertoire they are performing, in addition to text translations. Notes should be written in a scholarly writing style, with understanding of the repertoire, proper source citations and reflecting the personal interest of the singer. These notes should be submitted at the time of the recital hearing.

11. Lecture Recital Procedures

Specific information for the preparation of a D.M.A. lecture recital and the document related to this final capstone project is available in the [JMU School of Music Graduate Handbook](#), under the headings “The Graduate Recital or Lecture Recital,” and “MUS 763 Document Information.” Note the suggested timeline, which guides the student through the amount of work that should be invested in this project should they intend to graduate in three years. The project should be

unique research in vocal music studies, following the guidelines of an approved style manual, and completed with a defense of the document to the committee selected during the second year of the DMA course studies. With special permission, the document may be a different subject than the lecture recital. See the JMU School of Music Graduate Handbook for guidelines on how to proceed with this exception.

12. Vocal Coaching and Musical Preparation

Graduate candidates are responsible for learning and preparing their repertoire for lessons, auditions, recitals, and concerts independently. The use of a coach-accompanist is at the student's discretion and personal expense. Collaborative pianists may be available through the piano area. Students may be assigned one through the accompanying classes. Contact Dr. Gabriel Dobner, head of the collaborative piano program at JMU for further details.

13. Language Prerequisites

MM: Students must exhibit competence in French, German and Italian diction. Two semesters of two of these languages (equivalent to the 101-102 level at JMU) and four semesters of the third language (equivalent to the 201-202 level at JMU) are expected. Students may test out of this requirement with the JMU Foreign Language Proficiency. Voice graduate students are also required to have completed at least one course in vocal pedagogy and one course in opera history for graduation; courses taken at the undergraduate level may meet this requirement.

DMA: Students will be required to show competency in three languages addition to English: French, German, and Italian. Transcripts of previous college study must show a minimum of 4 semesters of one of the languages and two semesters of other two languages, or in other words, credit through the intermediate level of the languages in one language, and through the beginning level in the third language. In cases where languages have been learned through means other than traditional college classes, competency equivalents can be shown by taking the JMU Foreign Language Placement tests for French, German and Italian and placing at the 300 level for one of the languages and at the 231 level for the other two. If neither option applies, the languages must be taken at JMU as a remedial requirement.

These prerequisites can be met in one of the following three methods:

- a. Register for and take the language courses they need through JMU. Graduate students may register for a MUS 690 Special Topics course through their primary advisor, and a passing grade of B or above will satisfy this requirement.
- b. Present a transcript from another institution to prove that the prerequisites have been met.
- c. Take the JMU FLPE (Foreign Language Placement Exams) exams to prove that competency and equivalency have been met. The webpage to lead them to this is currently: <http://www.jmu.edu/forlang/flpe>. Proof of completion should be submitted to the advisor.

DMA Opera Role Recital Substitution Petition Form

Name of Student: _____

JMU I.D. Number: _____ First Semester and Year at JMU: _____

Name of Applied Voice Lessons Teacher: _____

First Opera Role and Title: _____

Dates and times performed (Attach copy of program to this petition)

AGMA Designation: _____

Second Opera Role and Title: _____

Dates and times performed (Attach copy of program to this petition)

AGMA Designation: _____

Candidates must still enroll for MUS 761 when substituting their opera roles.

Semester and Year when MUS 761 equivalent will be taken: _____

Signature of Studio Teacher: _____

This petition should be submitted to the vocal area committee for consideration and approved by a majority vote. Vote approved on: _____ . A copy is to remain in the files of the applied teacher for reference.

JMU SOM DMA VOICE AREA RECITAL JURY PASS FORM

Doctoral Voice recitals need to follow the guidelines of the Graduate Vocal Area Handbook and the procedures in the [JMU SOM Graduate Handbook](#), in the section named “Requirements for the D.M.A. in Performance, Pedagogy and Literature,” under the heading “Doctoral Solo Recitals.”

Name of Student: _____

Student I.D. _____

Recital Class Name, Section and Number _____

Date and Location of Recital: _____

Applicant’s Recital Program should be attached to this form _____

Is Graduate Recital being replaced by two opera roles performed at JMU? _____

If Yes, List Name of Opera, Role and Dates performed and attach programs to this form.

First Opera Role: _____

Second Opera Role: _____

Print Names of Professors who have agreed to attend recital:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

REQUIRED SIGNATURES AND GRADES (Grading MUST be a letter Grade NOT Pass/Fail):

1. Applied Voice Teacher Signature _____ GRADE _____

2. Second Voice Area Signature _____ GRADE _____

3. Non-voice Area Signature _____ GRADE _____

(The Responsibility for the completed form lies with the advisor – the applied teacher of each student. Two copies are required. The original goes to Dr. William Dabback, Director of Graduate Studies, and one copy remains in the file maintained by the applied teacher.)

JMU SOM COMMENT FORM FOR VOICE DMA RECITALS

Name of Student: _____

Date, Time and Venue of Concert _____

Comments:

Faculty Name/Signature: _____ Date: _____

Doctor of Musical Arts in Vocal Performance Checklist for Graduation

(a copy should be submitted to Dr. William Dabback)

The total number of credits earned for the entire degree should be between 60-72.

Student Name: _____ Student I.D. Number _____

Year and Semester of Studies

Beginning: _____

PREREQUISITES:

0. _____ **DICTION:** Competency in French, Italian and German.

_____ French: Institution, Degree and Date: _____

_____ Italian: Institution, Degree and Date: _____

_____ German: Institution, Degree and Date: _____

1. _____ **Competency in Three Languages:** Two at the ability to test into a 300 Level Course and One into a 231 Level Course at JMU: If not listed on a transcript, equivalency test proof must be provided.

_____ Language One: Institution, Date, & Level(s) _____

_____ Language Two: Institution, Date & Level (s) _____

_____ Language Three: Institution, Date, & Level(s) _____

2. _____ **Diagnostic Tests and Deficiency Courses:** Semester & Year Taken: _____ A.

_____ **Music Theory**

1. _____ Ear Training: Pass/Fail?

2. _____ MUS 144: Ear Training Required?

If so, Semester and Year Taken and Passed? _____

3. _____ Theory: Pass/Fail?

4. _____ MUS 576: Theory Review Required?

If so, Semester & Year Taken and Passed? _____

Diagnostic Tests and Deficiency Courses continued: B.

_____ **Music History Three Eras:**

1. _____ MUS 373: Pass/Fail? Semester & Date Passed: _____
2. _____ MUS 374: Pass/Fail? Semester & Date Passed: _____
3. _____ MUS 375: Pass/Fail? Semester & Date Passed: _____

CORE REQUIREMENT LIST:

1. _____ **MUAP 700 Applied Voice Lessons: 12-18 Credits:**

Semester _____ Year _____ No. of Credits _____

Semester _____ Year _____ No. of Credits _____

Semester _____ Year _____ No. of Credits _____

Semester _____ Year _____ No. of Credits _____

Semester _____ Year _____ No. of Credits _____

Semester _____ Year _____ No. of Credits _____

Semester _____ Year _____ No. of Credits _____

Semester _____ Year _____ No. of Credits _____ Total

Number of Credits for Applied Voice Lessons = _____

2. _____ **MUS 600 Research Methods: 0-3 Credits: Semester _____ Year _____**

3. _____ **MUPED 2 Courses from: MUPED 704, 705 and 706,:**

_____ **MUPED 704 Musical Pedagogy in Higher Education I,**

This Course is Required. Semester _____ Year _____

_____ **MUPED 705 or 706: Musical Pedagogy in Higher Education II,**

Semester _____ Year _____

4. _____ **MUS 601 Advanced Analysis (by exam): Semester _____ Year _____**

5. _____ **MUS 702 Theory Seminar: Semester _____ Year _____**

The Student takes MUS 702 twice if he/she tests out of MUS 601.

_____ **Second MUS 702 if required: Semester _____ Year _____**

CORE REQUIREMENT LIST, CONTINUED:

6. _____ **MUS 750 Graduate Seminar** (Students must take two.)
 _____ Graduate Seminar One, Name, Date Passed _____
 _____ Graduate Seminar Two, Name, Date Passed _____
7. _____ **Approved Electives in Music Theory or Music History or MUPED 705 or 706** for three Credits
 Name, Date Passed _____
8. _____ **Three Recitals, MUS 761** (1 Credit Each)
 _____ Recital One, Date Passed _____
 _____ Recital Two, Date Passed _____
 _____ Recital Three, Date Passed _____
9. _____ **Lecture Recital MUS 762** Date Passed _____
10. _____ **MUS 763 Doctor of Musical Arts Document**, Date Passed _____
11. _____ **Approved electives: 0-3 credits. These may be non-music courses.**
 Name, Date Passed _____ Credit No. _____
 Name, Date Passed _____ Credit No. _____
 Name, Date Passed _____ Credit No. _____

AREA REQUIREMENTS:

12. _____ **MUPED 2 Courses in Vocal Pedagogy: MUPED 777, 778**
 _____ **MUPED 777: Vocal Pedagogy**, Date Passed _____
 _____ **MUPED 778: Vocal Pedagogy**, Date Passed _____

AREA REQUIREMENTS CONTINUED:

13. _____ **Literature Courses: Three Required: MUS 703 A (4 Credits) MUS 703 B (Three Credits)**
 _____ MUS 703 A (Two Credits), Solo Vocal Literature, Date Passed _____
 _____ MUS 703 A (Two Credits), Solo Vocal Literature, Date Passed _____
 _____ MUS 703 B (Three Credits), Opera Literature, Date Passed _____

14. _____ **Ensemble Requirement** (Two semesters required for degree)

_____ MUAP Ensemble One: Ensemble Name: _____ Semester _____ Year _____

_____ MUAP Ensemble One: Ensemble Name: _____ Semester _____ Year _____

15. _____ **Approved Electives in Vocal Area:**

These credits may be used for waivers. 3-5 Credits total needed. MUPED 779:
Vocal Pedagogy Practicum. MUS 740: German Lieder Seminar.

Course No. _____ Name: _____ Semester _____ Year _____ No. of Credits _____

Course No. _____ Name: _____ Semester _____ Year _____ No. of Credits _____

Course No. _____ Name: _____ Semester _____ Year _____ No. of Credits _____

Master of Music in Vocal Performance

Checklist for Graduation

(a copy should be submitted to Dr. William Dabback)

Student Name: _____ Student I.D. Number _____

Year and Semester of Studies

Beginning: _____

Prerequisites:

1. _____ **DICTION:** Competency in French, Italian and German.

_____ French: Institution, Degree and Date: _____

_____ Italian: Institution, Degree and Date: _____

_____ German: Institution, Degree and Date: _____

2. _____ **Eight Credits of Two Languages in French, Italian and German.** Student must achieve a minimum 101-102 Level. If not listed on a transcript, equivalency test proof must be provided.

_____ Language One: Institution, Date, & Level(s) _____

_____ Language Two: Institution, Date & Level(s) _____

_____ Language Three: Institution, Date & Level(s) _____

3. _____ **Diagnostic Tests and Deficiency Courses:** Semester & Year Taken: _____ A.

_____ **Music Theory**

1. _____ Ear Training: Pass/Fail?

2. _____ MUS 144: Ear Training Required?

If so, Semester and Year Taken and Passed? _____

3. _____ Theory : Pass/Fail?

4. _____ MUS 576: Theory Review Required?

If so, Semester & Year Taken and Passed? _____

Diagnostic and Deficiency Courses Continued:

B. _____ **Music History Three Eras:**

1. _____ MUS 373: Pass/Fail? Semester & Date Passed: _____
2. _____ MUS 374: Pass/Fail? Semester & Date Passed: _____
3. _____ MUS 375: Pass/Fail? Semester & Date Passed: _____

CORE REQUIREMENT LIST:

1. _____ **MUS 600 Research Methods:** Semester _____ Year _____

2. _____ **MUS 601 Advanced Analysis or MUS 702 Theory Seminar**

Course taken will be determined by exam: Semester _____ Year _____

3. _____ **MUS 750 Graduate Seminar:** 3 Credits.

Student must do one. Semester _____ Year _____

4. _____ **Ensemble Requirement:** 2-4 Credits

MUAP Ensemble: Name: _____ Semester _____ Year _____ No. Credits: _____

MUAP Ensemble: Name: _____ Semester _____ Year _____ No. Credits: _____

MUAP Ensemble: Name: _____ Semester _____ Year _____ No. Credits: _____

MUAP Ensemble: Name: _____ Semester _____ Year _____ No. Credits: _____

5. _____ **MUAP 600 Applied Voice Lessons:** 6-9 Credits:

Semester _____ Year _____ No. of Credits _____

Semester _____ Year _____ No. of Credits _____

Semester _____ Year _____ No. of Credits _____

Semester _____ Year _____ No. of Credits _____

Semester _____ Year _____ No. of Credits _____

6. _____ **MUAP 695 Recital:** 1 Credit

A Lecture Recital is possible, but not advised for performance majors—make sure student is registered for correct section.) Semester _____ Year _____

7. _____ **No. of MUAP credits from 4, 5 & 6 above must be a minimum total of 11.**

CORE REQUIREMENT LIST CONTINUED:

8. _____ **Music Electives in Theory, History, Literature and Pedagogy:** 6 Credits total needed.

Course No. _____ Name: _____ Semester _____ Year _____ No. Of Credits _____

Course No. _____ Name: _____ Semester _____ Year _____ No. of Credits _____

Course No. _____ Name: _____ Semester _____ Year _____ No. of Credits _____

9. _____ **Approved Electives 500-700 Level:** 3-6 Credits.

These need NOT be Music Courses.

Course No. _____ Name: _____ Semester _____ Year _____ No. Of Credits _____

Course No. _____ Name: _____ Semester _____ Year _____ No. of Credits _____

Course No. _____ Name: _____ Semester _____ Year _____ No. of Credits _____

Course No. _____ Name: _____ Semester _____ Year _____ No. Of Credits _____

Course No. _____ Name: _____ Semester _____ Year _____ No. of Credits _____

10. _____ **Vocal Pedagogy Course Taken?** At least one at the undergrad level documented on Transcript.

11. _____ **Transfer Credits.** A Maximum Total of 9 Credits is allowed, and they must be graduate-level courses.

Transfer Credits Allowed:

Institution/Date Degree	Course Title	Course Name	JMU Course Title	JMU Course Name