



MASTER OF MUSIC - CONDUCTING

Following acceptance into the Wind or Choral Conducting degree program, each applicant for will take music placement exams in piano, vocal diction (choral only), music theory and music history. If any deficiencies are detected, specific remedial courses will be recommended or required.

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CONDUCTING AUDITION

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A 2-part conducting audition will be administered to each student to determine whether the student's conducting skills are appropriate for the study of conducting at the graduate level.

Step 1: Online Video Submission

The submission of a rehearsal/performance video with the initial application will be required. Upon review by the graduate conducting faculty, a limited number of applicants demonstrating proficient conducting skills will be invited for an on-campus live audition with one of the university ensembles, placement exams and an interview with members of the graduate committee.

Note: Your video should be a minimum of 15 minutes of footage including a rehearsal and a performance. The camera should face the conductor. Please state your name clearly at the beginning of the video. Submission of a DVD or a link to a hosting site is acceptable.

Step 2: On-Campus Live Audition

For the on-campus live audition, applicants will be required to demonstrate conducting skills and rehearsal techniques in a rehearsal of one of the university ensembles. During the audition, students will conduct two required pieces chosen by the conducting faculty. The first piece will be something with which the ensemble is familiar, and will allow the applicant to demonstrate conducting with clarity and precision (6-8 minutes). The second piece will be new to the ensemble, and allow the applicant to demonstrate rehearsal technique and musical leadership in a live rehearsal setting (8-10 minutes).

Specific pieces will be determined by the conducting faculty upon submission of application.

PIANO PLACEMENT

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A piano placement will be administered to each student to determine whether the student's current piano skills are appropriate for graduate-level study.

The student must be able to demonstrate functional piano skills including:

1. Choral Conducting Piano Placement:
 - a. Major scales, one octave, hands together and white-key harmonic minor scales, one octave, hands together.
 - b. All pentascales, played in both hands, prepared in chromatic succession, ascending and descending.
 - c. Play the accompaniment to the *Mozart Ave Verum Corpus* and be able to play all four voice parts simultaneously.
2. Wind Conducting Piano Placement:
 - a. Major scales, one octave, hands together.
 - b. White-key harmonic minor scales, one octave, hands together.
 - c. Play any part from *Holst: Suite for Band in E-flat or F* at concert pitch and at tempo.

The entering students must take the piano placement examination at matriculation.

The assessment of piano skills will determine:

No additional piano study required

OR

Applied piano study each semester until proficiency level is achieved.

Applicants responsible to purchase all scores needed.

THE VOCAL DICTION PROFICIENCY

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A vocal diction proficiency exam will be administered to each student to determine whether the student's diction skills are appropriate for the study of diction at the graduate level.

The Vocal Diction Proficiency will include diction rules and use of the International Phonetic Alphabet. Proficiency in English, Italian, German, and French will be assessed. Based on the Vocal Diction Proficiency scores, the student may be advised to enroll in 1) MUED 521 - Vocal Diction I and/or 2) MUED 522 - Vocal Diction II.

MUSIC THEORY PLACEMENT

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The music theory placement will include:

1. Melodic harmonization
2. Figured-bass realization
3. Formal and harmonic analysis
4. Melodic and harmonic dictation
5. Sight-reading

Based on the music theory placement outcome, the student will be advised to:

1. Enroll in MUST 522 – Concepts of Analysis
2. Enroll in MUST 500 – Music Theory Review or
3. Enroll in MUST 505 –Aural Skills Review and receive a passing grade.
(MUST 500 and 505 are non-degree graduate-level course)

In preparation for the music theory placement, the following should be reviewed:

Phrase	Retardation	Suspension
Period	Escape tone	Chord analysis
All major and minor keys	Extended chords	Modulation
All major and minor chords	Passing tone	Pivot chord
Anacrusis	Resolutions	Common-tone modulation
Neighbor tone	Secondary dominant chords	Half-diminished chord
Appoggiatura	Instrumental transpositions	Ternary form
Arpeggiation	Spacing	Rondo
Augmentation	Doubling	Twelve-bar blues progressions
Augmented sixth chord	Intervals	Neapolitan sixth chord
Binary form	Motivic variation	Inversion of motives and rows
Rondo form	32-bar song form	Retrograde of motives and rows
Cadences	Sonata form	Sequence
Chord recognition	Theme-variations	Through-composed form

MUSIC HISTORY PLACEMENT

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The music history placement will include recognition of works, composers, and performance practices from the Renaissance through contemporary periods.

Based on the music history placement outcome, the student will be advised to:

- 1) Enroll in MUHL-512 Performance Practice in the History of Music
Enroll in the MUSC 518 – History of Church Music (Master of Music & Worship degree only) or
- 2) Enroll in the MUHL 500 Music History Review class.
(MUHL 500 Music History Review is a non-degree graduate-level course)

Students may find the following sources helpful in their preparation for the exam:

Grout, Donald J. and Claude Palisca. *A History of Western Music*. 6th ed. New York: Norton, 2001.

Poultney, David. *Studying Music History*. 2nd ed. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice-Hall, 1996

New Harvard Dictionary of Music. Don Randel, Ed. Cambridge, MA: Harvard U. Press, 1986.

New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians II. Ed., Stanley Sadie. New York: Macmillan, 2001. (available on-line)