Graduate School Options

The three most common graduate degrees offered in music are the Master of Music, Doctor of Musical Arts and Doctor of Philosophy. For general information about music graduate programs and a list of accredited graduate programs, see the College Music Society’s Directory of Music Faculties in College and Universities, United States and Canada (available in the Fino Arts Library or online with limited search capabilities at http://www.music.org/).

Artist Diploma or certificate programs. These graduate or postgraduate programs are geared towards performance with few or no academic requirements, and are typically considered to be non-degree programs.

Master of Music (M.M.). Usually a two-year program that is offered with concentrations in performance, composition, theory, music education and musicology. Applicants must hold a bachelor’s degree in music or its equivalent. Typical master’s programs require about 36 credit hours, which for performers usually include large ensemble, chamber music, lessons, master class or repertoire class, language competencies for singers and at least one academic course per year in theory or history.

Doctor of Musical Arts (D.M.A.). This is the doctoral degree in performance, composition and conducting. The M.M. is usually a prerequisite to enter a D.M.A. program. Programs vary greatly, but it usually takes a minimum of two years to complete the course and residency requirements. For performers, this usually involves 3-6 full solo recitals. For composers, a number of compositions are expected. A thesis or doctoral research paper is also required. Language requirements, coursework/ seminars in theory and history and ensembles may be part of the degree requirements.

Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.). These doctorates are usually offered in musicology, music theory or music education. After two to three years of coursework, general exams precede work on the dissertation.

Source: University of Texas-Austin  Fine Arts Career Services