

Doctoral Qualifying Process Procedures

Department of Vocal Performance

Defined: The Doctoral Qualifying Process (DQP) in Vocal Performance is an extended, rigorous process through which the accumulated lifetime knowledge, experience, and performance ability of an applicant can be determined to be adequate to pursue independent performance or research projects at a professional level.

Components: NASM requires that all students of the Frost School demonstrate proficiency in musicology and music theory. Programs may demand additional requirements, with approval of the Department Chair. Each program within the MVP department, in consultation with Frost MTC and MCY departments, shall determine an acceptable course of action regarding how these criteria may be satisfied.

Timing: All components of the DQP must be successfully completed before a student can apply for and be granted Doctoral Candidacy status. The qualifying coursework in musicology and music theory must be completed with a passing grade as seen on a transcript, before the student can apply for candidacy. This means this coursework should be taken within the first three semesters of the DMA in Vocal Performance.

DOCTOR OF MUSICAL ARTS in VOCAL PERFORMANCE

A1. The DQP (Doctoral Qualifying Process) for the Doctor of Musical Arts in Vocal Performance will be comprised of the following components:

1. Doctoral Qualifying Jury Recital
2. Doctoral Qualifying Recital
3. MVP Doctoral Qualifying Examination

A2. No part of the DQP may be taken before the 3rd semester of study, with the exception of the Doctoral Qualifying Jury Recital, which will be scheduled during the MVP Jury time at the end of the first semester. The Doctoral Qualifying Examination exam is administered once per semester by the Department of Vocal Performance.

A2a. **Good standing:** All students shall be matriculated and remain in current good standing with the Frost School throughout all components of the DQP. Good standing is defined as no grade lower than a B in any course. Should the student fail to remain in good standing, any components either completed or in progress may not be counted toward the DQP.

Major Requirements for DMA Vocal Performance majors

1. Doctoral Qualifying Jury Recital (1/2 hour)
 - a. Completed during 1st semester of study and no later than 2nd semester of study.
 - b. Must be satisfactorily completed *before* scheduling Doctoral Qualifying Recital
 - c. Students are allowed to reattempt once, no earlier than the semester following the initial attempt.
 - d. Program notes will be submitted and orally defended at the Qualifying Jury Recital.
2. MVP Doctoral Qualifying Exam
 - a. No earlier than 3rd semester of study
 - b. Administered by the department once per semester
 - c. Students are allowed to reattempt once, no earlier than the semester following the initial attempt
3. Doctoral Qualifying Recital (1 hour)
 - a. No earlier than 3rd semester of study
 - b. Must be satisfactorily completed *before* scheduling the other required Doctoral degree recitals
 - c. Students are allowed to reattempt once, no earlier than the semester following the initial attempt.
4. Doctoral Recital (55-60 minutes of music) with program notes.
4. Doctoral Recital (55-60 minutes of music) with program notes.
5. DMA Essay Proposal Defense
6. DMA Essay Defense

A2b. Recommended Schedule

Year 1	Approved DQE coursework Doctoral Qualifying Jury Recital Oral Defense of Qualifying Jury Recital program notes	Approved DQE coursework Doctoral Qualifying Recital (spring option)* *Oral Defense of Qualifying Recital program notes OR Doctoral Qualifying Jury Recital (spring option) *Oral Defense of Qualifying Jury Recital program notes
Year 2	Approved DQE coursework MVP Doctoral Qualifying Exam Doctoral Qualifying Recital (late option) *Oral Defense of Qualifying Recital program notes (late option) 2 nd Doctoral Recital (fall option)	MVP Doctoral Qualifying Exam (spring option) Doctoral Essay Proposal Defense (standard track) 2 nd Doctoral Recital
Year 3	3 rd Doctoral Recital (fall option) Doctoral Essay Proposal Defense (late track)	3 rd Doctoral Recital (spring option) Doctoral Essay Defense

B. DQE Component Requirements

B1. *Musicology general knowledge requirements*

The Musicology general knowledge exam component of the DQP will be satisfied by successful completion of ONE of the following courses with a grade of B or higher. These courses must be completed with a grade of B or higher, prior to the student being able to apply for candidacy. Ideally, students should take one of these courses in their first year. The acceptable courses are:

MCY 622	Operatic Literature	3	Spring, offered yearly
MCY 625	Art Song Literature	3	Spring, offered yearly
MCY 683	History of the American Musical Theatre*	3	Fall, offered yearly
MCY 794	Special Topics in Musicology (with MVP advisor approval only)	3	Fall, Spring

* This option is available only to transfer students who have completed the equivalent of MCY522 or MCY525 in another institution.

B2. *Music Theory general knowledge requirements*

The Music Theory general knowledge exam component of the DQP will be satisfied by successful completion of ONE of the following courses with a grade of B or higher. These courses must be completed with a grade of B or higher, prior to the student being able to apply for candidacy. Ideally, students should take one of these courses in their first year. The acceptable courses are:

MTC 713	Twentieth Century Idioms	3	Spring
MTC 717	Analytical Techniques*	3	Fall, Spring
MTC711	Theory Pedagogy	3	Fall

* Prerequisite: Students must pass the Theory Entrance Exam.

B3. Doctoral Qualifying Jury Recital

The Qualifying Jury Recital typically occurs at the end of the first semester of study, and may be no later than the end of the 2nd semester of study. Students must have successfully passed a Doctoral Qualifying Jury Recital before they may schedule their first Doctoral Recital, Exams, or Oral Defense. Program notes for each piece will be submitted to the full-time voice faculty and will be orally defended at the jury recital performance.

Doctoral Qualifying Jury Recital Requirements

The *Doctoral Qualifying Jury Recital and Oral Defense of the Qualifying Jury Program Notes* are required of all Doctoral Vocal Performance and Vocal Pedagogy and Performance students.

The Doctoral Qualifying Jury Recital must be of the standard format and consist of 30 minutes of memorized music representing five historical periods and a minimum of four languages, which must include English, French, German and Italian. Although not required, students are encouraged to consider including repertoire in other languages. All repertoire will be chosen in consultation with the studio voice teacher and vocal coach. The historical musical periods will be understood to be baroque, classical, romantic, early 20th century (1900-1950) and late 20th century (1950-2000) and 21st century. The repertoire will consist of at least six (6) pieces that are learned and prepared during the first semester of doctoral study at the Frost School. The remaining recital material may consist of previously learned repertoire.

Doctoral Qualifying Jury Recitals shall be assessed by a panel of at least three (3), full-time regular members of the MVP faculty. Panel members shall be full-time Regular or Educator faculty; or part-time Associated faculty (Adjunct, Lecturer) with approval from the Department Chair. Recitals shall be assessed by the panel using, at least, the Frost Student Recital Evaluation Form. Additional assessment measures may be required by the Department Chair.

B4. Oral Defense of the Doctoral Qualifying Jury Program Notes (30-45 minutes)

In preparation for the Doctoral Qualifying Jury, students will write accompanying program notes. Three weeks prior to singing the Doctoral Qualifying Jury, the student will email the program notes to the full-time, regular voice faculty. In addition, the student will schedule an oral defense of the program notes with the Chair of the Department. The oral defense will take place during the week before the departmental juries. It will be taken before at least three (3) members of the full-time, regular department

faculty, including the principal teacher/advisor. The faculty members administering the exam will review the assignment and ask the student to defend the program notes and/or discuss them in further depth.

During the oral exam, committee members will ask questions to test the depth of the student's knowledge and understanding of the material presented in the qualifying jury recital and more specialized information regarding the student's specific instrument. This might include, but is not limited to further questions regarding the previous exam material and further performance-based evaluation, including text and music inferences and conclusions. At the end of the oral exam, students will wait outside the room while the committee reaches a decision. Two outcomes are possible, pass or fail.

B5. Graduate Qualifying Recital requirements

The Doctoral Qualifying Recital is the first of three major recitals required of all Doctoral Vocal Performance majors. (See: Department of Vocal Performance Graduate Handbook for specific recital repertoire requirements.)

B5a. The Doctoral Qualifying Recital must be of the standard format and consist of 55-60 minutes of memorized music representing four historical periods and at least four languages (English, French, German and Italian). With approval of the full-time faculty, the recital may be a Special Topic Recital with 50-60 minutes of memorized music featuring the music of one composer, one language, one style period, etc. One week prior to the hearing, the student will email program notes to each full-time voice faculty member.

Program notes will be written for each piece programmed and the notes will be orally defended at the time of the recital hearing with the full-time voice faculty.

B5b. The Doctoral Qualifying Recital may occur any semester following the successful completion of the Doctoral Proficiency Jury Recital.

B5c. The Doctoral Qualifying Recital shall be assessed by a panel of four (4) faculty members, three of which must come from the MVP faculty, established by the candidate. Panel members shall be full-time Regular or Educator faculty, or part-time Associated faculty (Adjunct, Lecturer) with approval from the Department Chair.

Recitals shall be assessed by the panel using the Frost Student Recital Evaluation Form. The Department Chair may impose additional assessment measures.

The student will be notified of the results with an email from the Chair of the Department of Vocal Performance or Vocal Performance Program Director.

B6. MVP Vocal Performance Doctoral Qualifying Examination

The MVP Doctoral Qualifying Examination will be administered by the Department of Vocal Performance once per semester. The examination will be a comprehensive, written exam covering topics that may include vocal literature, historical development of oratorio, historical development of opera performance, historical development of art song literature. The examination will be given by the

Department of Vocal Performance one Saturday per semester and specific dates and test topics will be announced at the beginning of each school year.

The MVP Doctoral Qualifying Examination will result in one of three outcomes, determined by the designated MVP faculty:

- Pass
- Conditional pass—one part must be re-written
- Fail—entire written exam must be re-taken

In all cases, the student will be notified of the results by email from the Chair of the Department of Vocal Performance or the Vocal Performance Program Director.

A Conditional Pass means the student will re-write the section of the test that did not pass on the first attempt. The student will be notified which section did not pass by the Department Chair. The student may re-attempt the re-write one time. Re-attempts must be scheduled the semester following the initial attempt. Failure a second time will result in dismissal from the program.

A Fail will result in the student re-writing the entire exam. The Department Chair will notify the student of the failure. The student may re-attempt the exam one time. Re-attempts must be scheduled the semester following the initial attempt. Failure a second time will result in dismissal from the program.

MVP Vocal Performance Qualifying written exam will be given at a prescribed time and place each spring semester. With the exception of the Doctoral Qualifying Jury Recital and Oral Defense of the Program Notes, students should plan on taking the written exam during the fourth semester of doctoral study. The written examination will be approved, administered and graded by the Department of Vocal Performance faculty. The University of Miami Graduate Rating Rubric will be used for grading the written test. The student must receive an average score of 3 in each category or better to pass.

1. General Knowledge of International Phonetic Alphabet (60 minutes)
Student will be given four art songs, one each in English, Italian, German and French. The student will write an IPA translation for each text. Student may not use any outside source for assistance in completing this section of the test.
2. General Knowledge of Poetic Lyric Translation (60 minutes)
Excluding the English song, the student will choose two of the pieces given for IPA translation and provide a poetic, lyric translation of the text. This translation would be appropriate for use in program notes, liner notes or book of translations. The student may bring and use one dictionary in each language for translation assistance. Online dictionaries may not be used.
3. Comprehensive Analysis within the Discipline (120 minutes)

The student will choose two (2) topics from the following list:

- a. Two weeks prior to the examination date, the student will submit copies of four (4) classical vocal pieces, each in a different language, to the Chair of the Department of Vocal Performance. Each score must be clean of any

markings with the exception of measure numbers. Each piece must have measure numbers written in the score. At the time of the test, the student will be given a copy of the two (2) chosen pieces for written discussion. The student will discuss the (1) historical context, (2) compositional style and hallmarks, (3) information about the composer, (4) musical characteristics specific to the text, and (5) performance practice, i.e. historical knowledge of style considerations and scholarly thought on performance practice specific to that historical period, and (6) pedagogical issues that might arise when performing or teaching the specific songs.

- b. Discuss the development of opera. Trace the changes and contributions during each historical period--baroque, classical, romantic and 20th century.
- c. Discuss the development of the German Lieder in the 19th century.
- d. Discuss the development of the French Mélodie during the Impressionist era.
- e. Discuss the development of the English (either British or American) Art song in the 20th century.