

CLASSICAL INSTRUMENTAL PERFORMANCE (ADVANCED DIPLOMA)

Department Website (<https://steinhardt.nyu.edu/departments/music-and-performing-arts-professions/>)

NYSED: 39216 HEGIS: 1004.00 CIP: 50.0903

Program Description

This 18-credit post-master's artist diploma in Classical Instrumental Performance addresses the specific needs of advanced students and young professionals preparing for a career in music performance. The program includes ongoing development of technique and musicianship, with an emphasis placed on private lessons, ensemble participation, and preparation for professional auditions and competitions. Course work allows students to focus on their primary area of study while preparing for a wide range of professional opportunities.

The advanced diploma is available in four program areas:

- Brass Studies
- Percussion Studies
- String Studies
- Woodwind Studies

Admissions

Admission to graduate programs in the Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development requires the following minimum components:

- Résumé/CV
- Statement of Purpose
- Letters of Recommendation
- Transcripts
- Proficiency in English

See NYU Steinhardt's Graduate Admissions website (<https://steinhardt.nyu.edu/admissions/how-apply/graduate-students/>) for additional information on school-wide admission. Some programs may require additional components for admissions.

See How to Apply (<https://steinhardt.nyu.edu/degree/artist-diploma-classical-instrumental-performance/how-apply/>) for admission requirements and instructions specific to this program.

Program Requirements

Course	Title	Credits
Applied Instrument		
Private Instruction ¹		6
Performance		
Select 11 credits by advisement ²		11
Culminating Experience		
Recital		1
Total Credits		18

¹ Students complete 3 credits per semester for 2 semesters.

² Strings students are required to take Orchestra each semester.

Graduate Music Theory and History Requirements

Proficiency in music theory and history is a requirement for all graduate students in the NYU Steinhardt Department of Music and Performing Arts Professions. The music theory and history requirements outlined here apply to all students enrolling in Masters, PhD, DMA, or Advanced Certificate/Diploma programs in the following areas:

- Instrumental Performance (String Studies, Woodwind Studies, Brass Studies, Percussion Studies, and Jazz)
- Music Composition (Concert Music, Songwriting, and Screen Scoring)
- Music Education
- Music Technology
- Piano Studies
- Vocal Performance
- Music Therapy

Students applying to the Masters, PhD, or Advanced Certificate/Diploma programs who have completed a music degree in the Department of Music and Performing Arts Professions at NYU Steinhardt within the last five years are exempt from the music theory and history entrance requirements. This exemption is granted based on 1) passing scores on prior MPAP music theory and history entrance exams, or 2) successful completion of prior remedial coursework required by former placement exam scores. *All DMA applicants are required to take the exam regardless of prior degrees from the department.*

Exceptions:

- PhD students in Music Technology are exempt from these requirements.
- Students matriculating in the Screen Scoring concentration in Music Theory and Composition for the 2025-26 and 2026-27 academic years are exempt from the music history requirement.
- Music Therapy students are exempt from the music history requirement. They are required to take the music theory entrance exam. Based on exam results, remediation is determined and fulfilled within the Music Therapy program.
- Music Therapy Focus/Music Education PhD program students who have graduated from the NYU MA music therapy program are exempt from again meeting the history/theory requirements. This exemption also applies to students who have graduated from an American Music Therapy Association approved master's music therapy program.

Music Theory Diagnostic Exam

Graduate students in music must complete a music theory diagnostic exam at any point before registering for the first semester of coursework. DMA applicants are required to complete the exam as part of the application process, no later than the first week of December for Fall enrollment.

The diagnostic exam gauges students' knowledge of written theory, aural theory, and sight-singing. Students who do not pass the exam (or portions thereof) will be required to complete a maximum of four credits

from the courses listed below, assigned in accordance with their exam results:

- MPATC-GE 2301 Music Fundamentals
- MPATC-GE 2232 Graduate Review of Tonal Theory
- MPATC-GE 2035 Graduate Review of Aural Skills

Music History Requirement

Students who have completed a minimum of two music history courses (equivalent to two 2-credit history courses at NYU) as part of their undergraduate or graduate degrees prior to arrival are exempt from supplemental coursework in music history.

Evaluation of course equivalence will be completed by the student's academic program based on student transcripts. History courses must have been completed within the last five years for Masters and Advanced Certificate/Diploma programs and within the last 7 years for doctoral programs.

Students missing this foundational coursework must complete up to two 2-credit music history courses offered through the Music and Performing Arts Department. Students should consult with their advisors on the most appropriate music history courses for their degree program.

Additional Information

Courses taken to satisfy a proficiency requirement are supplemental to those required by any graduate degree program. Remedial courses cannot be used to meet degree requirements.

Graduate Remedial Coursework

Course	Title	Credits
Music Theory Courses		
MPATC-GE 2301	Music Fundamentals	2
MPATC-GE 2232	Graduate Review of Tonal Theory	1
MPATC-GE 2035	Graduate Review of Aural Skills	1
Music History Courses		
MPATC-GE 2067	Music History I: Medieval & Renaissance	2
MPATC-GE 2068	Music History II: Baroque & Classical	2
MPATC-GE 2077	Music History III: Romantic	2
MPATC-GE 2078	Music History IV: Twentieth Century	2
MPATC-GE 2323	Global Soundscapes: A Survey of Musical Traditions	2
MPATC-GE 2248	Music History: Gender and Sexuality in Music	2
MPATC-GE 2550	Screen Music: History, Analysis, and Aesthetics.	2
MPATC-GE 2086	Music of East and Southeast Asia, Past and Present	2
MPAJZ-GE 2121	Jazz History	2
MPATE-GE 2138	Global Electronic Music I	3
MPATC-GE 2079	Music History: Music & Protest	2

American Music History

Sample Plan of Study

Course	Title	Credits
1st Semester/Term		
Ensemble/Chamber Music/Performance and Repertoire Class		6
Private Lessons		3
Credits		9

2nd Semester/Term

Ensemble/Chamber Music/Performance and Repertoire Classes	5
Private Lessons	3
Graduate Recital	1
Credits	9
Total Credits	18

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the program, graduates will:

1. Students will demonstrate comprehensive knowledge of music literature and history, theory, pedagogy, and performance practice.
2. Students will be able to develop individualized interpretations of musical works based upon their ability to synthesize their accumulated musicianship and scholarship.
3. Students will be able to design, conduct, and communicate – in both written and oral formats – scholarship related to the field of music performance.

Policies

Program Policies

Students in this program must maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 and a term GPA of 2.5.

Effective Fall 2025, students must obtain a C or better in all MPAWW-GE classes to count toward their degree progress. These courses can be attempted a maximum of two times. Attempts include C- or lower in MPAWW-GE courses final grades as well as course withdrawals; term withdrawals/leaves of absence do not factor into the number of attempts.

Students who obtain a C- or lower in MPAWW-GE classes will be reviewed by the Committee on Student Progress for Notice of Academic Alert or Notice of Academic Concern. Students who are not able to complete and pass MPAWW-GE classes with a C after two attempts will be reviewed by the Committee on Student Progress for Notice of Academic Concern or dismissal.

NYU Policies

University-wide policies can be found on the New York University Policy pages (<https://bulletins.nyu.edu/nyu/policies/>).

Steinhardt Academic Policies

Additional academic policies can be found the Steinhardt academic policies page (<https://bulletins.nyu.edu/graduate/culture-education-human-development/academic-policies/>).