

**D.M.A. QUALIFYING (“COMMON”) EXAMINATIONS
GUIDELINES
MUSICOLOGY AND ETHNOMUSICOLOGY**

Guidelines:

Part I of the qualifying exams for all DMA performance students will consist of common exams in music history and theory. These exams, given once each semester [recently determined by the Grad Committee to be done in the 3rd week of classes], are 3 hours each, equivalent to the corresponding sections of the old-format qualifying examination. The Music History exam is created and graded by the Musicology Division; the Theory exam is created and graded by the Theory division. A list of questions from which the exam will be compiled will be posted on the DGS website approximately 3 months before the exam. These are written exams only, with no oral portion, administered by the DGS.

The history and theory exam may be taken during separate semesters, but the student must understand that this will impede progress towards graduation and it may also adversely affect financial support, which is typically only provided for a term of three years. The student must pass both of these before taking the area qualifying examination. In case of failure of either of these exams, the student may retake it once, preferably the next semester. Individual exams will not be given. The student will be provided with a written summary of the results of the exam, which will also be available to the advisor and members of the advisory committee. The exams themselves will be archived in a file maintained by the Director of Graduate Studies but they will not be available to students or faculty.

Exam Process:

Students may take exams on a laptop computer but there should be no use of the Internet and there should be no material related to the examination on the hard drive. The exams will be written and copied onto an external “clean” jump drive. A copy of the exam may not remain on the computer. The exams will be copied from the jump drive by the DGS and printed copies of the exam will be supplied to the two DMA Qualifying Examination committee members. Students may elect to handwrite the exam, but a pen (not pencil) must be used.

Common Dates and Location of Exam

The exam will be given and proctored during the third week of each semester (Fall and Spring). It will take place in Study Room 1 of Lucille Little Library, unless otherwise posted.

ASSESSMENT OF MUSIC HISTORY EXAM:

Each DMA Common Exam in Music History is divided into four large areas that are weighted as follows: Broad Topic (30%), Focused Essay (30%), Research Tools (20%), and Terms (20%).

The Broad Topic and Focused Essay will be assessed according to the following criteria:

- Accuracy of response
- Completeness of response
- Clarity of argument and writing
- Understanding of appropriate historical contexts
- Appropriate references to musical examples
- Appropriate citation of scholarship

The question on Research Tools will be assessed on the same criteria. (For certain tools, such as scholarly journals, references to musical examples are not expected.)

The definition of Terms will be assessed according to the criteria:

- Accuracy of response (in a musical-historical sense)
- Completeness and clarity of response
- Appropriate musical-historical references (e.g., in defining *Sprechstimme*, a reference to *Pierrot Lunaire* would be appropriate)

Each section is graded with a numerical scale corresponding to the level of accomplishment demonstrated in that answer:

- 1 indicates little accomplishment
- 2 indicates poor accomplishment
- 3 indicates fair accomplishment
- 4 indicates good accomplishment
- 5 indicates excellent accomplishment