

**DOCTOR OF MUSICAL ARTS in CHORAL CONDUCTING**  
**Doctoral Qualifying Process**

**Overview** The Doctoral Qualifying Process (DQP) for the Doctor of Musical Arts in Choral Conducting will be comprised of the following components:

1. Successful Completion of required coursework
2. Proficiency Recital (1<sup>st</sup> recital of 3)
3. Continuation Interview
4. Doctoral Qualifying Recital (2<sup>nd</sup> recital of 3- must have completed 2 recitals before application for candidacy)
5. Doctoral Qualifying Written Exam
  - o Score Analysis, Historical Research, Choral Literature, Other topics based on courses taken
6. Oral Defense of Qualifying Exam *\* if needed, as determined by Program Director*
7. Doctoral Capstone Recital (3<sup>rd</sup> recital of 3- this recital may take place after the student has applied for Candidacy)

**Prerequisites to apply for candidacy**

A. **Good standing:** All students shall be matriculated and remain in current good standing with the Frost School throughout all components of the DQP. Should the student fail to remain in good standing, any components either completed or in progress may not be counted toward the DQP.

B. **Proficiency Recital:** Students must have successfully passed a Doctoral Proficiency Recital before they may schedule their Qualifying Recital, Qualifying Exams, or Oral Exams Defense, if needed. The Proficiency Recital typically occurs during the first year of study, but may be no earlier than the second semester of study. In the event of a failed recital, candidates may re-attempt *once* during any semester after the semester of the initial attempt. Unsuccessful re-attempts will result in dismissal from the program.

C. **Continuation Interview:** After completion of the Proficiency Recital, students must schedule a Continuation Interview with the Director of Choral Studies. Continuation Interviews may be scheduled the same semester as the Proficiency Recital.

**Recommended Schedule**

The following matrix outlines the recommended ordering and timing of DQE components.

Year 1	Approved DQE coursework (see list)	Approved DQE coursework Proficiency Recital Continuation Interview
Year 2	Approved DQE coursework Doctoral Qualifying Recital (Fall option)	Approved DQE coursework Doctoral Qualifying Recital (Spring option) Doctoral Qualifying Written Exam (Spring option) *Oral Defense of Qualifying Exam (Spring option) Doctoral Essay or Lecture Recital Proposal Defense (Spring option) Application for Candidacy
Year 3	Approved DQE coursework Doctoral Capstone Recital (Fall option) Doctoral Qualifying Written Exam (Fall option) *Oral Defense of Qualifying Exam (Fall option) Doctoral Essay or Lecture Recital Proposal Defense (Fall option) Application for Candidacy	Doctoral Capstone Recital (Spring option) Doctoral Essay Defense or Doctoral Lecture Recital presentation and defense

\*Oral Defense takes place if the Director of Choral Studies finds one or more elements of the Written Exam to be lacking.

## Doctoral Qualifying Exam Component Requirements

### A. Musicology general knowledge requirements

The Musicology general knowledge exam component of the DQE will be satisfied by successful completion of BOTH of the following courses with a grade of B or higher:

MCY 635	Choral Literature I	3	Fall (see course rotation)
MCY 636	Choral Literature II	3	Spring (see course rotation)

### B. Music theory general knowledge exam requirements

The Music Theory component of the DQE will be satisfied by successful completion of ONE of the following courses with a grade of B or higher:

MTC 717	Analytical Techniques*	3	Fall, Spring
MTC	Other Graduate Level Theory Course, as approved	3	Fall, Spring

\* Prerequisite: Students must first pass the Theory Entrance Exam before they are eligible to enroll.

### C. Doctoral Qualifying Written Exam

The Doctoral Qualifying Exam shall be a written exam on topics selected by the Director of Choral Studies relevant to the student's academic coursework and experience. The Qualifying Exam may be scheduled at any point after recital literature for the Qualifying Recital has been approved by the Director of Choral Studies, but not before the 3<sup>rd</sup> semester of study.

The Written Exam will result in one of three outcomes, determined by the Director of Choral Studies:

- Pass
- Pass pending Oral Defense
- Fail

**A Pass** indicates the student is eligible to apply for candidacy upon completion of all DQE components. After passing the qualifying exam, the student can then apply for doctoral committee approval, then hold the proposal defense, then apply for candidacy. All steps are described in the Frost School Graduate Student Handbook.

**A Pass pending Oral Defense** shall be assigned in situations where additional information and/or clarity is requested by the Director of Choral Studies on one or more responses in the written portion. [See D. Oral Defense of Qualifying Exam]

**A Fail** shall be assigned where responses are below acceptability for doctoral work. Students 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.

### D. Oral Defense of Qualifying Exam\*

Students assigned a Pass pending Oral Defense rating for the Written Qualifying Exam will, within one week of notification, schedule an Oral Defense at the mutual convenience of the Director of Choral

Studies and at least one other referee from within the MVP choral department (as determined by the DCS). The Defense itself must be completed no later than two weeks after notification.

The Director of Choral Studies will outline specific areas of concern upon request of the student. The Oral Defense may be up to approximately one hour in length, but may be less depending on the specific clarifications requested.

The Oral Defense will result in one of two outcomes (Pass/Fail), determined by mutual agreement by the Director of Choral Studies and sitting referee(s). This outcome will be conveyed to the student no more than 24 hours after the completion of the Oral Defense.

A Pass indicates the student is eligible to apply for candidacy upon completion of all DQP components.

A Fail shall be assigned where responses are below acceptability for doctoral work. Students 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.

### **E. Doctoral Qualifying Recital requirements**

The Doctoral Qualifying Recital shall be a 20-minute minimum comprehensive performance demonstrating the full range of the student's ability. The Qualifying Recital may occur during any semester following a successful completion of the Doctoral Proficiency Recital, but no earlier than the 3<sup>rd</sup> semester of study. As with all recitals, repertoire must be approved by the Director of Choral Studies.

- i. Graduate Qualifying Recitals shall be assessed by 4 faculty committee members, including three members from the student's major area (one of whom is the committee chair), and one member from another department of the Frost School. 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 Graduate Student Recital Evaluation Form. Additional assessment measures may be imposed by the Director of Choral Studies. For further information regarding recital guidelines, please refer to the Frost Graduate Handbook.

- ii. In the event of a failed recital, candidates may re-attempt *once* during any semester after the semester of the initial attempt. Unsuccessful re-attempts will result in dismissal from the program. A recital will be considered as having failed if at least 2/3 of the candidate's panel return a Not Passed vote on the Frost Student Recital Evaluation Form. Passing the Graduate Qualifying Recital is a required part of the application for Candidacy. Students may take the Qualifying Written Exam before or after the Graduate Qualifying Recital is passed, but may not attempt their Doctoral Capstone Recital in the same semester as the Qualifying Recital.

### Summary: Major Requirements for Doctoral Choral Conducting majors

Musicology General Knowledge Exam

*This requirement is satisfied by successfully passing BOTH of the following courses with a grade of B or higher.*

MCY 635	Choral Literature I	3	Fall (see course rotation)
MCY 636	Choral Literature II	3	Spring (see course rotation)

Music Theory General Knowledge Exam

*This requirement is satisfied by successfully passing ONE of the following courses with a grade of B or higher.*

MTC 717	Analytical Techniques	3	Fall, Spring
MTC	Graduate Level Theory Course	3	Fall, Spring

Proficiency Recital (1 of 3)

- a. May be completed no earlier than the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester of study
- b. Must be satisfactorily completed *before* scheduling the Doctoral Qualifying Recital

Continuation Interview

- a. Must be completed during the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester of study.
- b. Must be satisfactorily completed *before* scheduling the Doctoral Qualifying Recital

Qualifying Recital Literature Approval

Qualifying Recital (2 of 3)

- a. May be completed *after* successful completion of the Proficiency Recital, but no earlier than the 3<sup>rd</sup> semester of study
- b. Must be satisfactorily completed *before* scheduling Doctoral Candidacy Recital
- c. The Doctoral Candidacy Recital and Qualifying Recital may not be scheduled in the same semester.

Qualifying Written Exam plus Oral Defense, if required

- a. May be scheduled in the same semester as the Qualifying Recital

DMA Essay Proposal or Lecture Recital Proposal Defense

Doctoral Capstone Recital (3 of 3)

- a. May be completed *after* successful completion of the Qualifying Recital, but no earlier than the 5<sup>th</sup> semester of study

DMA Essay Defense or Lecture Recital Presentation (Note that the lecture recital is also defended.)