

DMA in Performance (Stream 1)

DMA Research Paper Guidelines

The DMA Research Paper is the written component of the Research-Creation Portfolio for Stream 1. In Stream 1, the Research-Creation Portfolio consists of four Performance Events and the DMA Research Paper. DMA students should discuss their research interests with their DMA Advisory Committee early in their program. At the end of Year 1, with the approval of their DMA Advisory Committee, students should indicate their intention to pursue Stream 1 or Stream 2.

The DMA Research Paper (Stream 1) is a scholarly or professionally oriented investigation into a topic of significance to music performance, reflecting the student's research interests. It may be focused on repertoire, pedagogy, or professional practice individually or in combination.

The DMA Research Paper will generally result in a paper of 40–50 pages (approximately 10,000–12,250 words, double-spaced, exclusive of bibliography) or a research project of equivalent scope. It will demonstrate the highest scholarly standards of quality and excellence.

There is no formal defense of the DMA Research Paper. The DMA Research Paper milestone must appear on the student's academic record.

Advising of the DMA Research Paper (and proposal)

Each DMA Research Paper will be overseen by a director. The director will work with the student to develop an outline and proposal in Term 7 (Fall of Year 3).¹ A second reader will review the draft proposal, and the proposal will be submitted to the Graduate Office by the student with the approval of the director and second reader.² There is no proposal defense, but final approval by the Graduate Committee will complete the formal approval of the proposal milestone.

In most cases the director and second reader will be members of the student's DMA Advisory Committee. Students should discuss the format and scope of the DMA Research Paper with the director and second reader in Year 2, and prepare to submit a proposal in fall of Year 3. In general, students will work primarily with the director until a strong draft of the DMA Research Paper is completed, and then the second reader will review the complete draft and offer feedback for the student to consider for the final draft.

Assessment of the DMA Research Paper

When the director of the DMA Research Paper is satisfied that the project is complete and meets the appropriate academic standards, the director will complete the DMA Research Paper Final Report, which will require the signature of the director and the second reader. Final approval on

¹ The proposal should include a tentative title, the name of the director and second reader, a description of 1000–1250 words (4–5 pages) outlining the main argument, scope, goals, and significance of the topic, as well as a working bibliography.

² The director and second reader must hold SGPS membership in the Graduate Program in Music.

behalf of the program by the Associate Dean (Graduate Studies) will complete the formal approval of the DMA Research Paper.

Following final approval, the DMA Research Paper must be submitted to the Office of the Associate Dean (Graduate Studies) for archiving.

Timeline for Submission of DMA Research Paper

Convocation Eligibility	Final Draft of MRP to Project Director and Second Reader for Approval	Approved MRP returned to student with any minor revisions indicated	Final Date for Submission of Approved Research Paper to Associate Dean	Final Date for Final Submission of Research Paper from Student and Final Report from Director, Second Reader and Associate Dean	Notes for Registration and Fees
Spring (June)	March 15	April 1	April 15	April 29	Last term of registration is Winter
Autumn (October)	July 15	August 1	August 15	August 29	Last term of registration is Summer
February in Absentia	November 15	December 1	December 15	Final business day of term	Last term of registration is Fall

Last updated October 30, 2024