

MM - Opera Performance Concentration

This degree program is designed to provide specialized training in opera performance with graduates gaining more experience and training in all phases of opera production. While the MM in performance degree with an emphasis in voice provides for some experience with opera performance, the opera concentration provides greater focus with more specialized coursework, training and experience, which better prepares students who are accepted into the program to succeed in this competitive career field. The degree requires 4 more credit hours (total of 36) than the MM in performance degree with an emphasis in voice.

Admission

Prior to scheduling a live audition, applicants must pass a pre-screening audition. Pre-screening materials should be sent directly to Professor Alan Held (alan.held@wichita.edu) by December 1. Admission to the program is based on the results of a live audition and an interview with the director of the WSU Opera Theatre and voice faculty.

Pre-Screening Materials

- Headshot and resumé;
- A statement of academic and career goals; and
- Four YouTube video recordings showing facility in English, Italian, German and French repertoire of various styles.

Audition Dates

In-person auditions take place in February. Please check with the department regarding live auditions. Applicants should apply to the Wichita State University Graduate School (<https://wsu-info.org/go/split.htm>)¹.

Additional Info

Students admitted to this program must show potential for future success and should have already had some experience with opera. Specific requirements include:

1. Strong vocal/operatic vocal potential;
2. Good academic background with a minimum 2.750 GPA;
3. Some stage experience, including a basic acting class; and
4. Ability in at least one of the following languages: French, German or Italian.

¹ Links opens new window.

Program Requirements

The Master of Music (MM) degree with a concentration in opera performance requires the completion of a minimum of 38 graduate credit hours, including a graduate performance recital, two leading roles in opera productions, and direction and assistance in two productions. Students must complete the coursework listed below:

Course	Title	Hours
Core Required for all MM Concentrations		
MUSC 852	Introduction to Bibliography and Research	3
MUSC 830	Seminar in Music Theory	3
Select 6 credit hours from the following in history and theory:		6
MUSC 832	Topics in Music Analysis	
MUSC 891	Seminar in Music History pre-1750	
MUSC 892	Seminar in Music History post-1750	

Courses Required for Concentration

Graduate Voice Study—14 credit hours of instruction in major medium		14
MUSA 732Y	Applied Music Instruction for Majors - Voice (repeatable)	
MUSA 734Y	Applied Music Instruction for Majors - Voice (repeatable)	
Other Requirements		10
MUSC 623	Opera Literature	
MUSP 711K	Opera Theatre (repeatable)	
MUSP 773	Acting For Singers	
Graduate Recital		
MUSP 873	Graduate Recital	2
Total Credit Hours		38

Examinations

All degree candidates in the School of Music must pass an oral comprehensive examination. The oral comprehensive examination for thesis candidates includes a thesis defense.

Applied Learning

Students in the Masters of Music - opera performance concentration are required to complete an applied learning or research experience to graduate from the program. The requirement must be met by a terminal recital (MUSP 873) given in their second year.