

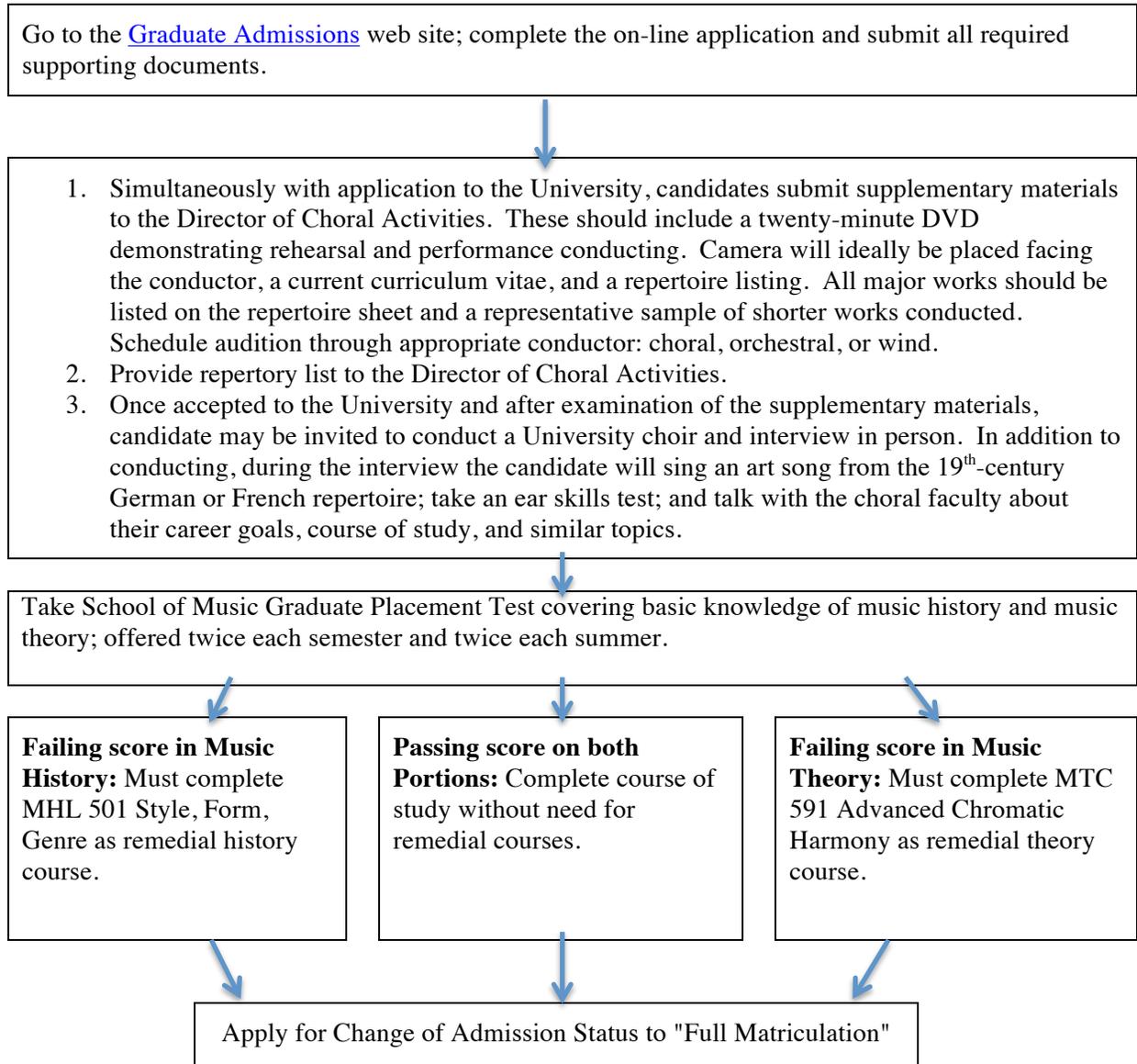
# MASTER OF MUSIC PERFORMANCE

## Choral Conducting

### 30 Semester Hours

The Master of Music in Performance – Conducting is designed for those who can demonstrate appropriate ability in conducting and who have had experience conducting church, school, and/or community programs. Candidates for the MM degree must hold an appropriate undergraduate degree in music.

#### Admission Sequence



### **Admission To Degree Candidacy**

After the successful completion of twelve to fourteen credit hours of graduate course work (in addition to any required remediation), complete and file an "Application for Admission to Candidacy for the Degree" form with the Office of Graduate Studies. Before degree candidacy can be granted, the following conditions must be met:

- Achieve overall GPA of 3.00 and GPA of 3.00 in the music discipline
- Satisfactory completion of any required remediation

### **Graduation**

- During the final semester of study, complete and submit the Intent to Graduate card to the Office of Graduate Studies. Submit appropriate fees as requested by the Office of Graduate Study.
- Only after all requirement for the degree of master of Music in Music in Performance (Instrumental) have been fully and completely satisfied will the student be cleared for graduation by the Coordinator of Graduate Studies in Music.

Further information on applying for and completing a M.M. degree in Choral Conducting are outlined in detail in the *Guidelines for the M.M. degree in Choral Conducting* (see below). Prospective and current students for this degree are urged to read these carefully, particularly the requirements for the Graduate Recital and for the Comprehensive Exit Examination.

**M.M. in Performance**  
**(Choral Conducting – 30 hours)**  
**Program of Study**

<b>PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS</b>	<b>CREDIT HOURS</b>	<b>COURSE / SEMESTER TAKEN</b>
<b>Cognate Requirements</b>	<b>6</b>	
Music History	3	
Music Theory	3	
<b>Concentration: Required Courses</b>	<b>19</b>	
Required:  VOI 526 (2) Survey of Choral Literature VOC 613 (2) Advanced Choral Conducting CHO 541 (3) Advanced Level Lessons CHO 542 (3) Advanced Level Lessons CHO 543 (3) Advanced Level Lessons CHO 612 (1) Concert Choir AIM 691 (2) Research Seminar	16	
Concentration Electives selected from:  VOC 515 (2) English-Italian Diction VOC 516 (3) French German Diction VOC 591 (3) Vocal Pedagogy MHL 654 (3) History of Opera	3	
<b>Free Electives:</b> 3 credits of any 500 level course(s) selected under advisement	<b>3</b>	
<b>Recital Component:</b>	<b>2</b>	
VOI 697 (2) Recital	2	
<b>Comprehensive Exit Exam:</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>TOTAL CREDITS</b>	<b>30</b>	

**MASTER OF MUSIC IN CHORAL CONDUCTING**  
STUDENT GUIDELINES  
(September, 2013)

These guidelines are applicable to students enrolled in the M.M. choral conducting program. They are intended to provide a clear set of expectations for those enrolled in this program, both to clarify student responsibilities and to allow for adequate advanced planning towards the successful completion of the program of study.

**Entrance to the MM in Choral Conducting**

- 1) Students wishing to enter the program should first apply to the University. See the guidelines on the School of Music website.
- 2) Simultaneously, applicants should submit to the Director of Choral Activities:
  - a) a comprehensive repertoire listing of works you have conducted. Include all major choral works, any works for the stage (operas or musicals), and a representative listing of smaller choral works (motets, madrigals, folksongs, etc.);
  - b) a current résumé; including conducting positions with church, school, and community ensemble
  - c) 20 minute DVD of the applicant's conducting. This should preferably include both rehearsal and performance, and if possible taken from the choir's perspective.
- 3) Once the application to the University is approved and the supplementary materials are examined, the candidate may be invited to West Chester to conduct an in-person interview and conducting exam.
  - a) Applicants will meet for 20-30 minutes with the choral faculty for a discussion of the reasons for pursuing graduate studies, long-and medium-term educational and musical goals, and similar topics.
  - b) Applicants will take a short ear skills test.
  - c) Applicants should prepare a short 19<sup>th</sup>-century art song to sing, preferably in a foreign language.
- 4) Applicants who are successful will be officially notified by the University regarding acceptance into the MM program in choral conducting.

**General Expectations**

Students enrolled in the M.M. program are expected to contribute to the choral program in the following ways:

1. By participating in one of the curricular choirs for at least one continuous academic year as part of the degree requirements; usually, this ensemble will be Concert Choir.
2. By assisting the conductor of the ensemble they are in by serving as section leader, and/or by taking responsibility for those younger singers in the ensemble by helping them fix mistakes, encouraging proper rehearsal demeanor, and so forth.
3. By bringing to the conductor's attention issues or problems with the music that you hear in rehearsal that you feel are important to bring up.
4. Through attendance at all choral concerts given throughout the school year, until completion of the degree. One of the primary goals for M.M. students is to gain a thorough understanding of repertoire, concert programming, and concert logistics and attendance at choral concerts is the surest and best way of achieving this goal.
5. By attending a portion of choral auditions held in the early fall semester, in coordination with the choral faculty.
6. By assisting with the logistical needs of the choral area as needed and requested.

7. By being professionally active. This includes attendance at professional conferences such as ACDA, as often as feasible; attendance at other choral concerts throughout the region, especially of professional choirs and major choral/orchestral works; workshops; and similar things.

### **Student Assistant Expectations**

Each year, one or more master's candidates will be given a scholarship that provides compensation for work in the choral area. Beyond the expectations listed above, the student assistant(s) will also need to meet the following requirements, for an average of 5-10 hours per week. (Some weeks may require more time than that, while others will not require as many).

1. Assist faculty choral directors as needed with administrative tasks such as copying, library requests, working in the choral library, setting up rehearsal spaces and other logistical needs, like helping to clear the stage following concerts, and so forth.
2. Accompanying choral ensembles if able and as needed. (This may be a regular requirement for specific students and will be taken into account when graduate assignments are made.)
3. Conducting full rehearsals and sectional rehearsals of various choral groups as requested.

### **Conducting on Public Programs and the Graduate Recital**

#### 1. Conducting University Choral Ensembles

As part of his or her training, each M.M. candidate will periodically conduct one of the University choral ensembles, working during their normal rehearsal period and conducting the resulting piece(s) in a regularly scheduled public concert. This will usually entail working with the younger choirs (Men's Chorus, Cantari Donne, or Women's Chorus), and less frequently with the two upper-level choral ensembles. It is expected that each candidate will conduct one of these ensembles two to four times during the course of his or her study at West Chester.

The repertoire for each conducting assignment may be chosen by the regular conductor of the ensemble. Occasionally, in coordination with the faculty conductor, the candidate will conduct a work of his or her own choice.

The candidate will be given adequate rehearsal time to prepare the group, in line with the choir's other repertoire demands. The candidate will be informed prior to each rehearsal period how much time he or she may use, and the time limit will need to be respected.

Throughout the rehearsal process, one of the conducting faculty will be present to observe and critique. Normally, this critique will be private and done without the choir present. However, on occasion and in a constructive manner, the conducting faculty may offer suggestions or advice to the candidate during the rehearsal.

#### 2. Graduate Recital Requirement

As one of the final requirements of the M.M. program, each candidate will conduct a concert of choral music. The concert should range in time from 45-60 minutes. The ensemble for this recital may take one of several forms: The choir may be one that the candidate has assembled from WCU students, alumni, friends, and other singers; or the choir may be a high school, community, or church choir that he or she conducts on a regular basis.

Ideally, the repertoire for this concert will represent a wide variety of choral music from the Western tradition, primarily art music from the Renaissance to modern classical music. Little or none of the repertoire should be devoted to spirituals, folk song settings, vocal jazz, or other similar pieces. The repertoire should also show a balance of unaccompanied vs. accompanied selections, and in addition should contain music of varying lengths, avoiding a concert of only short works. Under certain circumstances, the Director of Choral Activities may allow a candidate to conduct a larger choral work with soloists and instrumental accompaniment, although performing a segment of such a work within the framework of the varied recital will be allowed.

*All aspects of the recital will be discussed with and approved by the Director of Choral Activities. Repertoire for the recital needs to be decided at least one full term in advance of the recital in order to be approved.*

The final recital will be accompanied by a substantial paper. The paper should include a complete analysis of each piece on the program (along with analysis charts), as well as a history of each piece, its genesis (if known), conducting issues in the music and how those might be dealt with, and a textual analysis and translation, if appropriate. If the work is a larger one, the analysis/commentary should examine both the individual movements as well as the work as a whole. A bibliography of works cited and consulted must be included as part of the paper. This bibliography should include very few website addresses and should include mostly published, authoritative books, articles, and monographs. It is expected that the paper for the recital will be approximately 25-40 pages and be written in formal style. *The first draft of the paper will be due no later than six weeks prior to the recital date. Failure to provide the paper by this deadline may result in the re-scheduling of the recital and may delay graduation.* The Director of Choral Activities will read the paper, make relevant changes and suggestions, and return it to the student for changes, clarifications, additions, etc. *The final paper will be due no later than two weeks prior to the recital date.*

### **The Comprehensive Exit Examination for the M.M. in Choral Conducting**

The completion of a graduate degree should and must entail more than the successful fulfillment of a few additional course requirements beyond the bachelor's degree. The individual who holds a graduate degree should be able to understand, think about, and perform music in a fundamentally more complex and introspective fashion. Completing the required coursework for the MM degree is the start of this process, not its conclusion. Students completing the MM in choral conducting are expected to draw on their coursework, performing experience, applied lessons, and their individual study in a way that synthesizes and expands their knowledge and insight about music. Special emphasis is placed on self-study -- beyond the written degree requirements -- including reading about music, listening to it, and reflecting on it so as to reach a richness of understanding, particularly in those areas of music where the student is able to build on existing competencies and knowledge.

The Exit Exam is an important part of that process, the purpose of which is to demonstrate to the MM exam committee that the candidate has achieved the synthesis called for in the foregoing paragraph. (Ideally, this self-study will occupy the student throughout the time he or she is completing the required coursework. In some cases, students may choose to delay their graduation for a short period of time after completing the coursework and recital in order to better prepare for the exam.)

Towards these ends, the Exit Examination for the MM in Choral Conducting Performance will consist of two parts, a written portion and an aural portion. Each candidate will have a committee of three faculty

conductors (or others as appropriate), who will evaluate both the written and oral portions of the Exit Exam.

The written portion of the exam will include questions like the following:

1. construct a 45-minute program appropriate to a 50-voice, good high school choir, using music from a variety of style periods;
2. provide a comprehensive overview of the choral output of a specified composer from the Classical, Romantic, or modern eras;
3. provide a comprehensive overview of a specific, large choral-orchestral work;
4. provide a general overview of the choral music of a specific era: what genres were utilized, who were the major composers working, what are some of the most important works from the period, etc.;
5. answer questions about conducting pedagogy (i.e., dealing with vocal teaching in the choir, rehearsal techniques appropriate to a certain age of singer, etc.)

The oral portion of the exam will include questions about:

1. the repertory studied in applied lessons;
2. the repertory conducted on concert programs, especially the music conducted for the recital requirement;
3. general music history and compositional styles and practices, focused on the field of choral music;
4. standard conducting textbooks and pedagogical techniques; and
5. material from academic courses that the candidate completed during the period of study.