

## ***FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) for New Dissertators***

NOW THAT I'M A DISSERTATOR, WHAT COURSE DO I REGISTER FOR?

**Dissertators sign up for MUSIC/660-999, "PhD Diss/DMA Project."**

You may take another course, if your advisor recommends it, but that course must be directly related to your project/dissertation research, and it must be numbered 300-level or higher. DMA Recitals are usually included among these credits.

HOW MANY CREDITS DO I ENROLL FOR?

**3 credits, always.** (It's a Grad School requirement.) Not 2 credits or 1 credit or 4 credits. This includes your recital(s) and any other classes.

DO I HAVE TO BE ENROLLED EVERY SEMESTER UNTIL I GRADUATE?

Yes. **The Grad School requires you to maintain continuous enrollment until you complete your degree.** (Not including summers, except in rare cases.) If you don't maintain continuous enrollment, the Grad School will charge you a [Degree Completion Fee](#).

HOW DO I ENROLL FOR MY RECITALS NOW THAT I'M A DISSERTATOR?

As always, enroll for MUSIC PERF/664-999, DMA Recital. Enroll for exactly 3 credits every semester, **including** your recital(s). If you're playing two recitals, enroll for each one separately. (See "[D.M.A. Recital Information](#)" in the "Resources for Current Graduate Students" section, under the "Forms and Information for Doctoral Students" menu.

WHEN DO I NEED TO TURN IN THE *PROPOSAL* FOR MY DISSERTATION (OR DOCTORAL RESEARCH PROJECT) TO MY MAJOR PROFESSOR AND COMMITTEE?

Ideally, the proposal should be approved (by your committee and the DGS) by the end of the semester after you've passed prelims. At the very latest, the proposal must be approved no later than the end of the semester before the semester you plan to defend the project and graduate. **For example: If you're planning a Spring graduation, you must submit your proposal to your major professor and committee no later than October 31<sup>st</sup>. For a Fall graduation, submit the proposal to your major professor and committee no later than March 31<sup>st</sup>.** For complete information, see the "[Dissertation and DMA Research Project Registration](#)" form in the "Resources for Current Graduate Students" section, under the "Forms and Information for Doctoral Students" menu.

WHEN DO I NEED TO TURN IN MY COMPLETED *DISSERTATION* (OR *DOCTORAL RESEARCH PROJECT*) TO MY MAJOR PROFESSOR AND COMMITTEE?

**By March 15<sup>TH</sup> for Spring graduation, or by October 15<sup>TH</sup> for Fall graduation.** Committee members then have 6 weeks to review the document and determine whether to schedule a defense, or whether further work is required. For more information, see the "[Dissertation and DMA Research Project](#)"

[Registration](#)" form in the "Resources for Current Graduate Students" section, under the "Forms and Information for Doctoral Students" menu.

HOW LONG DO I HAVE TO DEFEND MY DISSERTATION/PROJECT AFTER I'VE SUCCESSFULLY DEFENDED MY PRELIMS?

**The Grad School gives you *five years from the date of the Oral Preliminary Exam* to defend the dissertation/research project.** See the Grad School's "[Five Year Rule](#)." If you are absent from the program for five years or more, you must file a new Graduate School application for admission and submit it with a new application fee. For more information, see [Readmission/Re-entry Procedures](#).

I'M PLANNING TO GRADUATE THIS SEMESTER! WHAT DO I NEED TO DO?

Look for emails from me about graduation, and email me at [msdrake@wisc.edu](mailto:msdrake@wisc.edu) so that I can request your degree warrant. Plan to do this **AT LEAST 3 WEEKS** before your Defense.

WHEN ARE THE GRAD SCHOOL'S AND REGISTRAR'S GRADUATION DEADLINES?

**NOTE: Students are responsible for knowing and complying with the [Grad School's deadlines](#) and the [Registrar's deadlines](#). It takes 3 weeks for the Grad School to process the request for your degree warrant. [The Registrar's website also lists enrollment, fee payment, and course change deadlines.](#)**