**MUGC 6954: DMA Project In Lieu of Thesis: Professional Portfolio**

Semester Effective: Fall 2024

Faculty Member: CoM Graduate Faculty in Performance Areas Email: gpdc@unt.edu

**Course Description**

The DMA Project in Lieu of Dissertation begins with a period of focused independent research and musical study, and culminates in the creation of a professional musical portfolio that students will use as they launch their professional careers.

Students will identify an overarching theme or topic that will guide them as they create several coordinated components synthesizing performance, creative, research or pedagogical elements into a cohesive project.

A list of components with suggested guidelines is part of this document. The exact number of components, as well as their length and how they inter-relate should be defined by the student in consultation with their committee, and supported by a compelling proposal. It is expected that portfolios will be unique to each student and make a significant contribution to the field of music.

Each component must be completed with rigor and will be assessed by a detailed rubric. Submission of the portfolio occurs as a Defense presented to the student’s committee. The student can choose to make this occasion public. Upon passing this defense, students are expected to have completed all requirements toward the DMA degree.

**Course Outcomes**

• Individuate an approach to musical creation and address self-defined research and performance projects with distinct and challenging parameters

• Demonstrate the visual, verbal, and writing skills needed to engage with contemporary discourse in the musical arts

• Create a professional portfolio of durable artistic components such as recordings, videos, written narratives, or events, that may be publicly shared with a broad musical audience and pave the way as a student emerges into their professional artistic career

Course Requirements and Schedule

* Establish a committee qualified to guide the process. This must consist of the major professor and two other faculty with graduate status. If needed an exception to allow an outside scholar to form the committee can be requested through the graduate office.
* Continuous enrollment is expected until completion of the project.
* Submit to the Graduate Performance Degree Committee:

• a project pre-proposal. The required Topic Pre-Proposal is a one-page, single-spaced document that includes:

1) the proposal title and topic;

2) a one-paragraph purpose statement;

3) a minimum one-paragraph rationale statement about the project.

Upon approval of the pre-proposal by the GPDC, students will submit:

• a project proposal. This 10-15 page document must:

• Present a narrative describing the theme and proposed elements of the project

• Present a bibliography that shows engagement with current research on that topic

• Create scholarly context and methodology for the project

• Establish a thematic connection or reasoning for how the creative components of the project will inter-relate

• Your project should not duplicate existing research, but should present new knowledge. How will your project make an original contribution?

• In case of off-campus or recording aspects, detail a budget and locations for completion and request off-campus permissions from the GPDC

• Establish that funds exist for the completion of the project

• Establish a timeline for completion

Timeline to completion is strictly the responsibility of the enrolled student, and must comply with College of Music and Toulouse Graduate School deadlines for the semester of desired completion.

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| **List of suggested portfolio components:** |
| Choose at least two items to interrelate. The important thing is not how many items you choose but how well they support your theme and create a compelling overall project.  Note: Items must be discrete components; in other words, a video recording of a live performance counts as one item, not two. |
| * + A live public performance,on or off-campus, related to the theme of the project that is additional to your required recitals (MUGC 6951-52-53)   + Article-length document (minimum of 2,500 words) following guidelines for publication in a professional journal related to the student’s primary instrument or field.   + Public masterclass (with advisory committee present, video-recorded)   + Public workshop (with advisory committee present, video-recorded)   + Podcast episode   + Website   + “TED Talk”-style spoken lecture on your topic   + Interviews with significant musicians. (Would require IRB form submission and approval.) Could be presented in video format.   + Teaching videos: (one longer or a series of shorter teaching videos on related topics, resulting in a final edited high-quality video.)   + Performance video: (one longer or a series of shorter performance video recordings resulting in final edited high-quality recorded video.)   + Performance audio: (one longer or a series of shorter performance audio recordings resulting in final edited high-quality recorded video.)   + A combination of recordings from the options above resulting in final edited high-quality recorded video and/or audio.   + Workbook or other instructional materials that support the teaching videos created. (Copyright permissions apply.)   + Community event curated by the student, supporting the project's theme   + Other: propose your own element or combination of elements, with justification |

**Submission of the portfolio**

Submission of the portfolio will occur by Canvas, following the guidelines stipulated in the DMA Handbook.

The portfolio will comprise:

• Abstract: a summative statement of 500-1000 words (1-2 pages), summarizing the aims of the project and the items included (as taken from the original proposal, with any needed adjustments or modifications)

• links to or files of any digital, virtual, or recorded content submitted in a durable format according to UNT library guidelines established with the graduate studies office

**Expectations:**

During semester:

* Regularly meet with your Major Professor to review your progress. (Reminder: you must meet with your full committee twice during the last semester.)
* Abide by the timeline approved in your proposal.
* Schedule necessary performance and recording spaces.
* Schedule public-facing events performed or presented. These must fall within the College of Music Graduate Studies Office published guidelines.
* Apply to the GPDC for any exceptions for off-campus performances as part of your proposal.
* Apply for Graduation with the registrar

https://registrar.unt.edu/sites/default/files/online-graduation- student-documentation.pdf

* Submit your signed Oral Defense Form to the department office at least 10 days before your defense.

**Assignments and Assessments**

(sample breakdown)

Creation and Submission of Completed DMA Professional Portfolio: 65%

Research for project and submission of prospectus: 25%

Committee meetings: 10%

Defense:

Presentation of portfolio (70%)

Scholarly conversation following presentation (30%)

Provided that a grade of B or above is attained, the student’s transcript grade will reflect a grade of “PR”. Grades below this threshold will incur a grade of “NPR”.

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| **Sample DMA Professional Portfolio ideas:** |
| * Performance of Gabriel Pierné Pièce de Concert with for Harp and Orchestra with a professional Orchestra. Teaching video on specific passages of the work, which is very virtuosic and has specific challenges. Article on the piece for major harp magazine. * Performance of Ligeti Viola Sonata. Teach a workshop on extended techniques for high school and college violists. Edited audio recording of the piece suitable for submission to job auditions or personal website/sound cloud. * Article reflecting on lessons with an extremely famous pedagogue for that student’s instrument (Karen Tuttle/Viola); videos that supplement content available in a book written by major students of that pedagogue (The Karen Tuttle Legacy), perform a sonata studied in great detail with that pedagogue(Hindemith Sonata Op. 11 #4). * Trombone project: create critical editions of transcribed works by Manuel Maria Ponce. Record the works in high quality audio or video performances, edit professionally. Make the scores and recordings available on a website where they can be broadly accessed by other trombone players. * Original jazz composition(s) or arrangement(s) presented as both a live performance and a separate studio recording * Project on Fats Waller including a masterclass based on Waller's compositions and a recital applying his improvisational approaches to contemporary popular music * A free jazz project with a pedagogical manual or method book of improvisation exercises for beginning improvisors and an accompanying recording demonstrating professional-level versions of performances based on the same/similar prompts |

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive a "0" for that particular assignment or exam [or specify alternative sanction, such as course failure]. Additionally, the incident will be reported to the Dean of Students (Office of Academic Integrity), who may impose further penalty. According to the UNT catalog, the term “cheating" includes, but is not limited to: a. use of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, or examinations; b. dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments; c. the acquisition, without permission, of tests or other academic material belonging to a faculty or staff member of the university; d. dual submission of a paper or project, or resubmission of a paper or project to a different class

without express permission from the instructor(s); or e. any other act designed to give a student an unfair advantage. The term “plagiarism” includes, but is not limited to: a. the knowing or negligent use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment; and b. the knowing or negligent unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials. See: Academic Integrity LINK: https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-003

STUDENT BEHAVIOR

Student behavior that interferes with an instructor’s ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The university's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. See: Student Code of Conduct Link: https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct

ACCESS TO INFORMATION – EAGLE CONNECT

Your access point for business and academic services at UNT occurs at my.unt.edu. All official communication from the university will be delivered to your Eagle Connect account. For more information, please visit the website that explains Eagle Connect. See: Eagle Connect LINK: eagleconnect.unt.edu/

ODA STATEMENT

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with an accommodation letter. You can now request your Letters of Accommodation ONLINE and ODA will mail your Letters of Accommodation to your instructors. You may wish to begin a private discussion with your professors regarding your specific needs in a course. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester. For additional information see the Office of Disability Access. See: ODA LINK: disability.unt.edu. (Phone: (940) 565-4323)

DIVERSITY AND BELONGING

UNT values diversity and individuality as part of advancing ideals of human worth, dignity and academic excellence. Diverse viewpoints enrich open discussion, foster the examination of values and exposure of biases, help educate people in rational conflict resolution and responsive leadership, and prepare us for the complexities of a pluralistic society. As such, UNT is committed to maintaining an open, welcoming atmosphere that attracts qualified students, staff, and faculty from all groups to support their success. UNT does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, genetic information, or veteran status in its application and admission process, educational programs and activities, employment policies and use of university facilities. See: Diversity and Inclusion Link: https://idea.unt.edu/diversity-inclusion

Health and Safety Information

Students can access information about health and safety at: https://music.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness

Registration Information for Students See: Registration Information Link: https://registrar.unt.edu/students

Academic Calendar, Spring 2024 See: Spring 2024 Academic Calendar Link: https://registrar.unt.edu/registration/spring-registration-guide.html

Final Exam Schedule, Spring 2024

See above

Financial Aid and Satisfactory Academic Progress

Undergraduates

A student must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) to continue to receive financial aid. Students must maintain a minimum 2.0 cumulative GPA in addition to successfully completing a required number of credit hours based on total hours registered. Students cannot exceed attempted credit hours above 150% of their required degree plan. If a student does not maintain the required standards, the student may lose their financial aid eligibility.

Students holding music scholarships must maintain a minimum 2.5 overall cumulative GPA and 3.0 cumulative GPA in music courses.

If at any point you consider dropping this or any other course, please be advised that the decision to do so may have the potential to affect your current

and future financial aid eligibility. It is recommended that you to schedule a meeting with an academic advisor in your college or visit the Student Financial Aid and Scholarships office to discuss dropping a course before doing so. See: Financial Aid LINK: http://financialaid.unt.edu/sap

Graduates

A student must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) to continue to receive financial aid. Students must maintain a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA in addition to successfully completing a required number of credit hours based on total registered hours per term. Music scholarships require a 3.5 cumulative GPA. Students cannot exceed maximum timeframes established based on the published length of the graduate program. If a student does not maintain the required standards, the student may lose their financial aid eligibility.

If at any point you consider dropping this or any other course, please be advised that the decision to do so may have the potential to affect your current and future financial aid eligibility. It is recommended you schedule a meeting with an academic advisor in your college, an advisor in UNT-International or visit the Student Financial Aid and Scholarships office to discuss dropping a course. See: Financial Aid LINK: http://financialaid.unt.edu/sap

RETENTION OF STUDENT RECORDS

Student records pertaining to this course are maintained in a secure location by the instructor of record. All records such as exams, answer sheets (with keys), and written papers submitted during the duration of the course are kept for at least one calendar year after course completion. Course work completed via the Canvas online system, including grading information and comments, is also stored in a safe electronic environment for one year. You have a right to view your individual record; however, information about your records will not be divulged to other individuals without the proper written consent. You are encouraged to review the Public Information Policy and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) laws and the university’s policy in accordance with those mandates. See: FERPA Link: http://ferpa.unt.edu/

COUNSELING AND TESTING

UNT’s Center for Counseling and Testing has an available counselor for students in need. Please visit the Center’s website for further information: See: Counseling and Testing Link: http://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services.

For more information on mental health issues, please visit: See: Mental Health Issues Link: https://speakout.unt.edu.

ADD/DROP POLICY

Please be reminded that dropping classes or failing to complete and pass registered hours may make you ineligible for financial aid. In addition, if you drop below half-time enrollment you may be required to begin paying back your student loans. See Academic Calendar (listed above) for additional add/drop Information.

Drop Information: https://registrar.unt.edu/registration/spring-registration-guide.html

STUDENT RESOURCES

The University of North Texas has many resources available to students. For a complete list, go to: See: Student Resources Link: https://success.unt.edu/aa-sa-resources

(Note: A printer-friendly PDF version is available by clicking the green button on the home page)

CARE TEAM

The Care Team is a collaborative interdisciplinary committee of university officials that meets regularly to provide a response to student, staff, and faculty whose behavior could be harmful to themselves or others. See: Care Team Link: https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care-team