

Vocal Performance

Master of Music (MM)

The Master of Music in Performance program is designed to develop student musicianship and technical expertise through individual study, and through solo, ensemble, and chamber performance opportunities, all under the direction of faculty artists.

Course Requirements

A minimum of 36 credit hours with an overall grade point average of 3.0 or higher is required for the granting of the Master of Music, Vocal Performance degree.

The 36 credit hours are divided as follows (All courses are 3 credits unless noted.)

MUCH 611 Introduction to Graduate Study

MUCS 630 Performance Concentration (taken 4 times, 12 credits)

MUCP 640 Literature and Pedagogy (2 credits)

MUCP 618 Vocal Coaching (taken twice, 2 credits)

MUCP 633 Graduate Diction Seminar (2 credits)

MUCP 5xx or 6xx Performance elective

Music Theory or Music History/Literature Electives (9 credits)

a. at least three credits in music theory

b. at least three credits in music history and literature

MUCX 5xx or 6xx Non-performance elective (Music Education, Music Theory, or Music History course)

Additional Graduation Requirement

Each student in the Master of Music degree program in Vocal Performance must complete two capstone performance experiences:

- To be completed in the first year of the student's study, the first requirement may be satisfied by a recital not to exceed 60 minutes in length, a lecture-recital, a major opera role, or other significant performance experience agreed upon by the voice faculty. If the first performance is a recital, a recital hearing in front of the voice area faculty is required no later than two weeks prior to the scheduled recital date.
- To be completed in the student's final semester of student, the second experience is the final graduate recital, not to exceed 90 minutes in length. The recital will be evaluated by a committee of faculty members who also administer the final oral examination. For the final graduate recital, a recital hearing in front of the voice area faculty is required no later than two weeks prior to the scheduled recital date.
- The two capstone performance experiences cannot be completed during the same semester.
- Successful completion of the two capstone performance experiences is a requirement of the degree program.

Prior to the final graduate recital, the student will submit to the committee one of the following:

- detailed program notes of the works to be performed on the recital; *or*
- an analytical/historical paper focusing on the works to be performed on the recital.

The format will be at the discretion of the studio instructor. In either case, the document must include appropriate citations. The program notes or paper must be submitted to all committee members no later than four weeks before the recital. The committee must approve the submitted document no later than two weeks before the recital. If these deadlines are not met, the recital may be canceled at the discretion of the Associate Dean. The document will be discussed and defended during the final oral examination.

Below is more detailed information, from the Crane Student Handbook (<https://www.potsdam.edu/sites/default/files/CSH.pdf>):

Master of Music – Vocal Performance Information

Graduate Juries

All Graduate Voice Performance Majors are required to complete a jury each semester of their degree, except during a semester in which they perform a Recital Hearing or major Opera Role. Graduate juries will be held in 'levels week' (currently during final exam week) so all voice faculty will be in attendance. Graduate juries will include a minimum of 3 pieces of contrasting style and must include 3 different languages. Students will have 10 minutes in which to perform their jury. Please note: Individual teachers may require additional repertoire or require a student to perform a jury in a semester in which they have also performed a Recital Hearing or Opera role.

Recital Document and Final Oral Exam

There are two formats for the written part of the exam for Master of Music - Performance majors:

1. detailed program notes of the works to be performed on the recital; or
2. an analytical/historical paper focusing on the works to be performed on the recital.

Students should consult with their studio instructor well beforehand on which format will be done. The document will be discussed and defended during the final oral examination. The program notes or paper must be submitted to all committee members no later than four weeks before the recital. The committee must approve the submitted document no later than two weeks before the recital. If these deadlines are not met, the recital may be canceled at the discretion of the Associate Dean.

Vocal Performance Capstone Performance Experiences

Each student in the Master of Music Vocal Performance degree program must complete two capstone performance experiences:

To be completed in the first year of the student's study, the first requirement may be satisfied by a recital not to exceed 60 minutes in length, a lecture-recital, a major opera role, or other significant performance experience agreed upon by the voice faculty. If the first performance is a recital, a recital

hearing in front of the voice area faculty is required no later than two weeks prior to the schedule recital date.

To be completed in the student's final semester of student, the second experience is the final graduate recital, not to exceed 90 minutes in length. The recital will be evaluated by a committee of faculty members who also administer the final oral examination. For the final graduate recital, a recital hearing in front of the voice area faculty is required no later than two weeks prior to the schedule recital date.

The student's committee will grade the recital on a pass/fail system. Student must pass the recital prior to taking their final oral exam. The two capstone performance experiences cannot be completed during the same semester.

Successful completion of the two capstone performance experiences is a requirement of the degree program.

Students who do not pass either graduate performance experiences in their first attempt may attempt that requirement one additional time with approval of their studio teacher, committee, and the Crane Music Graduate Program Coordinator. Students will need to make this request in writing to the Crane Music Graduate Program Coordinator. Students who do not pass either performance experience requirement on the second attempt will be dismissed from the performance major.

Graduate Recital Committees

Each student in a Master of Music degree program will have a three-member committee who will evaluate their capstone work, which is the recital and recital document for Performance majors. This committee will also administer the student's final oral examination.

Master of Music – Vocal Performance majors will need to pick their committee at least eight weeks in advance of their first performance requirement (the 60-minute recital, lecture-recital, or other significant performance experience).

To establish a committee, the student should email the Crane Music Graduate Program Coordinator (the Crane Associate Dean) a list of three faculty members that the student would like to invite to serve on his or her examination committee.

For each performance student, their committee will consist of two members whose primary appointment is in the Performance Department and one member from outside the Performance Department. Only tenured or tenure-track faculty will be asked to serve on oral examination committees, barring extenuating circumstances.

Performance majors should include the date and time of their recital, when it is known, as well as suggested dates and times for their oral exam (which will always occur after the recital), as their committee will evaluate their recital as well as administer the final oral exam. Recitals and final oral exams will not normally be conducted outside of the fall and spring semesters.

The Crane Music Graduate Program Coordinator will approve all proposed committees, communicate with the faculty regarding their willingness to serve, and inform the student and faculty of the final committee make-up. The Music Graduate Program Coordinator will also work with the student and faculty members to schedule the final oral exam time and place and communicate the details to everyone involved.

Final Oral Examination for Performance Majors

The final oral exam for performance majors will cover any aspect of the student's recital, recital document, and/or other relevant topics.

Students who do not pass the final oral exam in their first attempt may take the exam one additional time with approval of their orals committee and the Crane Music Graduate Program Coordinator. Students will need to make this request in writing to the Crane Music Graduate Program Coordinator. Students who do not pass the oral exam on the second attempt will be dismissed from their major.