

**BOARD OF GOVERNORS
STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA
NEW DOCTORAL DEGREE PROPOSAL STAFF ANALYSIS**

Program: Doctor of Musical Arts (DMA)
Institution: University of Florida
Staffed By: Dr. Traki L. Taylor

CIP Code: 50.0901
Proposed Implementation Date: Fall 2019
Initial Review Date: 3/20/18 **Last Update:** 10/18/18

Projected program costs:

	Total	% & \$ Current Reallocated	% & \$ New Recurring	% & \$ New Non- Recurring	% & \$ C&G	% & \$ Philanthropy & Endowment	Auxiliary Funds	Cost per FTE	SUS 16-17 Average Cost per FTE
Year 1	\$117,355	100% \$117,355	0% \$0	0% \$0	0% \$0	0% \$0	\$0	\$31,295	\$18,237.60 *50 CIP
Year 5	\$315,727	100% \$315,727	0% \$0	0% \$0	0% \$0	0% \$0	\$0	\$28,065	

Projected FTE and Headcount are:

	Student Headcount	Student FTE
First Year	5	5
Second Year	7	7
Third Year	10	10
Fourth Year	12	12
Fifth Year	15	15

On March 29, 2007, the Florida Board of Governors approved Board Regulation 8.011, which sets forth criteria for implementation and authorization of new doctorates by the Board of Governors, as well as criteria for implementation and authorization of Bachelor's, Master's and Specialist degrees by Boards of Trustees. The following staff analysis is an assessment of how well the university meets Board Accountability and Readiness criteria for implementation of this degree program.

Proposal Page Numbers:

INTRODUCTION		ACCOUNTABILITY		READINESS				
Program Description	Board Goals	Overall	Budget	Mission and Strength	Program Quality	Curriculum	Faculty	Resources
2	4	5	9	12	16	16	30	32

A. Program Description:

The University of Florida (UF), College of the Arts, School of Music, is proposing to establish a doctoral degree program in Musical Arts. Students will select a concentration in performance, composition, instrumental conducting, or coral conducting. The proposed Doctor of Musical Arts (DMA) will require students to select a secondary cognate area in a discipline outside of music such as Engineering, Entrepreneurship, Management, Arts in Medicine, or Digital Media. This component will give the program national distinction (p. 2).

Each student will benefit from face-to-face and online teaching experiences. They will present newly created work in collaborative engagement between performers and composers from UF, SUS and private areas. Capstone experiences include solo and chamber music recitals, lecture recitals and a substantial research document that integrates music studies with the candidate's cognate area (p. 2).

The purpose of the DMA program is to prepare highly qualified students for higher education and artistic occupations. Potential employment opportunities include orchestra positions, composers, and artistic healthcare positions (p. 2). Employment data varies by cognate (p. 5).

The DMA will require 90 credits of coursework beyond the bachelor's degree, with a maximum of 30 credits transferred from a master's degree. The program requirements include major core coursework (28-36 credits), supportive courses in music (29-36 credits), cognate courses (15-21 credits), and a capstone activity (9-12 credits- project and doctoral research credits) (p. 17).

B. System-Level Analysis and Evaluation in accordance with BOG Regulation 8.011:

The proposal provides alignment of the program with the State University System strategic plan. The program will strengthen the quality and reputation of the academic programs and university as well as strengthen the qualifications and competitiveness of UF graduates. Additionally, the program would contribute to the SUS goals of teaching and learning, research, scholarship, innovation, and community and business engagement (p. 4). The program will increase collaboration between the University of Florida and the private industry to facilitate more research funding and employment opportunities for graduates (p. 4).

Need for Graduates in the Labor Market

The proposal documents the demand for post-secondary art, drama, and music teachers (p. 5).

Source	Occupations (CIP 50.0901 Music, General)	Projections	Entry-level Ed.
BLS*	Musicians and Singers	6%	No formal education credential
BLS	Secondary School Teachers Except Special Education and Technical Education	8%	Bachelor's Degree
DEO**	Secondary School Teachers Except Special Education and Technical Education	11%	Bachelor's Degree
DEO	Musicians and Singers	9.3%	No formal education credential

*Employment Change: BLS 2016-2026 ([BLS](#))

**Statewide and Regional Projections (FL) 2017-2025 ([FL DEO](#))

Source	Occupations (CIP 50.0903, Music Performance)	Projections	Entry-level Ed.
BLS*	Art, Drama, and Music Teachers, Postsecondary	12%	Master's Degree or Higher
BLS	Music Directors & Composers	6%	Bachelor's Degree
BLS	Musicians & Singers	6%	No formal education credential
DEO**	Art, Drama, and Music Teachers, Postsecondary	13.7%	Master's Degree or Higher
DEO	Musicians and Singers	9.3%	No formal education credential
DEO	Music Directors and Composers	9.4%	Bachelor's Degree

*National Employment Change: BLS 2016-2026 ([BLS](#))

**Statewide and Regional Projections (FL) 2017-2025 ([FL DEO](#))

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics growth in post-secondary art, drama, and music teaching is predicted to be 12% through 2026. Growth at the state and local level is predicted to be 13.7% through 2025. The minimum education credentialing for music occupations varies.

An online search by board staff of related employment opportunities of HigherEdJobs on September 5, 2018 returned 38 full-time positions (DMA degree preferred or required). A search for full-time mid-level to senior level music positions in Florida on Indeed.com on September 5, 2018, returned 149 advertisements.

Specific job opportunities tied to cognate areas are provided and discussed. The proposal states that data on specific outcomes is not yet known for this new

interdisciplinary curriculum, but reasonable projections are possible with existing data from related cognate fields (pp. 5-6).

The proposal notes opportunities for internships with industry in the local area. For example Ocala Symphony Orchestra, Great Southern Music, and D'Addario are possible internship placements for graduates (p. 36).

Student Demand for the Program

Regarding student demand, the proposal notes that the School of Music conducted a survey of the following:

- University of Florida alumni (N=17)
- Faculty members in a Department or School of Music (N=8)
- Current doctoral students (N=2)
- Current master's students (N=1)
- Music industry professionals (N=5)

Of the 33 respondents 79% (n = 26) responded to the following question, "Based on the proposed degree description and your knowledge of the University of Florida and the School of Music, how interested would you be in pursuing the proposed DMA yourself, or recommending the degree to your students or colleagues?" Sixty-two percent (N=16) responded that they would be extremely interested or very interested in recommending or pursuing a DMA at the University of Florida (Appendix C).

Substantially Similar Programs

Within the SUS, the University of Florida (UF), the University of South Florida-Tampa (USF-T) and Florida State University (FSU) offer a variety of graduate music degree programs. Only FSU offers a DMA and graduated six students in 2010-2011. Outside of the State University System, the University of Miami offers three DMA degrees. One in coral conducting, one in composition and one in performance.

The University of Florida already offers the following degree programs in CIP 50.0901:

- Ph.D. in Composition, Theory, and Technology
- Ph.D. in Music Education
- Ph.D. in Musicology and Ethnomusicology

The University of South Florida-Tampa offers the following degree program in CIP 50.0901:

- Ph.D. in Music Education

Florida State University offers the following degree program in CIP 50.0903:

- DMA in Composition
- DMA in Performance (various concentrations available)

- Ph.D. in Music Education (various concentrations available)

Florida State University offers the following degree program in CIP 50.0904:

- Ph.D. in Music Theory and Composition.

Florida State University offers the following degree program in CIP 50.0905:

- Ph.D. in Musicology (various concentrations available)

The University of Miami offers the following degree programs:

- DMA in Choral Conducting
- DMA in Composition (various concentrations available)
- DMA in Performance (various concentrations available)
- Ph.D. in Music Education (concentration in Music Therapy available)

The enrollment and degrees awarded for Ph.D.'s in CIP 50.0901, 50.0903, 50.0904, and 50.0905 across the State University System are included below:

Table 1: Fall Enrollment, Ph.D. in Music (CIP 50.0901)

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
UF	25	26	22	22	22
USF - T	16	19	16	18	17

Source: Florida Board of Governors, Interactive University Database, retrieved September 4, 2018

Table 2: Degrees Awarded, Ph.D. in Music (CIP 50.0901)*

	2013 - 2014	2014 -2015	2015- 2016
UF	8	4	4
USF - T	2	3	3

Source: Florida Board of Governors, Interactive University Database, retrieved September 4, 2018

*There are no professional doctorate degrees awarded under this CIP in the SUS to date.

Table 3: Fall Enrollment, Ph.D. in Music Performance (CIP: 50.0903)

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
FSU	86	87	93	89	92

Source: Florida Board of Governors, Interactive University Database, retrieved September 4, 2018

Table 4: Degrees Awarded, Ph.D. in Music Performance (CIP: 50.0903)*

	2013 - 2014	2014 - 2015	2015 - 2016
FSU	28	25	19

Source: Florida Board of Governors, Interactive University Database, retrieved September 4, 2018

*FSU graduated 6 professional doctorates in 2010-2011

Table 5: Fall Enrollment, Ph.D. in Music Theory and Composition (CIP 50.0904)

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
FSU	22	24	22	22	20

Source: Florida Board of Governors, Interactive University Database, retrieved September 4, 2018

Table 6: Degrees Awarded, Ph.D. in Music Theory and Composition (CIP: 50.0904)

	2013 - 2014	2014 - 2015	2015 - 2016
FSU	3	7	2

Source: Florida Board of Governors, Interactive University Database, retrieved September 4, 2018

Table 7: Fall Enrollment, Ph.D. in Musicology (CIP 50.0905)

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
FSU	33	34	27	28	25

Source: Florida Board of Governors, Interactive University Database, retrieved September 4, 2018

Table 8: Degrees Awarded, Ph.D. in Musicology (CIP: 50.0905)

	2013 - 2014	2014 - 2015	2015 - 2016
FSU	3	7	5

Source: Florida Board of Governors, Interactive University Database, retrieved September 4, 2018

The projected headcount enrollment is five for the first year and 15 by year five. The proposal states that the primary source of students for this program will be agencies and industries in the service area (Appendix A, Table 1-B). Other sources of students include individuals who graduated from other degree programs at other Florida public universities, individuals who graduated from degree programs at non-public Florida institutions and individuals who graduated from degree programs at the University of Florida (Appendix A, Table 1-B).

The proposal notes that UF has been in consultation with Deans of Music and faculty members at the University of Miami and Florida State University. No official concerns regarding the implementation of the proposed program were expressed. Additionally, the Dean of the College of Arts at the University of South Florida–Tampa also expressed no official concerns about the proposed program (p. 9).

External Consultant’s Report

Dr. Daniel Sher, Dean Emeritus of the College of Music at the University of Colorado Boulder, reviewed the University of Florida’s proposal for the establishment of Doctor of Musical Arts degree and provided a letter of support for the program. Dr. Sher noted that having students specialize in a cognate area from a non-music specialty, as setting this program apart from other music DMA programs in the state and at the national level. Dr. Sher noted that the faculty was well credentialed and the faculty’s focus on

collaborative work elevated the University of Florida's School of Music. Dr. Sher, did note that the music facilities at the University of Florida are in need of updating in order to improve student success. Dr. Sher, was strongly in support of the development of a Doctorate in Musical Arts degree program at the University of Florida (pp. 3-4 and Appendix E).

Summary

The University of Florida is proposing to develop a Doctor of Musical Arts degree program. Students will specialize in composition, performance, instrumental conducting, or choral conducting and will be required to select a cognate area in a non-music subfield such as engineering, arts in medicine, or entrepreneurship as part of their DMA studies (p. 2). This would be first DMA program that would require students to select a non-music cognate as part of their course of study (p. 5). Within the State University System, Florida State University (FSU) offers several Ph.D. programs in Music as well as offering a DMA program. The University of South Florida-Tampa offers a Ph.D. in Music with a focus in Music Education and the University of Florida currently offers a Ph.D. in Music. The proposal only provides possible cognate courses in Arts in Medicine, Entrepreneurship, Health, Medicine, and Business (pp. 28-29). Curriculum details for cognates such as Engineering and Digital Arts and Media are not provided (p. 28-29).

The University of Florida already has an existing Ph.D. program in CIP 50.0901. FSU has an existing DMA program, but this program does not have its own CIP Code separate from their other music program. UF is using this model and classifying their DMA as a professional doctorate. However, DMA programs are typically classified as research graduate degrees (R) and not (P).

Although this program will offer graduates a specific type of training that is highly specialized and may fill a niche market, the Board staff review indicates there are limited occupations linked to this type of training. In general, there does appear to be growing demand for music graduates trained in most of the cognate fields connected to the teaching profession. The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that growth in post-secondary art, drama, and music teaching is predicted to be 15%, which reflects an above average growth rate through 2026, however, growth at the local and state level appears to be on much a smaller scale.

The external reviewer was in favor of the development of this program and spoke of the uniqueness of the curriculum with respect cognate areas, however, music facilities and resources would need to be updated in order to ensure student success.

C. Assessment of the University Review Process in accordance with BOG Regulation 8.011:

Due to the system of stair step accountability set in place by the Board of Governors in Regulation 8.011, it is now incumbent upon University Board of Trustees to verify that all doctoral programs coming before the Board of Governors have met the requirements of the regulation. The following is an assessment of the university review process to ensure that all criteria set forth have been considered by the university prior to submission to the Board of Governors office.

ACCOUNTABILITY

Check 'yes' or 'no' box, and make comments beneath criterion as appropriate.

1. Overall – *The proposal is in the correct format, includes all necessary signatures, and contains complete and accurate tables for enrollment projections, faculty effort, and the proposed budget.*

YES NO

The proposal has been approved by the university board of trustees and includes all required signatures.

The proposed program was approved by the University of Florida Board of Trustees on December 15, 2017.

The university has provided a proposal written in the standard SUS format which addresses new academic program approval criteria outlined in BOG Regulation 8.011.

The new academic program proposal was written in the standard SUS format and in accordance with the criteria set forth in Board Regulation 8.011.

The pre-proposal was reviewed by the Council of Academic Vice Presidents (CAVP) workgroup and any concerns identified by the group have been listed and addressed in the proposal.

The pre-proposal was presented to the CAVP February 10, 2017 and no formal concerns requiring a response were raised (p. 3).

The university has provided data that supports the need for an additional program in the State University System as well as letters of support or concern from the provosts of other state universities with substantially similar programs.

The proposal included internal letters of support from various UF disciplines (Attachment A) but did not include external letters of support from other SUS institutions or industry professionals, outside of Dr. Daniel Sher, the external reviewer from the University of Colorado, Boulder. While the unique features of this program that distinguish it from others was made clear, the only documented labor market demand for the program was for postsecondary teachers.

- The university has provided complete and accurate projected enrollment, faculty effort, and budget tables that are in alignment with each other.**
- The university has included a statement in the proposal signed by the equity officer as to how this proposal will meet the goals of the university's equity accountability plan.**

University of Florida's Equal Opportunity Officer reviewed and signed the proposal on March 2, 2017.

- The program does not substantially duplicate programs at FAMU or FIU or, if it does, evidence was provided that consultations have occurred with the affected university on the impact of the new program on existing programs.**

FAMU and FIU do not offer DMA programs (p. 9).

2. Budget – The proposal presents a complete and realistic budget for the program consistent with university and BOG policy, and shows that any redirection of funding will not have an unjustified negative impact on other needed programs.

YES NO

- The University Board of Trustees has approved the most recent budget for this proposal.**

The current budget was approved by the University Board of Trustees on December 15, 2017.

- The university has reviewed the budget for the program to ensure that it is complete and reasonable, and the budget appears in alignment with expenditures by similar programs at other SUS institutions.**

The projected E&G cost per FTE in year one (1) is \$31,295.00 and in year five (5) is \$28,065.00. The costs for the program are higher than the calculated average cost per FTE of \$18,237.60 for CIP 50 as provided in the 2016-17 expenditure analysis report. The range of costs associated with the average E&G Cost per FTE can vary considerably by university due to factors related to enrollment scale and diversity of programs in CIP 50.

- The proposal indicates that the program will follow the cost-recovery or market-rate funding models. If so, details and timelines for getting approvals for these funding models are included in the proposal.**

N/A

- In the event that resources within the institution are redirected to support the new program, the university has identified this redirection and determined that it will not have a negative impact on undergraduate education, or the university has provided a reasonable explanation for any impact of this redirection.**

The proposal indicates that the implementation of the Doctorate of Musical Arts will have no negative impact on other existing programs or services. The MM (Master of Music), from which this program will draw students, will only be impacted by reduction in size (p. 10).

READINESS

Check 'yes' or 'no' box, and make comments beneath criterion as appropriate.

3. Program Quality – The proposal provides evidence that the university planning activities have been sufficient and responses to any recommendations to program reviews or accreditation activities in the discipline pertinent to the proposed program have been addressed.

YES NO

- The university has followed a collaborative planning process for the proposed program in accordance with policies and procedures adopted by the University Board of Trustees.**

The proposal describes a collaborative planning process involving program faculty, faculty senate, administrators, the Associate Provost, the Council of Academic Vice Presidents, the Deans and an Associate Dean of Colleges of Arts (UF and other institutions), accrediting bodies, faculty at other SUS institutions, UBOT and an external reviewer. A chronological table outlining the collaborative planning process is included in the proposal on page 15.

- An external consultant has reviewed the proposal and supports the department's capability of successfully implementing this new program.**

Dr. Daniel Sher, Dean Emeritus of the College of Music at the University of Colorado Boulder, reviewed the University of Florida's proposal for the establishment of Doctor of Musical Arts degree and provided a letter of support for the program. Dr. Sher noted that having students specialize in a cognate area from a non-music specialty, as setting this program apart from other music DMA programs in the state and at the national level. Dr. Sher noted that the faculty was well credentialed and the faculty's focus on collaborative work elevated the University of Florida's School of Music. Dr. Sher, did note that the music facilities at the University of Florida are in need of updating in order to improve student success. Dr. Sher, was strongly in support of the development of a Doctorate in Musical Arts degree program at the University of Florida (pp. 3-4 and Appendix E).

- The university has found the level of progress that the department has made in implementing the recommendations from program reviews or accreditation activities in the discipline pertinent to the proposed program to be satisfactory.**

- The university has analyzed the feasibility of providing all or a portion of the proposed program through distance learning.**

According to the proposal, the degree will be offered at the University of Florida's main campus in Gainesville. Students may have the ability to complete portions of their degree online as cognate options may include online course work (p. 5).

- If necessary, the university has made allowances for licensure and legislative approval to be obtained in a timely manner.**

N/A

4. Curriculum – The proposal provides evidence that the university has evaluated the proposed curriculum and found that it describes an appropriate and sequenced course of study, and that the university has evaluated the appropriateness of specialized accreditation for the program.

YES NO

- The university has reviewed the curriculum and found that the course of study presented is appropriate to meet specific learning outcomes and industry driven competencies discussed in the proposal.**

Per the proposal, the Doctorate of Musical Arts will consist of 90 credit hours beyond the Bachelor's degree. The curriculum breakdown includes:

- 28-36 credit hours of major core coursework;
- 29-36 credits of supportive courses in music;
- 15-21 credits in the cognate area; and
- 9-12 credits of capstone activity (project and doctoral research credits).

Students will specialize in one of four concentrations (composition, instrumental conducting, choral conducting, or performance). Students will also select one cognate area that is not in a music discipline. Possible cognate areas include but are not limited to: Engineering, Entrepreneurship, Business, and Arts in Medicine. Students will also have to premiere at least one new composition, pass a comprehensive written exam, capstone recital(s), and develop and successfully defend an interdisciplinary doctoral research project (p. 17).

The proposal identifies the required core courses, concentration courses, cognate courses, and the capstone experience, and includes a sequenced course of study for the proposed program. The proposal describes specific learning outcomes relating to knowledge, skills, and professional behavior (pp. 16-17). Possible cognate courses that students may enroll in are, included for entrepreneurship, health, business and arts in medicine, but not the other cognates (pp. 29).

Instrumental Conducting requires a foreign language reading requirement in German or French that is not required for the other three concentrations. The parameters for satisfying this requirement are not outlined in the proposal (p. 19).

Finally, the proposal mentions that a maximum of 30 credit hours can be transferred from the Master's degree (p. 3) but there is no explanation of how credits would transfer from a Master's degree in the curriculum section of the proposal (pp.18-29).

- The university anticipates seeking accreditation for the proposed doctoral program, or provides a reasonable explanation as to why accreditation is not being sought.**

The University of Florida's School of Music is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music (NASM) and is currently in good standing (p. 16) and this was verified by Board staff on September 4, 2018. The last comprehensive review was 2010. The next NASM program review is scheduled for Academic Year (AY) 2019-2020.

The proposed Doctorate of Musical Arts was developed in consultation with NASM. In accordance with the NASM accrediting schedule, upon receiving institutional approval, the UF DMA was presented to NASM in October, 2017 for consideration at the November 2017 meeting of the NASM Commission on Accreditation. In December, 2017, the School of Music received notification of full accreditation (no revisions requested) of all concentrations of the DMA and with special commendation on the proposal (p. 30).

5. Faculty – The proposal provides evidence that the university is prepared to ensure a critical mass of faculty will be available to initiate the program based on estimated enrollments, and that faculty in the aggregate have the necessary experience and research activity to sustain a doctoral program.

YES NO

- The university has reviewed the evidence provided and found that there is a critical mass of faculty available to initiate the program based on estimated enrollments.**

According to Appendix A, Table 4, 12 tenured faculty members will be affiliated with the program. The faculty includes nine professors and three (3) associate professors.

- The university has reviewed the evidence provided and found that the faculty in aggregate has the necessary experience and research activity to sustain the program.**

Appendix A, Table 4 of the proposal identifies the academic discipline for all current faculty to be in Music. All faculty have an additional related specialty (Composition, Conducting, or specialized instrument). Ten faculty have a DMA, one faculty member has a Ph.D., and one faculty member has a MM. According to the proposal, the University of Florida, current graduate enrollment for 2016-2017 stands at 171 majors (p. 31). The proposal reports that since the School of Music instituted formal annual assessments of learning outcomes in 2011, School of Music students (graduate and undergraduate) have averaged 4.47 out of 5 across all programs (p. 31). Faculty have relevant teaching, research, grant acquisition and national and international experiences (Appendix D). Departmental and campus and external community services are also noted (p. 32).

- The university has reviewed the evidence provided and found the academic unit(s) associated with this new degree to be productive in teaching, research, and service.**

Faculty who will contribute to the program have been active in teaching, research, and service (p 32 and Appendix D). The abbreviated curriculum vitae for faculty who are projected to supervise doctoral students through year five are included in the proposal (Appendix D).

- If appropriate, the university has committed to hiring additional faculty in later years, based on estimated enrollments.**

N/A

6. Resources – *The proposal provides evidence that the university has ensured the available library volumes and serials; classroom, teaching laboratory, research laboratory, office space, equipment, clinical and internship sites, fellowships, scholarships, and graduate assistantships will be sufficient to initiate the program, and that if applicable, funding has been secured to make more resources available as students proceed through the program..*

YES NO

- The university has provided a signed statement from the Library Director verifying that the library volumes and serials available are sufficient to initiate the program.**

The libraries of the University of Florida form the largest information resource system in the state of Florida (p. 33). The library director signed off on the proposal on March 2, 2017. Resources include, but are not limited to, print and electronic journals, electronic books, and databases (pp. 33-34).

- The university has ensured that the physical space necessary for the proposed program, including classrooms, laboratories and office space, is sufficient to initiate the program.**

According to the proposal, additional space is not needed to support this program (p. 35). The external consultant (Appendix E) raised concerns regarding the outdated music facilities and whether these existing resources would ensure student success (Appendix E).

- The university has ensured that necessary equipment is available to initiate the program.**

According to the proposal, no additional or specialized equipment is needed for the proposed program (p. 35).

- The university has ensured that fellowships, scholarships, and graduate assistantships are sufficient to initiate the program.**

Fifteen graduate assistantships from the current Master of Music program, totaling \$219,956.00 will be reallocated to the Doctorate of Musical Arts by years five (p. 36).

- If applicable, the university has ensured that the department has arranged a suitable number of clinical and internship sites.**

Per the proposal, industry professionals have been contacted about this program and the proposal states that internship opportunities will be available for students at the local and national level (p. 36).

Analyst's comments: This program could have a strong impact on the arts and other creative communities. The proposal is detailed and well thought out. UF has already sent the proposal through their accrediting body for music (NASM) and had the proposal approved. With this in mind, the program will be ready to start strong if approved by the BOG. Additional clarity could

still be helpful around the cognates. It appears that the opportunities in that area are limitless. With this in mind, regulation and oversight will be critical.

While there are other DMAs in Florida, UF's proposed degree has a niche that places it in a unique position. Unlike other DMAs, the University of Florida's program offers four concentrations (Performance, Composition, Instrumental Conducting, and Coral Conducting) with cognates in various fields that allows each candidate the ability to craft/create a degree that will afford them the education, training and experience to creatively impact multiple fields in ways that sets this degree apart from others in the state.