

**Notice of Motion from the Music Graduate Committee:**

Eliminate the supporting area for DMA and PhD students.

**Rationale for eliminating supporting area:**

In recent years, we have noticed that there has been an increase in the number of Individualized Research supporting area proposals. In large part, this is because our long-established supporting areas are not meeting the curricular and professional needs for students in our degree programs. It has also been challenging for new doctoral students to declare a supporting area during their first year. Since the removal of the supporting area application from the admission process, first-year doctoral students are finding that they do not meet admission requirements into our supporting areas.

While the supporting area has been valuable in broadening the knowledge and skill set of our doctoral graduates (making them more marketable for academic jobs), the supporting area itself does not appear on the transcript. In addition to this, our supporting areas are extremely disproportionate (ranging from 18-46 credits), have rigorous admission requirements, and require a comprehensive exam. In the case of the Individualized Research supporting area, the comprehensive exam (which is a requirement for advancement to candidacy) has become a burden for faculty to administer.

We acknowledge the breadth that the supporting areas bring to the doctoral curriculum and invite proposals for certificate programs to take their place.