These suggested timelines should be used as guides when creating a student's degree plan. Students must submit the degree plan by the end of the second semester of study.

First Semester
- Register for 9 credits.

1. Take entrance examinations in music history and theory and register for any required remedial courses.
2. Review any foreign language requirements for the degree concentration (see 3.6 in the Graduate Handbook).
3. Review the degree plan and begin to map out the timeline for completing the degree (see 6.12 in the Graduate Handbook).
4. Establish doctoral committee in consultation with major professor.

Second Semester
- Register for 9 credits.

5. Submit Doctoral degree plan to the School of Music Graduate Studies Office.
6. Fulfill the residency requirement by completing at least two successive semesters as a full-time student.

Third Semester
- Register for 9 credits.

8. Complete any foreign language requirements by the end of this semester.

Fourth Semester
- Register for 9 credits.

9. Take the Qualifying Exams the week before the semester begins. (see 6.6 in the Graduate Handbook).

Fifth Semester
- Register for 6-9 credits.

10. Take written and oral Comprehensive Exams (see 6.7 in the Graduate Handbook). Once the Comprehensive Exams are passed doctoral candidacy is granted.

Sixth Semester
- Register for MUTC 9000

11. At the beginning of the semester, apply to graduate (see 6.11 in the Graduate Handbook).
12. Submit approved dissertation to your doctoral committee at least one month in advance of the defense (see 6.10 in the Graduate Handbook).
14. Submit a copy of the final version of the document/dissertation to the Graduate School.