

## **M.A. IN MUSICOLOGY**

The MA in Musicology serves as an introduction to the field of musicology and as a first step on the way to a Ph.D. and a professional career in the field. It can also serve as a qualification on its own for a range of professional careers that require research skills in music.

Incoming students will be assigned to the program advisor, who will advise them on course selection for their first year in the program. By the end of their second semester, students should choose their thesis advisor.

Working with their advisor, the student will select one language, other than their native language, in which they must demonstrate reading knowledge. To fulfill this language requirement, students may either take and pass four semesters of the language at the undergraduate level or pass an examination designed by the faculty to assess reading knowledge of the language at a level suitable for research in music.

There are two options for the final project: a thesis option and a non-thesis option.

### **Thesis Option**

The thesis option requires six credits of MUSC 799, and may take one of three forms:

1. a substantial document (usually between sixty and eighty pages of text)
2. an article suitable for submission to a refereed journal; or
3. a public sector/applied project that includes a supplemental written document explaining its methodologies and results

All three of these options must include a central thesis, use scholarly argumentation, and make a meaningful contribution to the field. As MA theses must be submitted to the Graduate School, it is expected that all three options will include a substantive and original written component. All three thesis options include the following benchmarks:

1. a one-page description of the project submitted to the advisor at the end of the spring semester of the student's first year;
2. a proposal and literature review of fifteen to twenty pages plus bibliography submitted to the advisor and committee at the beginning of the fall semester of the second year;
3. a workshop presentation of approximately fifteen minutes on the thesis progress by the end of the fall semester of the second year
4. the creation of a thesis committee consisting of three faculty members, including the advisor; and
5. completion and formal defense of the project by mid-April of the second year.

Students choosing the thesis option must be enrolled for thesis credit (MUSC 799) or in at least one other course approved by the advisor during the semester of the defense.

### **Non-Thesis Option**

The non-thesis option requires two 600-level seminars approved by the advisor (in addition to the Required Program of Study, outlined below), which include substantial written papers as course requirements. By mid-April of the second year, the student will present a formal defense of the two papers to a committee consisting of the advisor and two additional faculty members.

**Required Program of Study (30 credits)**

**MAJOR STUDIES IN MUSIC (15 credits minimum)**

___ MUSC 646	Introduction to Musicology	3 cr.
___ MUSC 6xx	Seminar	3 cr.
___ MUSC 6xx	Seminar	3 cr.

*Thesis Option:*

___ MUSC 799	Thesis Research	6 cr.
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*or*

*Non-Thesis Option:*

___ MUSC 6xx	Seminar	3 cr.
___ MUSC 6xx	Seminar	3 cr.

**STUDIES IN AREAS SUPPORTING THE MAJOR (15 credits minimum)**

In consultation with their advisor, the student will select a minimum of fifteen credits of elective courses at the graduate level, of which at least nine credits must be in disciplines outside of musicology, but relevant to the student's work (for example, ethnomusicology, music theory, music education, or performance). Students are strongly encouraged to enroll in MUSC 677 (Introduction to Ethnomusicology).

**LECTURE SERIES, COLLOQUIUM, AND CONFERENCE PAPERS OFF CAMPUS**

Students in the musicology program are expected to attend all Music Scholars Lecture Series events and all Musicology/Ethnomusicology Colloquium events, which are usually held on Friday afternoons at 4:00pm. If you cannot attend, you must inform your advisor. Students are also encouraged but not required to submit their own research for academic conferences. Before submission of a conference proposal for review by the program committee, students must have received the permission of their advisor to do so. All papers presented at conferences off campus must first be read at divisional colloquia.

**CHECKLIST FOR OTHER REQUIREMENTS**

**Completed prior to matriculation**

- \_\_\_ Placement examination (required of all students)
- \_\_\_ Maryland English Institute examinations (for international students)

**Completed in the final semester of study**

- \_\_\_ Apply for diploma within the first two weeks of the semester of graduation
- \_\_\_ Thesis committee form returned to the Music Student Services Office (for thesis option)
- \_\_\_ Approved program form returned to the Music Student Services Office
- \_\_\_ Submission of the completed thesis to the committee at least seven working days before the final oral defense of the thesis or paper, and a successful oral defense (for thesis option)
- \_\_\_ Submit thesis to the Graduate School per their [guidelines](#)