

**DIVISION OF MUSICOLOGY & ETHNOMUSICOLOGY**  
**MA Policies & Requirements**

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**MA IN ETHNOMUSICOLOGY**

The MA in Ethnomusicology serves as an introduction to the discipline of ethnomusicology 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 ethnomusicology.

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.

Students typically register for MUSC 677 (Introduction to Ethnomusicology) in the fall semester of their first year, and MUSC 633 (Field Methods in Ethnomusicology) in the spring semester of their first year. Students are strongly encouraged to enroll in MUSC 646 (Introduction to Musicology) in their first or second year in the program. Other courses taken during the first year are chosen in consultation with the program advisor. In the second year, students select from a variety of courses offered by the School of Music and other departments.

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.

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

- 1) a substantial document (usually between 60 and 80 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.

All three of these options must include a central thesis, use scholarly argumentation, and make a meaningful contribution to the field.

All three thesis options will 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 full proposal submitted to the advisor at the beginning of the fall semester of the second year;
- 3) a workshop presentation 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 graduate 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 in three credits of thesis research (MUSC 799) in each semester of their second year, for a total of six credits of MUSC 799.

The non-thesis option requires two 600-level seminars (in addition to the Required Program of Study explained on the next page) that include substantial written papers. Students choosing the non-thesis option must submit two 600-level seminar papers to the advisor by the end of the fall semester of the second year. 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 (18 credits minimum)

____MUSC 633	Field Methods in Ethnomusicology	3 cr.
____MUSC 677	Introduction to Ethnomusicology	3 cr.
____MUSC 679	Seminar in Ethnomusicology	3 cr.
____MUSC 679	Seminar in Ethnomusicology	3 cr.

#### *Thesis Option:*

____MUSC 799	Thesis Research or	6 cr.
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#### *Non-Thesis Option:*

____MUSC 6xx	Seminar	3 cr.
____MUSC 6xx	Seminar	3 cr.

### STUDIES IN AREAS SUPPORTING THE MAJOR (12 credits minimum)

In consultation with their advisor, the student will select a minimum of twelve credits of electives, of which at least nine credits must be fulfilled through non-ethnomusicology courses offered by the School of Music (i.e., courses in musicology, music theory, music education, composition, and/or performance). Internship credits for public sector work with the Smithsonian Institution, the Library of Congress, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the National Endowment for the Humanities, are available under MUSC 699. Students are strongly encouraged to enroll in MUSC 646 (Introduction to Musicology).

### LECTURE SERIES AND COLLOQUIUM

Students in the ethnomusicology program are expected to attend all Musicology/Ethnomusicology Colloquium events, including all Music Scholars Lecture Series events. These meetings are usually held on Friday afternoons at 4:00pm. If you cannot attend an event, you must inform your advisor.

Students are encouraged to submit their own research for academic conferences. Before submission of an abstract to a conference, each student must have received the permission of their advisor. All papers must be read at division colloquia prior to being presented off campus.

### CHECKLIST FOR MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

#### **Completed prior to matriculation**

\_\_\_\_ [Maryland English Institute examinations](#) (for international Teaching Assistants who do not meet the minimum requirements for teaching assistantships)

#### **Completed in the first semester of study**

\_\_\_\_ Select and register for fall and spring courses, including language courses if necessary

#### **Completed in the second semester of study**

\_\_\_\_ Choose advisor

\_\_\_\_ Complete language examination, if necessary

\_\_\_\_ Select and register for fall courses, including language courses if necessary

\_\_\_\_ For thesis option: submit one-page description of thesis project

#### **Completed in the third semester of study**

\_\_\_\_ For thesis option: submit thesis proposal (beginning of fall), workshop presentation of thesis project (end of fall), reach out to potential committee members

\_\_\_\_ Select and register for spring courses, including language courses if necessary

#### **Completed in the fourth semester of study ([graduation deadlines](#))**

\_\_\_\_ Submit application for graduation within the first two weeks of the semester

\_\_\_\_\_ Return approved program form to the Music Student Services Office

\_\_\_\_\_ For thesis option:

\_\_\_\_\_ Confirm members of thesis committee early in the semester

\_\_\_\_\_ Submit Nomination of Thesis Committee within the first five weeks of the semester

\_\_\_\_\_ Return committee form to the Music Student Services Office at least 6 weeks before the defense

\_\_\_\_\_ Schedule oral defense of thesis with committee (which should take place at least 2 weeks before the deposit deadline)

\_\_\_\_\_ Submit thesis to advisor and make revisions

\_\_\_\_\_ Submit thesis to all committee members at least 2 weeks before the scheduled defense

\_\_\_\_\_ Final oral defense of the thesis

\_\_\_\_\_ Submit thesis to the Graduate School per their [guidelines](#)