

PH.D. IN MUSICOLOGY

The curriculum in musicology emphasizes music as a historical phenomenon and the scholarly methods of the cultural historian.

The coursework usually totals thirty-nine credits beyond the master's degree and must include:

- MUSC 646 (Introduction to Musicology, usually taken in the first semester)
- MUSC 677 (Introduction to Ethnomusicology, usually taken in the first semester)
- Twelve credits of MUSC 899 (Doctoral Dissertation Preparation)

With the approval of the advisor, the student may take alternative courses if equivalent courses were taken at another institution. The student's advisor may also approve as credit towards the degree one or more courses outside the discipline of musicology or music if such courses are deemed relevant to the successful completion of the student's dissertation project.

All page lengths below assume double-spaced, Times New Roman, 12-point font. Bibliographies are not included in page counts. Projects may vary in length and the suggested page counts are to serve as guidelines and are not prescriptive.

Ph.D. Qualifying Examination

By the end of the fall semester of the second year, all Ph.D. students in musicology must have completed the Ph.D. qualifying examination (this exam is distinct from the Ph.D. preliminary examination, which leads to candidacy). This qualifying exam is in two parts: (1) a literature exam focused on reading and writing about important musicological scholarship; and (2) a historical source exam focused on analyzing and contextualizing important primary sources, which may be scores, recordings, or significant documents. A three-person committee, chaired by the student's advisor, will administer and evaluate the exam.

1. Reading Portion

By the end of their second semester, each student will be provided with a list of books in musicology and related fields. Working together, the student and committee will select fifteen books from this list, and this selection must cover a broad range of topics, genres, eras, and methods. The student will write an eighteen-to-twenty-two-page literature review that answers the broader question: What major developments have taken place in musicology in the past forty years? The essay should synthesize and summarize the contributions of the readings and draw attention to important topics, methods, approaches, and controversies in the discipline.

2. Historical Source Portion

Along with the reading list, students will be provided with four primary sources, which may include scores, recordings, and/or documents (such as short essays) drawn from Western music history, broadly defined. For each source, the student will write a short essay of three to four pages that analyzes and contextualizes the source in relationship to recent scholarship. In addition, the student will select one of the four sources and prepare a ten-to-fifteen-minute teaching demonstration appropriate for an undergraduate music history classroom that is centered on that source.

Both portions of the Ph.D. qualifying examination are normally completed over the summer following the first year of course work. Students may use any available research material in addition to the listed books, but all work and writing must be their own. Once the written components have been submitted, the student will schedule an oral defense with the committee to discuss the exam and demonstrate the teaching material prepared under Part 2. The oral defense is typically completed about two weeks after the exam has been submitted (in early fall of the second year). The exam and its defense will be evaluated by the three-member committee. A majority vote results in a pass or failure. Students who fail the Ph.D. qualifying examination may re-attempt it once. Students who fail to complete the Ph.D. qualifying examination satisfactorily by the end of their fifth semester are terminated from the program.

Ph.D. Preliminary Examination

Following the completion of all coursework and other requirements, students will complete the Ph.D. preliminary exam. In consultation with their advisor, the student will select a committee of three faculty members (at least two of whom must be members of the division of Musicology & Ethnomusicology). The student will work with each of the committee members to select areas of competence appropriate to the students' research and teaching interests. These areas are usually focused around (1) the principal subject of the dissertation, (2) the wider field of inquiry into which the dissertation will fit, and (3) at least one area of secondary interest distinct from the dissertation. The student should work with each committee member to design an appropriate study plan. Working together, the committee will design an exam, usually in three parts. The sections of this examination may ask the student to undertake a variety of tasks, such as (1) writing a traditional essay, (2) developing a syllabus, (3) constructing a literature review, or (4) undertaking a musical analysis or transcription. The written submission must demonstrate a thorough knowledge of the research and methods used in musicology and in the areas under examination. A typical response to each essay will be between fifteen and twenty pages of text and include appropriately formatted citations. The student

will have three weeks to complete the essays. All questions will be evaluated by all members of the committee, and within two weeks of completing the written exam, the student will receive feedback from each committee member. If a majority of the committee determines the written exam to be unacceptable, the student fails and may reattempt the examination once (with new questions). By majority vote, the student may proceed to the oral examination.

The oral preliminary examination must be scheduled within two weeks of receiving the results of the written examination. At the oral exam, members of the committee will ask the student to address or expand on issues or concerns raised by the written examination. They may also ask the student to discuss other general elements of music (as appropriate to someone who might be asked to teach general surveys of art or popular music). After the student is dismissed, the committee will consider both the written and oral exams. A majority vote constitutes a grade of “pass” or “fail.” A grade of “fail” will require that the student reattempt both the written and oral components. The examination may be attempted only two times. A grade of fail on the second attempt will result in termination from the program.

After successfully completing all coursework and examinations, the student may apply for admission to candidacy.

The first step toward the dissertation is the completion of a dissertation prospectus, which must be successfully defended in the presence of the dissertation advisor and at least two other committee members. The prospectus should follow the following guidelines:

DISSERTATION PROSPECTUS

The dissertation prospectus will normally be between twenty and thirty double-spaced pages in length, and will typically have the following sections (the suggested lengths should be used only as general guidelines). In consultation with their advisors, students may change the order of the sections as best suits their project.

Statement of the Project (2–4 pages)

This statement should include a description of the project, an argument for why it is important, and a summary of what will be investigated and how the research will be implemented. It should conclude with the overarching questions that will guide research.

Chapter Descriptions (3–5 pages)

This section should include a detailed paragraph for each of the proposed chapters. If it is not clear from these summaries, include a rationale for the sequence and the overall logic tying the chapters together.

State of the Research (2–4 pages)

This section should cover the most relevant existing research on the topic as well as on the central theoretical approaches. It should also explain how the proposed research will contribute to the existing bodies of scholarship and how the dissertation will draw connections between those bodies.

Resources Needed (1–2 pages)

This section describes what resources will be required in terms of access, permissions, and contacts, and explain what steps have already been taken to secure those resources and what is still necessary.

Research Schedule (2–3 pages)

This section should include a detailed description of each phase of the proposed research, including locations and the activities to be undertaken.

Methodology (2–3 pages)

This section should explain all of the key components of the research, such as interviews, participant observation, archival work, lessons, field recordings, or translation.

Defense of the Project (1–2 pages)

This section consists of a concise rationale for why this research is important, why it needs to be done now, and why the author is qualified to conduct it.

Chapter Headings (1–2 pages)

Bibliography (6–10 pages)

The completed dissertation defends a clearly stated thesis and constitutes a substantial and original contribution to the musicological literature. Students are encouraged to present the completed dissertation to their advisor in the semester prior to the proposed date of defense.

Required Program of Study (39 credits)

The following to be taken before Admission to Candidacy:

ACADEMIC COURSES IN MUSIC (27 credits)

_____MUSC 646	Introduction to Musicology	3 cr.
_____MUSC 677	Introduction to Ethnomusicology	3 cr.
Balance of coursework selected in consultation with Advisor		21 cr.

The following to be taken after Admission to Candidacy:

_____MUSC 899	Doctoral Dissertation Research	6 cr.
_____MUSC 899	Doctoral Dissertation Research	6 cr.

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)
- _____ TOEFL & Maryland English Institute examinations (for international students)

Second Semester

- _____ Select an advisor, qualifying examination committee, and sources for the qualifying exam

Third Semester

- _____ Submit and defend the qualifying exam

Fourth Semester

- _____ Select a preliminary exam committee (which may lead to the dissertation committee)

Fifth Semester

- _____ Complete and defend the preliminary examination
- _____ Apply for candidacy

Sixth Semester

- _____ Complete and defend the dissertation prospectus

Completed in the next to last semester of study

- _____ Submission of a full draft of the dissertation to the advisor

Completed in the final semester of study

- _____ Apply for a diploma within first two weeks of the semester in which you plan to graduate
- _____ Write abstract of dissertation (to be filed with Graduate School with the final submission)
- _____ Submission of the completed dissertation to the committee at least ten working days before the final oral defense of the thesis or paper, and a successful oral defense
- _____ Submit dissertation to Graduate School per their [guidelines](#)