

DIVISION OF MUSICOLOGY & ETHNOMUSICOLOGY
Policies & Requirements

PH.D. IN ETHNOMUSICOLOGY

The doctoral program provides advanced training in the theories and methods of ethnomusicology. The required coursework covers scholarship and research methods in ethnomusicology, musicology, and anthropology. Other courses may be chosen from a variety of seminars on specialized topics.

Students typically register for MUSC 677 (Introduction to Ethnomusicology) and MUSC 646 (Introduction to Musicology) in the fall semester of their first year, and MUSC 632 (Anthropology of Music) and MUSC 633 (Field Methods in Ethnomusicology) in the spring semester of their first year. 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.

Ph.D. students who completed the MA in Ethnomusicology at the University of Maryland will have taken the required courses listed above (MUSC 677, MUSC 646, MUSC 632, and MUSC 633). These courses will be waived, but such students must still take a minimum of fifteen credits of appropriate graduate courses before advancing to candidacy.

REQUIRED PROGRAM OF STUDY (33 credits)

MAJOR STUDIES IN MUSIC (15 credits)

____MUSC 677	Introduction to Ethnomusicology	3 cr.
____MUSC 632	Anthropology of Music	3 cr.
____MUSC 633	Field Methods in Ethnomusicology	3 cr.
____MUSC 679	Seminar in Ethnomusicology (2 courses)	6 cr.

STUDIES IN AREAS SUPPORTING THE MAJOR (3 credits)

____MUSC 646	Introduction to Musicology	3 cr.
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ELECTIVES (3 credits)

1 course	3 cr.
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The following are to be taken after Admission to Candidacy (12 credits):

____MUSC 899	Doctoral Dissertation Research	6 cr.
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CANDIDACY PROCEDURE

Advancement to candidacy involves the following steps:

1. Satisfactory completion of all coursework by the semester prior to preliminary examinations.
2. Complete and submit to the advisor bibliographies for preliminary examinations at least two weeks before preliminary examinations begin.
3. Completion of preliminary examinations. The student (in consultation with the advisor) will select an examination committee of three faculty members (at least two of whom must be members of the Division of Musicology and Ethnomusicology). The written portion of the examination consists of three parts. Parts 1 and 2 will be in the form of essays (15–20 double-spaced pages per essay, excluding the bibliographies) and Part 3 will be in the form of a course syllabus with a 4–5 page rationale for its content and organization. The examination is in take-home format, and all three parts must be completed within three weeks.
 - 1) Primary area, which includes the wider field of interest (defined by geography, historical period, genre, etc.) surrounding the dissertation topic.
 - 2) A theoretical area related to the dissertation research.
 - 3) A secondary area distinct from the primary area and theoretical area.
4. The oral preliminary examination will take place about three weeks after the student has submitted 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. 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 under the rules laid out in this handbook.
5. Application for admission to candidacy.

DISSERTATION PROSPECTUS

The completion of the dissertation prospectus involves the following steps and must be completed before beginning formal research and writing for the dissertation:

1. Selection of the dissertation prospectus committee, which must include the dissertation advisor and at least two additional members of the graduate faculty.
2. Submission of a written dissertation prospectus (see the guidelines below).
3. An oral defense of the prospectus. It should take place two to three weeks after the student has submitted the 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 adapt the order and composition 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 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)****FINAL ORAL EXAMINATION (DISSERTATION DEFENSE)**

For all guidelines pertaining to dissertation committee selection and defense procedures, see the [Doctor of Philosophy Degree Policies](#).

All dissertation committee members must be members of the UMD Graduate Faculty. If you are unsure whether a desired committee member meets this requirement, please check with them and your advisor. One member of the committee must serve as the Dean's Representative and must have their primary appointment in a unit outside of the School of Music. All UMD-external committee members must be formally nominated and approved by unit faculty as Special Members of the Graduate Faculty several weeks before the defense.

Near the beginning of the semester in which the dissertation will be defended (and no less than 6 weeks prior to the desired defense date), the student must reach out to all committee members to schedule the oral defense date in accordance with the dissertation deposit deadlines set by the Graduate School. The dissertation must follow the guidelines specified by the Graduate School. At least 6 weeks before the defense date, a complete draft of the dissertation must be presented to the chair of the committee, who approves it for distribution to the rest of the committee. The student should leave enough time to make any required revisions to the dissertation between the oral defense and the deposit deadline. The student should send their complete dissertation to all members of the committee approximately four weeks in advance of the defense. Students must be enrolled for dissertation credit (MUSC 899) during the semester of the defense.

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. Students are strongly encouraged to read their papers at division colloquia prior to being presented off campus.

BENCHMARK REQUIREMENTS

The ethnomusicology program's benchmark for completing the Ph.D. is eight years. Students who do not complete their degree within this time period—or who fail to demonstrate satisfactory progress toward completing their coursework and passing their preliminary examinations and dissertation prospectus defense—will be dismissed from the program. In addition, students who do not complete their degree within four years of advancing to candidacy will normally be required to retake the Ph.D. preliminary examination to demonstrate that their knowledge is consistent with the current standards of the graduate program and the current state of the field.

CHECKLIST FOR MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

Note: the exact timing of certain requirements may vary depending on whether a student has completed the MA in our program and/or other student-specific circumstances.

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 2nd semester of study

_____ Select an advisor by the end of the 2nd semester

Completed in the 3rd to 4th semesters of study

_____ Compile bibliographies for preliminary examination

Completed in the 5th semester of study

_____ Submit bibliographies for preliminary examination at least two weeks before preliminary examinations begin

_____ Pass divisional preliminary examinations

_____ Apply for candidacy

Completed in the 6th semester of study

_____ Write prospectus

_____ Confirm dissertation prospectus committee

_____ Pass oral defense of prospectus

_____ Ensure that Institutional Review Board approval for fieldwork, if necessary, is obtained and current

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

_____ Submit application for graduation within the first two weeks of the semester

_____ Confirm members of dissertation committee

_____ Submit Nomination of Dissertation Committee from within the first four weeks of the semester

_____ Schedule oral defense of dissertation with committee no later than six weeks before the desired defense date

_____ Submit Graduate Faculty nomination form(s) for external reader(s), if necessary

_____ Submit dissertation to advisor at least six weeks before the defense

_____ Submit dissertation to all committee members at least four weeks before the defense

_____ Pass final oral defense of dissertation

_____ Revise and submit dissertation to the Graduate School per their [guidelines](#)