

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO, BOULDER  
COLLEGE OF MUSIC

**DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY**

**Major Field: Musicology**

The Doctor of Philosophy in Music is intended for the student who seeks a terminal degree emphasizing research in music history, music theory, ethnomusicology or some other aspect of music in culture.

An advanced degree will not be conferred merely because a student completes a specified period of residence and passes a given number of courses. One should not expect to gain from formal courses all the training, knowledge, and understanding of ideas necessary to meet the requirements for an advanced degree. The culminating work on a Ph.D. is the dissertation, a substantial document based upon original investigation and showing mature scholarship and critical judgment, as well as a command of the tools and methods of research in music.

**APPLICATION AND ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS:**

For full details about the admissions process, students should consult the *University Catalog*, the website, and literature in the Graduate Office of the College of Music. In general, a student applying to the Ph.D. program will have completed a bachelor's or master's degree or equivalent in music or a field related to musicology. Letters of recommendation, completed major papers, and scores on the verbal, quantitative, and critical writing parts of the Graduate Record Examination form an important part of the degree application. Applications will not be considered by the Admissions Committee of the College of Music until all parts are received. December 1 is the application deadline; late applications may be considered after that date based on availability. International students should have complete applications on file in the Office of Admissions no later than December 1. Students who file completed applications by the Dec. 1 deadline are automatically considered for College of Music merit aid in the form of scholarships and teaching assistantships.

**PRELIMINARY EXAMINATIONS AND FOREIGN LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS**

Preliminary (diagnostic) examinations in musicology, ethnomusicology, and music theory are taken at the beginning of course work, and generally deficiencies revealed at this point must be removed through coursework as soon as possible. The student must complete pre-candidate coursework, including the foreign language requirements, before Comprehensive Examinations are attempted.

The College of Music requires proficiency in two foreign languages appropriate to the student's program of study. Normally the language requirement is met by means of a translation examination; the examinations are administered on two dates each semester, approximately during the fifth and tenth weeks. Proficiency can also be demonstrated by completing a fourth-semester undergraduate course (with a grade of B or higher) within six years of admission to the PhD program.

## COURSE WORK AND ADVISEMENT:

A minimum of thirty (30) semester hours of courses numbered at 5000 or above is required (although the minimum number is almost always exceeded). Courses taken below the 5000 level to remedy deficiencies do not count toward PhD degree credit or the residency requirement. As part of the 30-hour requirement, doctoral students in musicology are required to take an integrated (historical musicology and ethnomusicology), ten-hour core of course work, as follows: Introduction to Music Bibliography and Research (MUSC 5708 – 2 cr.), Proseminar in Historical Musicology (MUSC 5002 - 3 cr.), Ethnomusicology (MUSC 5112 - 3 cr.), World Music Ensemble (EMUS 5467 - 1 cr.) for two semesters at 1 credit per semester. Students may request to substitute Jazz or Early Music ensembles for these two credit hours.

For graduate students in musicology who wish to focus on studies in historical musicology, at least six (6) doctoral seminars (7000-level) in musicology are required. Additionally, certain seminars in related disciplines, such as Music Theory and Analysis, Religious Studies, Anthropology, Sociology, and so on, may count in lieu of the former requirement, with the consent of the student's advisory committee. Students are expected to complete with distinction all work in the formal courses in which they enroll. Students will normally enroll in whatever 7000-level seminar is offered by the musicology faculty in a given semester, regardless of the topic. A course mark below B– is unsatisfactory and will not be counted toward fulfilling the minimum requirements for the degree.

Unless otherwise specified by departmental requirements, all courses at the 5000 level or above taken for the master's degree at the University of Colorado may be applied toward the doctoral degree.

Graduate course work of high quality taken at another institution will only be accepted for transfer once a student has completed at least six credits of graduate level coursework as a degree-seeking student on the CU Boulder campus with a minimum 3.0 GPA. Transfer credits are limited to 21 semester hours where a grade of B or better was received. All requests for credit transfer, however, must be approved by the chair of the Musicology Faculty and other College and University officers as specified on a form for that purpose. Transfer credit will not affect the residency requirement (six semesters beyond the bachelor's degree, including two consecutive in one year), the six-seminar rule, or dissertation credit hours.

In completing work prior to the Comprehensive Examination, students should select courses that help to clarify their understanding of past and current scholarship, research methods, historiography, and courses that will deepen and solidify their knowledge of musical styles and repertoires of different eras and geographical regions. Normally in the process of preparation for the Comprehensive Examination, students will gradually choose to focus on a major area within which to concentrate and eventually write a dissertation. Course work should be completed in close consultation with the student's advisor and the advisory committee.

When the field of specialization has been chosen, the student will ask a faculty member to act as chair of the advisory committee. The committee usually includes at least two other musicologists and a minimum of five members total by the time the Comprehensive Examination is scheduled.

## COLLOQUIUM

The musicology and theory faculty organize a colloquium series that runs throughout the fall and spring semesters. The faculty expects that all graduate students in the Ph.D. program who reside in Boulder and adjacent counties will attend all colloquia, regardless of the topic or academic rank of the speaker. Further, all graduate students in musicology are expected to present original research at a colloquium at some point during their residency.

## COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION AND ADMISSION TO CANDIDACY

An admitted student making satisfactory progress and taking course work is referred to as a pre-candidate. Once course work is completed and the student has passed the Comprehensive Examination, he or she applies for candidacy. Once the Graduate School has confirmed admission to PhD candidacy, the student remains at that level until the completed dissertation is approved. (Note: After advancing to PhD candidacy, students are no longer permitted to apply for planned-leave through the Leave of Absence Program.)

The Comprehensive Examination is constructed in order to test mastery of the broad field of musicology. It consists of:

(1) A timed written section, usually spanning four days; this part typically contains several distinct sub-sections: technical terms to be defined; pieces to be identified aurally or in notation; and a series of essays related to a special field approved in advance by the advisory committee.

(2) An oral portion, consisting of a defense of the student's dissertation prospectus and scheduled no more than one year after the written examination is completed. The oral part of the examination is open to any member of the faculty; normally, all members of the musicology faculty (except those on leave) will attend and ask questions.

Individuals must be registered on the Boulder campus as regular degree-seeking students when they attempt the Comprehensive Examination.

## DISSERTATION REQUIREMENTS AND FINAL DEFENSE

A student must complete a total of at least 30 credit hours of dissertation credit (beyond course credit hours), with not more than 10 of these hours in any one semester. Not more than 10 dissertation hours may be applied to the degree preceding the student's admission to candidacy. Up to 10 hours may be taken in the semester in which the Comprehensive Examination is successfully completed. Once candidacy has been achieved, students must register for a minimum of 5 and maximum of 10 dissertation credits per semester (3 credits, if inactive). Dissertation hours are graded as IP ("in progress") until the completed dissertation is approved by the faculty committee. Upon completion, the IP grades are replaced by the letter grade (A, B, etc.) assigned by the dissertation committee.

For further limits on credit hours and residency requirements, the student is urged to consult the *University Catalog*. Doctoral students are expected to complete all degree requirements within six years from the date they start course work in the program, but petitions approved by the major professor and Associate Dean may be filed in the Graduate School if an extension is needed and justifiable.

The dissertation itself should be an original and worthwhile contribution to knowledge in the field of musicology. The student will work closely with a faculty advisor (often referred to as the “major professor” or “chair”) who will serve as the first reader and critic before it is submitted to the other dissertation committee members. The time it takes the faculty advisor to read a chapter is measured in weeks, not days. Chapters should be submitted one by one for critique so that the finished dissertation is gradually drafted from segments that the student and advisor have already discussed.

A formal defense (also known as the final examination) of the dissertation, an open meeting that lasts up to three hours, will be scheduled when the chair and committee agree that the dissertation is sufficiently complete to warrant it. More than one negative vote will disqualify the candidate in the final examination.

The examination committee will consist of at least five persons, one of whom must be from outside of the College of Music, and three of whom must be Boulder campus Graduate Faculty. The major professor and outside member(s) must have regular or tenured Graduate Faculty appointments. The other committee members must have either regular or special graduate faculty appointments. All members of the committee must be approved by the Graduate School.

## DEADLINES AND PAPERWORK

The complete draft of the dissertation must be submitted at least six weeks before the day of the dissertation defense and must be approved by the major advisor and made available for review by the examining committee four weeks before the defense. Once the scheduling of the dissertation defense has been arranged by the student—in consultation with the major professor and the other committee members—the student and major professor should inform the College of Music Graduate Program Assistant, who will coordinate official paperwork and notify the Graduate School. The date will be officially posted. The Ph.D. dissertation defense is open to anyone.

All dissertations must comply with the specifications of the Graduate School and the College of Music. The Graduate School Specifications and other information about submitting your dissertation electronically are available on-line at the following address:

<http://www.colorado.edu/graduateschool/academics/electronic-thesis-and-dissertation-submission> .

*The student is urged to consult the dissertation advisor in the Graduate School and the College of Music Graduate Program Assistant to ensure that all requirements have been met in preparation for graduation*

*Revised December 2016*