Ethnomusicology, MA

Participate in multisensory learning experiences to explore instruments, identities and geographic locations of music from many world cultures and work closely with faculty mentors in a variety of ethnomusicology specializations, including Middle Eastern, Latin American, Southeast Asian and popular music.

Program Description

Degree Awarded: MA Music (Ethnomusicology)

The MA program in music with a concentration in ethnomusicology helps students develop skills in scholarship and performance as they focus on aspects of one or more of the world's musical cultures.

Students can explore performance styles outside the Western European canon through participation in ensembles such as Javanese gamelan, Latin marimba, mariachi, steel pan and African drumming. As a culminating demonstration of professional capability in the major field, the student must submit a final project that demonstrates advanced competence in research and writing in musicology or ethnomusicology. The final project may be a thesis, a series of special papers or a written work of equivalent scope and depth.

At a Glance

- College/School: Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts
- Location: Tempe campus

Degree Requirements

30 credit hours, a thesis, a written comprehensive exam, an oral comprehensive exam and a foreign language exam
**Required Core (13 credit hours)**
MHL 532 Music Bibliography (3)
MHL 668 Introduction to Ethnomusicology (3)
MUP 587 Ethnomusicology Ensemble (2)
music theory (5)

**Electives (9 credit hours)**
music electives (6-9)
open electives (0-3)

**Research (2 credit hours)**
MHL 592 Research (2)

**Culminating Experience (6 credit hours)**
MHL 599 Thesis (6)

**Additional Curriculum Information**
MHL 592 Research is taken concurrently with the second semester of MUP 587 Ethnomusicology Ensemble (1).

At least 20 credit hours for the program must be in the field of ethnomusicology or related fields approved by the student's advisor, complemented by courses in music theory, performance and cultural anthropology as listed above. Appropriate elective coursework is reviewed and approved by the academic unit prior to inclusion on the student plan of study. No more than three credit hours of musicology may apply to the music electives requirement.

Completion of diagnostic exams in music history and music theory is required of all new graduate music students prior to enrollment in courses for these programs through the ASU School of Music list above. This is tracked internally within the academic unit.

A passing grade on the foreign language exam in French, German, Italian or Spanish is required for graduation.

Additional information on degree requirements for all graduate music programs may be found on the check sheets posted under each degree here: [https://music.asu.edu/degree-programs/graduate/](https://music.asu.edu/degree-programs/graduate/).

**Admission Requirements**

Applicants must fulfill the requirements of both the Graduate College and the Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts.
Applicants are eligible to apply to the program if they have earned a bachelor's or master's degree, in any field, from a regionally accredited institution or from an international institution officially recognized by that country.

Applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 (scale is 4.00="A") in the last 60 hours of their first bachelor's degree program, or applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 (scale is 4.00="A") in an applicable master's degree program.

All applicants must submit:

1. graduate admission application and application fee: [https://admission.asu.edu/graduate](https://admission.asu.edu/graduate)
2. School of Music application (including a resume, personal statement and writing sample): [https://music.asu.edu/admissions/graduate-steps-to-apply](https://music.asu.edu/admissions/graduate-steps-to-apply)
3. three letters of recommendation
4. official transcripts
5. proof of English proficiency

**Additional Application Information**

An applicant whose native language is not English must provide proof of English proficiency regardless of current residency: [https://admission.asu.edu/international/graduate/english-proficiency](https://admission.asu.edu/international/graduate/english-proficiency).

The School of Music does not offer conditional admission under any circumstances. Although a bachelor's degree in music is not required to be eligible for admission, applicants who do not hold an undergraduate degree in music are required to complete the deficiency courses listed below, which are not a part of the coursework for this graduate degree in music. These courses or their equivalents may be taken at ASU, at another accredited university or at a community college before or after admission to this program, but they must be completed prior to commencement of graduate-level course requirements in music history and music theory.

- MTC 125 Basic Music Theory
- MTC 221 Music Theory: 18th Century
- MTC 222 Music Theory: 19th Century
- MTC 223 Music Theory: 20th Century
- MHL 140 Music as Culture
- MHL 341 Music History I
- MHL 342 Music History II

Students should see the program website for application deadlines.

**Application Deadlines**

**Fall**
Contact Information

School of Music | MUSIC E167
MusicAdmissions@asu.edu | 480-965-5069
Admission Deadlines