Music (Musicology), MA

Go deeper to focus on the scholarly study of music, musical terminology, reception, historiography, biography and transdisciplinary topics in the musicology masters in the ASU School of Music.

Program Description

Degree Awarded: MA Music (Musicology)

In the MA program in music, faculty members provide and participate in multisensory learning experiences concerning forms and genres, performance practices, instruments, spaces, philosophies, musical infrastructures and geographic locations. The faculty comprises leading scholars specializing in Western and non-western music, particularly traditions in the Americas and Eastern Europe (Russia, Ukraine, USSR); musics of the Middle East, Central Asia, Latin America and Indonesia; Medieval music cultures, the long nineteenth century, jazz, music in popular cultures, musical modernism and experimentalism, intellectual property law, cultural policy, improvisation, sound studies, ecomusicology, dance and embodiment, and music's role in well-being.

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.

Students work in individual and small group settings to identify research topics of interest culminating in a final thesis.

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 (14 credit hours)
MHL 532 Music Bibliography (3)
MHL 691 Seminars (6)
music theory (5)

Electives (8 credit hours)
music electives (5-8)
open electives (0-3)

Other Requirement (2 credit hours)
performance ensembles (2)

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

Additional Curriculum Information
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. This is tracked internally within the academic unit.

At least 20 credit hours of this program must be in the field of music history and literature.

Appropriate elective coursework will be reviewed and approved by the academic unit prior to inclusion on the student’s plan of study. Students may not apply more than three credit hours of ethnomusicology courses toward their plan of study.

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. 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 U.S. bachelor's degree or higher from a regionally accredited institution or the equivalent of a U.S. bachelor's degree from an institution in another country that is officially recognized by that country.

Applicants must have achieved a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 (scale is 4.00 = "A") in the last 60 semester hours or 90 quarter 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. official transcripts
4. three letters of recommendation
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. The School of Music does not offer conditional admission under any circumstances. In order to meet English proficiency requirements, students should have a TOEFL score of at least 550 (PBT) or 80 (iBT), or an IELTS overall band score of at least 6.5, or a Pearson Test of English score of at least 60. [https://admission.asu.edu/international/graduate/english-proficiency](https://admission.asu.edu/international/graduate/english-proficiency)

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, another accredited university or a community college before or after admission to this program, but must be completed prior to commencement of graduate-level course requirements in music history and music theory.

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

Students should see the program website for application deadlines.
Contact Information

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