

School of Music Graduate Advising Worksheet 2023-24
PhD in Musicology

Student name _____

BU ID _____

Applied teacher _____

Program start date (e.g., Fall 2023) _____

Students must earn a **minimum** of 64 course credits with grades no lower than B- in graduate-level coursework per the [Bulletin](#) (see [Bulletin archives](#) for pre-Fall 2023 curriculum). Refer to the [Graduate Student Handbook](#) for the full complement of policies and procedures, including the following general notes:

- If MT 401 theory review and/or MH 401 history review (2 credits ea.) are required per the proficiency entrance exam (take in consultation with the student's academic advisor), these courses do not count towards the degree and must be passed with at least a B- before a student can take graduate coursework in these areas
- All students **MUST apply to graduate** before their final semester of study, complete all degree program requirements, and earn a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.00 to be awarded a degree per [CFA Graduation Policy](#).
- Useful resources: [Graduate Student Advising Tools](#) and [Resources](#); [Graduate Student Handbook](#); and Professor Jason Yust, Director of Graduate Studies, jyust@bu.edu

Degree Requirements:

Historical Musicology

CFA MH 820 Proseminar in Musicology and Ethnomusicology (taken in first semester)

There are no specific course requirements for the PhD specializing in Historical Musicology other than CFA MH 820, but students should customize their program in consultation with their faculty advisor.

A general guide for the distribution of remaining courses can be found on the [department website](#).

Ethnomusicology

CFA MH 820 Proseminar in Musicology and Ethnomusicology (taken in first semester)

CFA MH 436 Musical Cultures of the World, either as auditor or teaching fellow

CFA MH 860 Research Methods in Ethnomusicology

CFA MH 861 Contemplating Ethnomusicology

CFA MH 799 Master's Thesis (taken after 28 credits)

CFA MH 921 Research and Directed Study in Music (taken after 60 credits)

At least two semesters of CFA MH 561 World Music Ensemble, either as student, auditor, or instructor

A general guide for the distribution of remaining 36 credits can be found on the [department website](#).

Additional requirements:

Language Requirement

- All students pursuing a PhD in Musicology are required to demonstrate graduate-level reading proficiency in two foreign languages prior to completion of the degree. Language proficiency can be demonstrated either through a language examination or successful completion of a non-credit graduate-level foreign language reading course offered by Boston University or an accredited outside program.
- PhD candidates must demonstrate a reading and speaking knowledge of two foreign languages relevant to their studies.

Qualifying Examinations

- Students should take the written and oral qualifying examinations for the doctorate when they have only 4 credits remaining to be fulfilled toward the degree (CFA MH 921), usually during the third year. Students must have the approval of the advisor for each attempt at these examinations. As part of the evaluation of the written and oral examinations, the examiners may specify areas for further study above the minimum credit requirement for the degree, whether or not the examinations were passed. In the case of an unsuccessful attempt, the examiners may specify such further requirements before allowing the student to repeat the examinations. The examinations may not be taken more than three times.
- The oral examination takes place approximately one month after the completion of all written exams and receipt of the dissertation prospectus (see below). The oral exam may include questions arising from the written exams, but will concentrate mainly on the dissertation prospectus. For more information on the qualifying exams, and a general timeline for progress toward the degree, please see the [department website](#).

Dissertation and Final Oral Examination

- The final outcome of the PhD program in Musicology/Ethnomusicology is the completion of a dissertation representing original research or creative scholarship. A prospectus for the dissertation (and any IRB compliance, if necessary) must be completed and approved by the readers, the Director of Graduate Studies, and the department chair/program director.
- Candidates undergo a final oral examination in which they defend their dissertation as an important contribution to knowledge in their field and demonstrate a mastery of their area of specialization. All portions of the dissertation and final oral examination must be completed according to department and University guidelines.

Students who wish to obtain an MA in Music must meet the [stated requirements for the MA](#), pass a comprehensive exam, and submit a master's thesis.