

MUSIC, PHD

The mission of the Mead Witter School of Music is:

- to provide a rich, integrated program of undergraduate and graduate education that promotes the highest levels of professional, creative, and scholarly development while challenging students to achieve their greatest potential;
- to cultivate an environment that inspires creativity, stimulates intellectual curiosity, and fosters critical thinking; and
- to serve the university community, the public, and the profession through performance, composition, scholarship, music education, outreach, and engagement.

The Mead Witter School of Music enriches students' educational experience by hosting guest artists and scholars for master classes, recitals, colloquia, seminars, and festivals. Its performing organizations and ensembles perform more than 350 recitals and concerts every year, making a significant contribution to the cultural life of the university and the wider Madison community.

DEGREES AND MAJORS

The PhD in music, a research degree, is offered in the two areas of historical musicology and music theory.

PhD degrees require significant work beyond the master's degree, including extensive independent work. Each degree pathway varies slightly. See the Course Lists available through the Requirements tab for details on each pathway. Contact the Mead Witter School of Music graduate office for further information about the PhD music degree.

The PhD–music program is suited to students who have proven their scholarly discipline, motivation, and ability to write fluently and cogently in the historical musicology or music theory fields. The principal outcome of the program is a dissertation that makes a significant contribution to the relevant major field. A minor field of study (<https://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/music/music-doctoral-minor/>), required of all PhD–music students, assures breadth in a field of study outside the major specialty. Proficiency in foreign languages supports research in the major field.

Each PhD student benefits from the mentorship of multiple faculty members, whether from the student's own specialty or from other areas of scholarship or performance. An advisor is assigned upon the student's entering the program, and the musicology or music theory area faculty, as appropriate, participate in the preliminary examinations. The dissertation committee is designated with the student's particular research interests in mind. Through their guidance and support of the student through the degree program, faculty members offer multiple perspectives on the student's performance and research.

FACILITIES

The Mosse Humanities Building, built in 1969, houses most of the music classrooms, rehearsal rooms, faculty studios, and 111 practice rooms. Most recitals and concerts take place in one of three performance spaces: Mills Concert Hall, Morphy Recital Hall, and Eastman Organ Recital Hall. The school's extensive collection of instruments, both common and unusual, is available to both faculty and students. Music Hall with its clock tower, built in 1879, is a campus landmark. Renovated in 1985, it is the home of

the opera program. The new Hamel Music Center includes a concert hall, a recital hall, and a large ensemble rehearsal space.

Memorial Library is the home of the Mills Music Library, which offers extensive research and circulating collections, attractive study space, and personal staff assistance with research. Music materials on campus number over half a million, ranging from scores and sheet music to archival collections and historic audio recordings. Through Mills Music Library and other UW–Madison libraries, students have access to a wide range of online research databases as well as millions of articles, books, and streaming media. All genres of music are represented, with notably strong collections in Americana and ethnic music. Nationally known special collections include the Tams–Witmark Collection, a treasury of early American musical theater materials, and the Wisconsin Music Archives.

ADMISSIONS

ADMISSIONS

Please consult the table below for key information about this degree program's admissions requirements. The program may have more detailed admissions requirements, which can be found below the table or on the program's website.

Graduate admissions is a two-step process between academic programs and the Graduate School. **Applicants must meet the minimum requirements (<https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/requirements/>) of the Graduate School as well as the program(s).** Once you have researched the graduate program(s) you are interested in, apply online (<https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/>).

Requirements	Detail
Fall Deadline	December 1
Spring Deadline	This program does not admit in the spring.
Summer Deadline	This program does not admit in the summer.
GRE (Graduate Record Examinations)	Not Required.
English Proficiency Test	Refer to the Graduate School: Minimum Requirements for Admission policy: https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1241 (https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1241/)
Other Test(s) (e.g., GMAT, MCAT)	n/a
Letters of Recommendation Required	3

Applicants must have a bachelor's degree in music (or equivalent foundational coursework) plus a Master's degree in music (or consent of the faculty). The PhD application will require two substantial samples of academic writing, preferably (but not mandatorily) on a topic in Musicology or Music Theory. In the Statement of Purpose, candidates should discuss their academic and professional goals as well as their qualifications to serve as a Teaching Assistant in the School of Music. No audition or interview is required for the PhD application. For details of the application process, please visit the Mead Witter School of Music graduate admissions website (<http://www.music.wisc.edu/admissions/graduate/>).

FUNDING

FUNDING

GRADUATE SCHOOL RESOURCES

The Bursar’s Office provides information about [tuition](#) and [fees associated with being a graduate student](#). [Resources to help you afford graduate study might include assistantships, fellowships, traineeships, and financial aid](#). [Further funding information is available from the Graduate School](#). Be sure to check with your program for individual policies and restrictions related to funding.

PROGRAM RESOURCES

The Mead Witter School of Music offers teaching assistantships in music history, music theory, music education, piano, conducting, voice, and other performance areas. These positions offer tuition remission plus a salary and health care benefits. In addition, the Mead Witter School of Music nominates qualified applicants for Graduate School Fellowships. Many students also take advantage of work-study opportunities on campus, and many are employed part-time in area musical organizations or business entities. Feel free to direct questions about any of these funding opportunities to the Mead Witter School of Music graduate admissions office, gradadmissions@music.wisc.edu.

REQUIREMENTS

MINIMUM GRADUATE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

Review the Graduate School minimum degree requirements (<https://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/#requirements>) and policies (<https://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/#policies>), in addition to the program requirements listed below.

MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

MODE OF INSTRUCTION

Face to Face	Evening/ Weekend	Online	Hybrid	Accelerated
Yes	No	No	No	No

Mode of Instruction Definitions

Accelerated: Accelerated programs are offered at a fast pace that condenses the time to completion. Students typically take enough credits aimed at completing the program in a year or two.

Evening/Weekend: Courses meet on the UW–Madison campus only in evenings and/or on weekends to accommodate typical business schedules. Students have the advantages of face-to-face courses with the flexibility to keep work and other life commitments.

Face-to-Face: Courses typically meet during weekdays on the UW–Madison Campus.

Hybrid: These programs combine face-to-face and online learning formats. Contact the program for more specific information.

Online: These programs are offered 100% online. Some programs may require an on-campus orientation or residency experience, but the courses will be facilitated in an online format.

CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS

Requirement Detail	
Minimum Credit Requirement	51 credits
Minimum Residence Credit Requirement	32 credits
Minimum Graduate Coursework Requirement	26 credits must be graduate-level coursework. Refer to the Graduate School: Minimum Graduate Coursework (50%) Requirement policy: https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1244 (https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1244/).
Overall Graduate GPA Requirement	3.25 GPA required.
Other Grade Requirements	Grades below B do not satisfy program requirements.

Mead Witter School of Music financial awards are suspended if a student is on probation for more than one semester.

A student’s satisfactory progress is also in jeopardy should a major recital be judged incomplete or deficient. Failure of one or more parts of the comprehensive examinations is also considered a lapse in satisfactory progress.

Assessments and Examinations	In addition to evaluations in individual classes, School of Music programs examine graduate students at defined points in their career. For doctoral students, preliminary examinations are tools to evaluate the student’s currency and knowledge of the major field and the minor area of study, but also to determine the readiness to embark on the final stage of research. The first part of the Comprehensive Examination is written, and the second part is an oral exam attended by the student’s committee members.
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Once doctoral candidates have completed all their work, the oral defense is an opportunity for the dissertation committee to address the contributions made through the dissertation. No grades are reported on the transcript for these program-level examinations.

Language Requirements	The PhD requires proficiency at the intermediate level in two foreign languages. Foreign language proficiency assures that the student has the tools needed to pursue comprehensive research in the major field. Details can be found below.
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Graduate School Breadth Requirement All doctoral students are required to complete a doctoral minor or graduate/professional certificate. Refer to the Graduate School: Breadth Requirement in Doctoral Training policy: <https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1200> (<https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1200/>).

Minors with coursework entirely within the School of Music total 9-12 credits. These distributed minors are narrowly defined to ensure the principle of breadth in relation to the major specialty. Option B or Distributed minors include study in two or more departments.

REQUIRED COURSES

Musicology Pathway ¹

Code	Title	Credits
Required Seminars		
MUSIC 823	Schenkerian Analysis	3
MUSIC 824	Post-tonal Analysis	3

Additional Required Courses

It is preferred that students complete MUSIC 911 every semester it is offered. Other course options when MUSIC 911 is not offered may be found below:

MUSIC 911	Seminar in Musicology (every semester offered)	9
MUSIC 821	Historical Music Theories 1	
MUSIC 822	Historical Music Theories 2	
MUSIC/ FOLKLORE 915	Seminar in Ethnomusicology (one course required if offered)	
MUSIC 921	Current Issues in Musical Thought 1	
MUSIC 927	Seminar in Composition	

Ethnomusicology Requirement

Complete one of the following: 3

MUSIC/ FOLKLORE 515	Proseminar in Ethnomusicology	
MUSIC/ FOLKLORE 516	Ethnographic Methods for Music and Sound	
MUSIC/ FOLKLORE 915	Seminar in Ethnomusicology	

Other Required Course

MUSIC/L I S 619	Music Research Methods and Materials	3
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Breadth

9-12 credits in a field other than the major specialty. See the Doctoral Minors page or the Mead Witter School of Music Graduate Handbook for details. 9-12

Language Proficiency

Intermediate-level proficiency is required in two foreign languages, one of which must be German. The second language may be French, Italian, or any other language which can be argued as essential to the proposed doctoral research. Each language requirement may be satisfied with:

Four semesters of undergraduate-level study (completed within five years prior to matriculation), earning a grade of B or better in the final semester OR

One semester of the following with a grade of B or better:

GERMAN 391 German for Graduate Reading Knowledge I

ITALIAN 301 Italian for Reading Knowledge

FRENCH 391 French for Reading Knowledge

OR satisfactory completion of an approved language reading examination at the intermediate level.

Consult with the area faculty or with the Mead Witter School of Music graduate office for further details.

Electives

To meet the minimum credit requirement of 51 credits, students take electives numbered 300 and above in any department in consultation with their advisor. 10-16

Dissertation

After preliminary examinations, students complete 3 credits per term in: 3-12

MUSIC 999 PhD Diss/DMA Project

Total Credits 51

¹ These pathways are internal to the program and represent different curricular paths a student can follow to earn this degree. Pathway names do not appear in the Graduate School admissions application, and they will not appear on the transcript.

Music Theory Pathway ¹

Code	Title	Credits
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Seminars and Independent Work

Students must complete the following courses.

MUSIC 821	Historical Music Theories 1	3
MUSIC 822	Historical Music Theories 2	3
MUSIC 823	Schenkerian Analysis	3
MUSIC 824	Post-tonal Analysis	3

Additional Courses

Students must take 9 credits total, up to 6 credits (2 courses) of which can be from MUSIC 911. Two seminars may be in Musicology. 9

MUSIC 911	Seminar in Musicology	
MUSIC 921	Current Issues in Musical Thought 1	
MUSIC 927	Seminar in Composition	

Other Required course

MUSIC/L I S 619	Music Research Methods and Materials	3
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Breadth

9-12 credits in a field other than the major specialty. See the Doctoral Minors page or the Mead Witter School of Music Graduate Handbook for details. Minors outside of the School of Music and Option B or Distributed Minors are also available. 9-12

Language Proficiency

Intermediate-level reading knowledge is required in two languages. Languages must be approved by the music theory area. The most common ways of meeting the language proficiency requirements are:

Four semesters of undergraduate-level study (completed within five years prior to matriculation), earning a grade of B or better in the final semester OR

One semester of the following:

GERMAN 391 German for Graduate Reading Knowledge I

FRENCH 391 French for Reading Knowledge

ITALIAN 301 Italian for Reading Knowledge

OR satisfactory completion of an approved language reading examination at the intermediate level.

Consult with the area faculty or with the Mead Witter School of Music graduate office for further details.

Electives

To meet the minimum credit requirement of 51 credits, students complete electives numbered 300 and up in any department in consultation with their advisor. 10-16

Dissertation

After preliminary examinations, students complete 3 credits per term in the following course. 3-12

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POLICIES

GRADUATE SCHOOL POLICIES

The Graduate School's Academic Policies and Procedures (<https://grad.wisc.edu/acadpolicy/>) serve as the official document of record for Graduate School academic and administrative policies and procedures and are updated continuously. Note some policies redirect to entries in the official UW-Madison Policy Library (<https://policy.wisc.edu/>). Programs may set more stringent policies than the Graduate School. Policies set by the academic degree program can be found below.

MAJOR-SPECIFIC POLICIES

PRIOR COURSEWORK

Graduate Credits Earned at Other Institutions

Refer to the Graduate School: Transfer Credits for Prior Coursework (<https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1216/>) policy. Students may transfer up to 9 credits with faculty approval. Additional credits may transfer with department curriculum committee approval.

Undergraduate Credits Earned at Other Institutions or UW-Madison

Refer to the Graduate School: Transfer Credits for Prior Coursework (<https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1216/>) policy, but the Mead Witter School of Music faculty rarely approve these exceptions.

Credits Earned as a Professional Student at UW-Madison (Law, Medicine, Pharmacy, and Veterinary careers)

Refer to the Graduate School: Transfer Credits for Prior Coursework (<https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1216/>) policy.

Credits Earned as a University Special Student at UW-Madison

The program allows up to 6 credits of UW-Madison University Special Student credit to transfer. Refer to the Graduate School: Transfer Credits for Prior Coursework (<https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1216/>) policy.

PROBATION

PhD students who fail to make satisfactory progress in any of the following four areas: grades, course load, time constraints, or exams, will be notified in writing by the director of graduate studies. At the end of the second semester of failing to make satisfactory progress the student is placed on probation effective the next semester. This action suspends financial aid (but does not affect loans or work-study). For details see Satisfactory Progress for Doctoral Students (<https://kb.wisc.edu/mwsomkb/114465/>).

ADVISOR / COMMITTEE

All programs provide for faculty from several disciplines to follow the student's progress through the degree, provide mentorship along the way, and assess the student's success in reaching expected learning outcomes. Committee structures differ among degrees and majors. The principal advisor for most graduate students in Mead Witter School of Music is generally referred to as the major professor.

In PhD programs the advisor may not be the eventual thesis or dissertation advisor. In all programs the major professor is determined with the student's particular interests in mind. The director of graduate studies is also an advisor for all graduate students in Mead Witter School of Music programs. Students are expected to consult with the director of graduate studies at least once per semester to determine appropriate course plans. Consultation is mandatory in the semester before intended graduation.

PhD students have two committees: a four-member preliminary examination committee composed of the major professor, minor professor, and two others determined by the area; and a dissertation committee with four faculty including the major professor and a faculty member from a program other than the major. Three of these four members must be graduate faculty.

CREDITS PER TERM ALLOWED

15 credit maximum. Refer to the Graduate School: Maximum Credit Loads and Overload Requests (<https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1228/>) policy.

TIME LIMITS

Graduate students in the PhD program are allowed a maximum of four calendar years from the date entering the program to complete all course work requirements and successfully pass the preliminary examinations. The candidate must complete the dissertation within five years after passing the preliminary examinations.

GRIEVANCES AND APPEALS

These resources may be helpful in addressing your concerns:

- Bias or Hate Reporting (<https://doso.students.wisc.edu/bias-or-hate-reporting/>)
- Graduate Assistantship Policies and Procedures (<https://hr.wisc.edu/policies/gapp/#grievance-procedure>)

- Hostile and Intimidating Behavior Policies and Procedures (<https://hr.wisc.edu/hib/>)
 - Office of the Provost for Faculty and Staff Affairs (<https://facstaff.provost.wisc.edu/>)
- Employee Assistance (<http://www.eao.wisc.edu/>) (for personal counseling and workplace consultation around communication and conflict involving graduate assistants and other employees, post-doctoral students, faculty and staff)
- Employee Disability Resource Office (<https://employee disabilities.wisc.edu/>) (for qualified employees or applicants with disabilities to have equal employment opportunities)
- Graduate School (<https://grad.wisc.edu/>) (for informal advice at any level of review and for official appeals of program/departmental or school/college grievance decisions)
- Office of Compliance (<https://compliance.wisc.edu/>) (for class harassment and discrimination, including sexual harassment and sexual violence)
- Office Student Assistance and Support (OSAS) (<https://osas.wisc.edu/>) (for all students to seek grievance assistance and support)
- Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards (<https://conduct.students.wisc.edu/>) (for conflicts involving students)
- Ombuds Office for Faculty and Staff (<http://www.ombuds.wisc.edu/>) (for employed graduate students and post-docs, as well as faculty and staff)
- Title IX (<https://compliance.wisc.edu/titleix/>) (for concerns about discrimination)

L&S POLICY FOR GRADUATE STUDENT ACADEMIC APPEALS

Graduate students have the right to appeal an academic decision related to an L&S graduate program if the student believes that the decision is inconsistent with published policy.

Academic decisions that may be appealed include:

- Dismissal from the graduate program
- Failure to pass a qualifying or preliminary examination
- Failure to achieve satisfactory academic progress
- Academic disciplinary action related to failure to meet professional conduct standards

Issues such as the following cannot be appealed using this process:

- A faculty member declining to serve as a graduate student's advisor.
- Decisions regarding the student's disciplinary knowledge, evaluation of the quality of work, or similar judgements. These are the domain of the department faculty.
- Course grades. These can be appealed instead using the L&S Policy for Grade Appeal (<https://kb.wisc.edu/lis/22258/>).
- Incidents of bias or hate, hostile and intimidating behavior (<https://hr.wisc.edu/hib/>), or discrimination (Title IX (<https://compliance.wisc.edu/titleix/>), Office of Compliance (<https://compliance.wisc.edu/eo-complaint/formal-investigations/>)). Direct these to the linked campus offices appropriate for the incident(s).

Appeal Process for Graduate Students

A graduate student wishing to appeal an academic decision must follow the process in the order listed below. Note time limits within each step.

1. The student should first seek informal resolution, if possible, by discussing the concern with their academic advisor, the department's Director of Graduate Studies, and/or the department chair.
2. If the program has an appeal policy listed in their graduate program handbook, the student should follow the policy as written, including adhering to any indicated deadlines. In the absence of a specific departmental process, the chair or designee will be the reviewer and decision maker, and the student should submit a written appeal to the chair within 15 business days of the academic decision. The chair or designee will notify the student in writing of their decision.
3. If the departmental process upholds the original decision, the graduate student may next initiate an appeal to L&S. To do so, the student must submit a written appeal to the L&S Assistant Dean for Graduate Student Academic Affairs within 15 business days of notification of the department's decision.
 - a. To the fullest extent possible, the written appeal should include, in a single document: a clear and concise statement of the academic decision being appealed, any relevant background on what led to the decision, the specific policies involved, the relief sought, any relevant documentation related to the departmental appeal, and the names and titles of any individuals contributing to or involved in the decision.
 - b. The Assistant Dean will work with the Academic Associate Dean of the appropriate division to consider the appeal. They may seek additional information and/or meetings related to the case.
 - c. The Assistant Dean and Academic Associate Dean will provide a written decision within 20 business days.
4. If L&S upholds the original decision, the graduate student may appeal to the Graduate School. More information can be found on their website: Grievances and Appeals (<https://grad.wisc.edu/documents/grievances-and-appeals/>) (see: Graduate School Appeal Process).

OTHER

n/a

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT GRADUATE SCHOOL RESOURCES

Take advantage of the Graduate School's professional development resources (<https://grad.wisc.edu/pd/>) to build skills, thrive academically, and launch your career.

COLLEGE OF LETTERS AND SCIENCE RESOURCES

The College of Letters and Science's SuccessWorks (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/>) program can assist with professional development and with identifying opportunities.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

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1. Articulates research problems, potentials and limits with respect to theory and cultural understanding of music.
2. Formulates ideas and concepts beyond the current boundaries of knowledge in the field of music study.

3. Demonstrates breadth within the learning experiences in an area of study outside the principal field of inquiry.
4. Accomplishes research that makes a substantive contribution to the field.
5. Creates well-written monographs based upon original research that make substantive contributions to the field.
6. Communicates complex ideas in a clear and understandable manner, both verbally and in writing.
7. Fosters ethical and professional conduct.

ACCREDITATION

ACCREDITATION

The University of Wisconsin-Madison is an accredited institutional member of the National Association of Schools of Music (<https://nasm.arts-accredit.org/>) (NASM) since 1966.

Accreditation status: Accredited. Next accreditation review: 2032-2033; final 2022-2023 report forthcoming.