

# Music History

Music historians—also called “musicologists” and “ethnomusicologists”—study, perform, and write about all kinds of music from all historical periods including the present. They study the history of Western art music (“classical music”), popular music, and the music of folk cultures from throughout the world. Their goals include understanding musical styles and their cultural contexts. They study music cultures as diverse as European baroque music, American jazz, Russian folk music, and Brazilian popular music.

## Pursuing Music History at Ohio State

Students interested in the music history major should have a good high school background in writing skills, music performance, sight reading, and foreign language. The criteria for admission are the completion of the high school college preparatory program, performance in that program as indicated by class rank and/or grade-point average, a successful audition (including sight reading), the Music Achievement Test, and performance on either the ACT or SAT.

Through the end of the sophomore year, the music history program is ordinarily the same as for all music majors: applied music, music theory, music history, and the General Education Curriculum. Acceptance in the music history program is contingent upon the completion of three quarters of applied music at the 401 level with acceptance into the 501 level and a 3.0 point-hour ratio in Music 241, 242, and 243 (the sophomore music history survey).

## Music History Requirements

Most students enter the School of Music as freshmen and determine their specific major by the end of the sophomore year.

Core courses:

- Music theory (37 hours)
- Music history and world music (16 hours)
- Principal instrument (16 hours)
- Secondary instrument (8 hours)
- Ensembles (9 hours)

Required and elective major courses:

- Music history, world music, and music theory (24 hours)

## Educational Objectives

Students majoring in music history will achieve the following learning outcomes:

- Students must demonstrate achievement of professional, entry-level competence in the area of specialization, including significant technical mastery, capability to produce work and solve professional problems independently, and a coherent set of artistic/intellectual goals that are evident in their work.
  - Students will engage in applied studies each quarter that will provide appropriate skills, knowledge, and experience to prepare students for graduate programs and professional careers in the field. They will represent an understanding of a wide range of historical styles and periods.
  - Students will complete courses in music theory, music history, and area-specific literature and pedagogy that will provide appropriate skills, knowledge, and experience to prepare them for professional careers in the field. These courses will represent an understanding of a wide range of historical styles and periods.
- Students must have the ability to communicate musical ideas, concepts, and requirements to professionals and lay persons related to the practice of the major field. Such communication may involve musical, oral, written, and visual media.
  - Students will complete curricular requirements that include courses designed to develop oral and written communication skills.
  - Students will gain knowledge and experience in pedagogical methodologies in their area of specialization.
- Students will gain an understanding of the nature of the music field in the professional world, particularly related to organizational structures, work ethics, technological resources, and entrepreneurial skills required for advancing their careers.
  - Students will complete a required course in music technology and will prepare numerous assignments in music theory and music history courses employing a wide range of software and web-based sources and skills covered in this course.
  - Students will build workplace skills through independent studies with applied faculty and ensemble directions.
- Students must gain experiences in general studies sufficient to prepare them for a range of career options.
  - Students will gain skills sufficient for clear and effective verbal and written communication.

For more information, check these web sites:

School of Music: [music.osu.edu](http://music.osu.edu)

Arts and Humanities: [artsandhumanities.osu.edu](http://artsandhumanities.osu.edu)

Ohio State: [osu.edu](http://osu.edu)

Admissions: [undergrad.osu.edu](http://undergrad.osu.edu)

Multicultural Center: [multiculturalcenter.osu.edu](http://multiculturalcenter.osu.edu)

First Year experience Program: [fye.osu.edu](http://fye.osu.edu)

## Curriculum Sample

This is a sample list of classes a student will take to pursue a degree in Music History. Since university students need more than a specific education in a narrow field, they also will take classes to complete the General Education Curriculum (GEC). The GEC will allow students to develop the fundamental skills essential to collegiate success across major programs. Course work options satisfying the GEC often come from a variety of academic areas of study allowing students to tailor their GEC toward their interests.

Note: This sample represents one of several possible paths to a degree in Music History. Consult the school web site, [music.osu.edu](http://music.osu.edu), for details on each specific track.

### Freshman Year:

Applied Music	9
Music History	1
Music Theory	16
GEC (English composition)	5
GEC (foreign language)	15
GEC (mathematics)	5
Arts Survey	1
Music Ensemble	3
Freshman Seminar	1
<b>Total hours</b>	<b>56</b>

### Sophomore Year:

Applied Music	12
Music History	9
Music Theory	15
GEC (foreign language)	5
GEC (history)	10
GEC (second writing course)	5
Music Ensemble	3
<b>Total hours</b>	<b>59</b>

### Junior Year:

Applied Music	9
Music History, World Music	15
Music Theory	3
GEC (literature)	5
GEC (social sciences)	10
GEC (natural sciences)	10
Music Ensemble	3
<b>Total hours</b>	<b>55</b>

### Senior Year:

Applied Music	5
Music Theory	3
Major Electives	15
Senior Thesis	3
GEC (visual arts)	5
GEC (natural sciences)	5
GEC (social sciences)	5
GEC (data analysis)	5
Music Ensemble	3
<b>Total hours</b>	<b>49</b>

- Students will include a broad range of general studies courses in their curricula appropriate for complementing degree requirements that address their specific music concentrations.

## Career Prospects in Music History

Music history prepares the student to become a music critic, a music publisher or editor, a radio or television music producer, a music librarian, or a director of a community or government arts agency. Students who want to teach music history should plan to continue their studies as graduate students.

## Co-Curricular Opportunities

Ohio State offers many opportunities for students to learn and grow outside of the classroom. These range from cooperative education (co-op) and internships to study abroad programs to student organizations. Co-ops and internships place students in professional environments while they are Ohio State students. Ohio State offers more than 100 study abroad programs in 40 countries around the world. In addition, there are hundreds of student organizations on campus to meet the interests of a diverse student population.

These opportunities enable students to gain valuable work experience, learn about other cultures, and take on leadership roles before they enter the workforce. All of these experiences enhance learning and may provide an advantage in the job market.

## Honors & Scholars Programs

Ohio State offers the Honors and Scholars programs to create an environment of intellectual support and stimulation within a close-knit community of high-ability undergraduate students. Through these programs, students have access to smaller classes, undergraduate research opportunities, close working relationships with faculty, priority scheduling, and unique housing options.

Honors and Scholars programs represent great opportunities to be part of a smaller community within a large university. Good candidates for these programs will receive additional information after admission to the university. Learn more about the Honors and Scholars program at [honors-scholars.osu.edu](http://honors-scholars.osu.edu).

## Career Counseling and Job Placement

Ohio State's professional counseling staff specializes in personal development and academic growth. In addition, Ohio State's career and job placement offices around campus offer help in career planning and, as students move closer to graduation, resume writing, writing application letters, and job placement. These offices can help students match interests and strengths with a promising career. Ohio State recognizes that students' needs for career support services vary and offers special services for disabled students, veterans, minority students, and international students.

**Revised August 2009.** For the most up-to-date information on the music history program, please visit [music.osu.edu](http://music.osu.edu).

## Contact information:

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