

MUSIC: THEORY OF MUSIC, PHD

Music Theory at Penn focuses on continental philosophy and criticism, listening and ethics, the history of theory in modernity, the anthropology of the senses, aesthetics and politics, sound art, urban sound, sound media and technologies, and technics. The program displaces the typical focus on how music is constituted, whether at the level of universal system or particular work, towards the ways in which listening is constituted in various practices and structures of thought.

The Department of Music at the University of Pennsylvania offers Ph.D. programs in three other fields of study besides Theory: Ethnomusicology, Musicology, and Composition. The goal of the graduate program is not to entrench these disciplinary distinctions, but rather to seek out productive and innovative means of placing them in dialogue with each other. This orientation toward holding all of the sub-disciplines in view is reflected in the graduate curriculum as well as in the multiple colloquium series that animate departmental life. The curriculum is designed with flexibility in mind—designed specifically to offer students the freedom to craft a path of study that best addresses the research needs and methodological concerns of their particular dissertation projects. It combines the wide range of courses offered by the world-class faculty in the music department with the possibility of enrolling in seminars in other Penn departments and taking classes at consortium schools such as Princeton, Yale, and Columbia. Our colloquium series provides another means of engaging in both disciplinary and interdisciplinary conversations. In addition, workshops, public performances, and working papers presented by graduate students, post-doctoral fellows and faculty offer a wide range of perspectives on musical practice and scholarship, focusing variously on public lives in music, current research, craft and compositional issues.

For more information: <https://www.sas.upenn.edu/music/graduate/programs>

View the University's Academic Requirements for PhD Degrees (<http://catalog.upenn.edu/pennbook/academic-rules-phd>).

Required Courses

The total course units required for graduation is 20. A minimum of 12 course units must be taken at the University of Pennsylvania.

Code	Title	Course Units
Core Requirements		
MUSC 620	Analytical Methods: Tonal Music	1
MUSC 621	Analytical Methods: Twentieth-Century Music	1
Select two of the following:		2
MUSC 601	Texts and Material Culture	
MUSC 603	Aesthetics and Criticism	
MUSC 604	Historiography and Methodologies.	
MUSC 605	Anthropology of Music	
MUSC 606	The Interpretation of Oral Traditions	
MUSC 622	Tonal and Post-Tonal Music	
MUSC 705	Seminar in Ethnomusicology	
MUSC 710	Studies in Medieval Music	

MUSC 720	Studies in Renaissance Music	
MUSC 730	Studies in Baroque Music	
MUSC 740	Studies in Classical Music	
MUSC 750	Studies in Romantic Music	
MUSC 760	Studies in Twentieth-Century Music	
MUSC 770	Seminar in Afro-American Music	
MUSC 780	Studies in Music Theory and Analysis	1
MUSC 781	Writing Sound—Sounding Literature	1
MUSC 801	Teaching Music Theory (or Elective)	1
MUSC 508	Advanced Musicianship	1
MUSC 799	Guided Reading in Musical Scholarship (or Elective)	1
Select three electives ¹		3
Concentration Requirements		
MUSC 999	Independent Study and Research	1
MUSC 994	Preparation of Ph.D. Proposal	1
Select six electives ¹		6
Total Course Units		20

¹ Courses may be within or outside the Music department.

The degree and major requirements displayed are intended as a guide for students entering in the Fall of 2018 and later. Students should consult with their academic program regarding final certifications and requirements for graduation.