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 – Musicology at Ohio State

Students interested in the musicology major should have a good high school background in writing skills, music performance, sight reading and foreign language.

All freshman applicants are considered within a competitive admission process for the Columbus campus; find admissions criteria at go.osu.edu/admissions.

Students planning to pursue a music major complete an entrance audition and the Theory Placement Exam (TPE) during the senior year in high school on a scheduled Audition Day. Transfer students and students already at Ohio State should also plan to complete an audition and the TPE. For additional information about auditions, visit music.osu.edu/admissions/undergraduate-procedures or contact School of Music Undergraduate Admissions at music-ug@osu.edu or 614-292-2870.

Through the end of the sophomore year, the musicology program is the same as for all music majors: applied music, music theory, music history and General Education requirements. Acceptance in the musicology program is contingent upon the completion of one year of applied music and a 3.0 point-hour ratio in the sophomore music history survey.

Music – Musicology 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
- Music history and world music
- Principal instrument
- Secondary instrument
- Ensembles

Required and elective major courses:
- Music history
- World music
- Music theory

Educational Objectives

Students majoring in musicology 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 semester that will provide appropriate skills, knowledge and experience to prepare students for graduate programs and professional careers in the field. They will demonstrate 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 a wide range of historical styles and periods.
  - Students will 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 and technological resources required for advancing their careers.
    - Students will prepare numerous assignments in music theory and music history courses employing a wide range of software and Web-based sources.
    - Students will build workplace skills through independent studies with applied faculty and ensemble directions.
    - Students will gain experiences in general studies sufficient to prepare them for a range of career options.
    - Students will gain experiences in general studies sufficient to prepare them for a range of career options.

For more information, check these websites:

School of Music: music.osu.edu
Arts and Sciences: artsandsciences.osu.edu
Ohio State: osu.edu
Admissions: undergrad.osu.edu
Multicultural Center: multiculturalcenter.osu.edu
First Year Experience: fye.osu.edu
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.

Whether students intend to enter the job market upon graduation or apply to graduate school, internships provide the experience students need to differentiate themselves from other candidates. Employers and graduate school committees are looking for graduates that have already taken the “next step” to becoming professionals in their field.

Internships provide the direct, field-related experience and application of classroom knowledge that is necessary to advance career goals. Ohio State’s career placement office provides a database of available internships, as well as internship advisors. For more information, visit asccareerservices.osu.edu.

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. Learn more at honors-scholars.osu.edu.

Career Prospects in Musicology
Musicology 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.

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, help with 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. For more information, visit asccareerservices.osu.edu.

Revised September 2015. Information subject to change. For the most up-to-date information on the musicology program, please visit music.osu.edu.

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