

**University of Nevada
Las Vegas
School of Music**



**Musicology Division
Handbook**

Musicology Division Handbook Contents

Introduction	1
<i>Musicology Faculty and Topics</i>	1
Music History Studies	2
<i>Undergraduate Studies</i>	2
Undergraduate Music History Placement Examination	2
Transfer of Undergraduate Credit from Other Institutions to Satisfy Music History Requirements	3
Music History Courses for Non-Majors	3
<i>Graduate Studies</i>	4
Graduate Music History Placement Examination	4
Preparing for the Placement Examination	4
Placement Examination Date	4
Placement Examination Description	4
Remediation	5
Graduate Music History Requirements	5
Music History Components of Graduate Examinations	6
Transfer of Graduate Credit from Other Institutions to Satisfy Music History Requirements	7
Historical Performance Opportunities	7
UNLV Early Music Ensemble (Called “Collegium Musicum” in catalog, pending renaming approval)	7
Contact Information	8
Disclaimer and Limitations	8

Introduction

Musicology and music history studies at UNLV help to ensure that our students have proficient understanding of music-historical concepts and methods, performance practices, reception history, source criticism, and inter-disciplinary issues related to the composition, performance, and criticism of music. In music history courses, students typically study individual musical compositions in order to understand significant composers, styles, genres, and performance traditions.

Music history courses foster students' critical thinking, reading, and writing skills, and encourage students to form and articulate their own ideas about music and its meanings. UNLV graduates in music work widely as performers and music educators, and music historical awareness and fluency are important attributes of their professionalism.

This Musicology Division Handbook is intended to supplement and clarify information found in the University's undergraduate and graduate catalogs and the School of Music's Undergraduate and Graduate Handbooks, address in detail issues specific to music history studies, and provide contact information so that students may submit comments and questions.

Musicology Faculty and Topics

Music history courses at UNLV are taught by historical- and ethnomusicologists, as well as performing artists who have wide-ranging expertise and diverse perspectives. Lecture courses and seminars on all periods of music history, many important genres, and individual composers such as Bach, Beethoven, Wagner, and Stravinsky, and world and popular musics are offered.

Musicology Division faculty

Anthony Barone, Ph.D., Associate Professor (historical musicology)

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Music History Studies

Undergraduate Studies

Candidates for the **Bachelor of Music degree with concentrations in Performance, Composition, Music Education, or Jazz Studies** are required to take some minimum number of music history courses during their studies and may elect to take additional music history courses at their discretion.

Undergraduate students interested in music as a humanistic discipline may pursue the **Bachelor of Arts degree with a concentration in History and Literature**. Candidates for this degree emphasize music history and related topics in their studies.

Undergraduate students may also elect to minor in music.

The current music history requirements for undergraduate degree programs are stated in the University's *Undergraduate Catalog*.

All undergraduate music degree candidates are currently required to take a three-semester sequence of music history surveys (MUS 341, 342, and 343) that cover Western music from the Middle Ages through the present as well as world music traditions.

The texts and audio recordings used in the MUS 341–343 music history surveys are: Burkholder, J. Peter, Donald J. Grout, and Claude V. Palisca, *A History of Western Music*, 10th edition (New York: W. W. Norton, 2014); and Burkholder, J. Peter and Claude V. Palisca, eds., *Norton Anthology of Western Music*, 7th edition, 3 vols. (New York: W. W. Norton, 2014).

Undergraduate Music History Placement Examination

The Undergraduate Music History Placement Examination is administered every year during the fall semester (usually late October or November) to evaluate students' basic music historical literacy and competence and ensure that students enroll in appropriate music history courses. The date and time of the Examination will be announced early in the fall semester of each academic year. The Examination is described below. (The format of the Examination is subject to change.)

The Examination is comprised of four parts and is designed to be completed within seventy-five minutes:

Part 1. The student will match each of ten terms (concepts, persons, musical works, or technical terms) from all historical periods (medieval and Renaissance, baroque, classical, romantic, and modern) with its correct explanation (15 points).

Part 2. The student will answer a series of multiple-choice and true/false questions pertaining to all music historical periods. There will be twenty questions (35 points).

Part 3. The student will hear six audio excerpts of compositions representing a range of historical periods and styles. The student will identify the music-historical period or time-span represented by each composition, and will justify each answer with a very brief written explanation of relevant style characteristics heard in the excerpt (30 points).

Part 4. The student will write an essay (120–200 words recommended) on one broad music historical question that he/she will choose from a selection of questions. The essay will be evaluated based on content, form, and style (20 points).

A grade of 70 or more out of the Examination's 100 points is a passing grade. Students who pass the Examination may enroll, at their earliest convenience and on the recommendation of their advisors, in the MUS 341–343 sequence. **A student who does not pass the Examination must enroll during the next spring semester in MUS 131.** A student who shows deficiencies in the essay portion of the exam may also be counseled to seek assistance with language and writing skills.

Transfer of Undergraduate Credit from Other Institutions to Satisfy Music History Requirements

Undergraduate students may transfer music history credits earned at accredited institutions to satisfy the requirements of their degree programs at UNLV. The Department of Music may, at its discretion, accept or reject for this purpose such previously earned credits.

Any transfer of undergraduate credit from another institution is subject furthermore to the "Credit Evaluation" policies stated in the University's *Undergraduate Catalog*.

Music History Courses for Non-Majors

A variety of courses, especially "Music Appreciation" (MUS 121) and "History of Rock Music" (MUS 125), welcome undergraduate students who wish to learn about the major artists, works, genres, and styles of the Western music tradition. Other introductory courses covering popular, jazz, and world music traditions are also offered on a rotating basis.

Graduate Studies

Graduate Music History Placement Examination

Newly admitted Master of Music and Doctor of Musical Arts candidates are *required* to take a Graduate Placement History Examination upon matriculating. The purpose of the placement examination is to evaluate the depth and breadth of each incoming student's knowledge of music-historical facts, concepts, and repertoire from the Western art music tradition (medieval through contemporary periods). **All incoming graduate students regardless of their area of concentration take this placement examination.**

The examination helps ensure that all graduates of UNLV's music programs are adequately equipped to speak and write knowledgeably about the Western musical tradition, both in subsequent graduate courses or professional careers, which in many instances demand teaching, public lecturing, or writing about Western music.

Preparing for the Placement Examination

The examination is an assessment of accumulated knowledge, and no specific preparation is prescribed or required. Students may wish to prepare, however, by reviewing facts, concepts, and repertoire discussed in J. Peter Burkholder, Donald J. Grout, and Claude V. Palisca, *A History of Western Music*, 9th ed. (New York: W. W. Norton, 2014), earlier editions of the same, the volumes of the Prentice Hall History of Music series, or any similar authoritative texts.

Placement Examination Date

The examination is given during the week prior to the first day of instruction in the fall semester. The specific date, time, and location of the examination will be advertised in late spring or early summer, normally on the Department Web site and/or in other electronic or printed communications. Students who will matriculate in a spring semester may take the examination on this advertised date, but may also take the examination prior to the start of the spring semester on a date to be determined and announced by the Department. *No student may take the placement examination later than the first fall semester of enrollment.*

Placement Examination Description

The format of the examination is subject to change.

The examination will normally comprise four parts:

Part 1. The student will correctly explain and illustrate a selection of terms (concepts, persons, musical works, or technical terms) relating to each of the following five periods of music history (medieval and Renaissance, baroque, classical, romantic, and modern). The student will select two out of four randomly selected terms for each period, for a total of 10 (20 points).

Part 2. The student will answer a series of multiple-choice and true/false questions pertaining to all music historical periods. There will be 28 questions (28 points)

Part 3. The student will choose four out of five unidentified score excerpts that represent different musical periods, styles, and genres, and explain in brief essays (100–150 words recommended) the important style features of each excerpt and assign it plausibly to a composer and/or historical period (28 points). Audio recordings of these excerpts will *not* be played.

Part 4. The student will write an essay (200–250 words recommended) on one broad music historical question he/she will chose from a selection of questions. The essay will be evaluated based on content, form, and style (24 points).

A grade of 70 or more out of the examination’s 100 points is a passing grade. A student who passes the examination may immediately take any of the department’s available graduate music history offerings, provided he/she has already completed or shall concurrently enroll in the Bibliography course (see “*Specific Music History Requirements for Graduate Students*” below). **A student who does not pass the examination must enroll during the first matriculated fall semester in the Graduate Music History Review class. Note that failure to take the examination and/or enroll in the Review class during the first fall semester can potentially delay completion of degree requirements.** Students are therefore advised to reserve time in their schedules to attend the Graduate Music History Review class should this be required. The placement examination will not be administered to students after the first fall semester, and penalties, costs, delays, or other consequences of the student’s failure to observe these requirements are the responsibility of, and will be born solely by the student.

Remediation

Students who do not pass the placement exam will be contacted by the Graduate Coordinator or a member of the Musicology Division with instructions on how to proceed. Each student will be given a custom-tailored remediation plan based on their areas of difficulty on the placement examination. At present, the most common forms of remediation involve one of the following:

- Auditing and successful completion of work in one or more of the 34x undergraduate history surveys. The Musicology Division faculty will recommend which of these surveys should most logically be audited based on the results of the placement examination.
- Self-study (following guidance provided by Musicology Division) followed by a retake of the placement exam in the following semester of study

Note: remediation must be successfully completed prior to enrolling in various courses

at the graduate level, including MUS 770 (Special Topics in Music History), a requirement for virtually all graduate programs.

Graduate Music History Requirements

Candidates for the **Master of Music and Doctor of Musical Arts degrees in all concentrations** are required to take some minimum number of music history courses during their studies, and may elect to take additional music history courses at their discretion.

The current music history requirements for graduate degree programs in music are stated in the University's [Graduate Catalog](#).

Upon passing the Graduate Music History Placement test at matriculation, or after successful completion of the Graduate Music History Review course, graduate students may choose from a wide variety of graduate courses focusing on composer, genre, or period topics.

Bibliography: All Master of Music and Doctor of Musical Arts degree candidates are required to take a one-semester Bibliography course (MUS 690) that provides instruction in music research techniques, resources, and scholarly presentation styles. The Bibliography course should be taken at the earliest opportunity during the student's program, and must be taken prior to other graduate music history courses. It may, however, be taken concurrently with the Graduate Music History Review Course. **Satisfactory completion of Bibliography is indicated by a course grade of B (83.3/100) or higher.**

Doctoral Research Seminar: All Doctor of Musical Arts degree candidates in music are required to take a one-semester Doctoral Research Seminar (MUS 773), in which students explore a variety of advanced topics and methods in contemporary music scholarship. The course is intended to provide D.M.A candidates with the scholarly vocabulary and research tools needed for thesis research and scholarly collaboration with future colleagues. The Bibliography course (described above) or equivalent bibliography course taken at another institution is a prerequisite for the Doctoral Research Seminar. The Doctoral Research Seminar is currently offered only in spring semesters, contingent upon enrollment.

Music History Components of Graduate Examinations

Doctor of Musical Arts Degree: Following the completion of course work and prior to the writing of their research document, Doctor of Musical Arts degree candidates take a qualifying examination that includes broad coverage of music historical topics. Among other tasks, candidates must demonstrate their understanding of music history through essays and stylistic analysis of diverse scores.

The music history written portion of Doctoral qualifying examination is comprised of the following components:

Part 1. The examinee will correctly explain and illustrate a selection of terms (concepts, persons, musical works, or technical terms) relating to each of the following five periods of music history (medieval and renaissance, baroque, classical, romantic, and modern). The examinee will select two out of four randomly selected terms for each period, for a total of ten. The examinee will moreover identify a specific composer, musical work, or other object that clearly illustrates or exemplifies the meaning of each selected term.

Part 2. The examinee will choose four out of five unidentified score excerpts that represent different musical periods, styles, and genres. For each excerpt chosen, the examinee will explain in a brief essay (100–150 words recommended) important stylistic and technical features of the music, and will use this evidence to attribute the work plausibly to a historical period and composer. Audio recordings of these excerpts will not be played. The essays will be evaluated based primarily on the comprehensiveness, depth, and terminological accuracy of the examinee’s analysis, and secondarily on the attribution of the work.

Part 3. The examinee will write essays (500–750 words recommended) addressing two broad music historical questions he/she will choose from among four given questions. The essay will be evaluated based primarily on content, and secondarily on form and style. The questions will specify the minimum requirements for their adequate responses.

Consult the Department’s Graduate Handbook, which may contain additional information about the Doctor of Musical Arts degree qualifying examination.

Transfer of Graduate Credit from Other Institutions to Satisfy Music History Requirements

Graduate students may petition the Department of Music to transfer graduate music history credits earned at other accredited institutions to satisfy the requirements of their degree programs at UNLV. The Department of Music may, at its discretion, accept or reject for this purpose such previously earned credits. Students who wish to petition the Department to apply such credit toward their music history requirements should contact the Department at the earliest opportunity (see Contact Information below) and should be prepared to provide detailed documentation of their prior studies.

Any transfer of graduate credit from another institution is also subject to the “Transfer Credit Limitations—Prior to Admission and Enrollment” and “Transfer Credit Limitations—After Admission and Enrollment” policies of the University’s *Graduate Catalog*.

Historical Performance Opportunities

UNLV Early Music Ensemble (Called “Collegium Musicum” in catalog, pending renaming approval)

The UNLV Early Music Ensemble (MUSE 494/594) offers students the opportunity to perform early historical repertoires under the guidance of faculty who are versed in historical performance practice issues and techniques.

All UNLV music performance ensembles provide students with manifold opportunities to explore historical repertoire and gain insight into the issues and methods of music history.

Contact Information

If you have questions or comments relating to music history studies at UNLV, please feel welcome to contact Dr. Anthony Barone (anthony.barone@unlv.edu or 702-895-5953; College of Fine Arts, Department of Music, 4505 Maryland Parkway, Box 455025, Las Vegas, NV 89154-5025). E-mail communication is preferred.

Disclaimer and Limitations

This Handbook is provided as-is for information purposes and does not represent a contract or agreement. Neither the University nor the Department of Music assumes liability for loss or damage incurred as a result of using this Handbook. The Department of Music reserves the right to revise this Handbook at any time. In the event of disparity or conflict between this Handbook and the policies of the University, the University’s policies shall take precedence. In the event of disparity or conflict between this Handbook and the Department of Music’s Graduate Handbook, the Graduate Handbook’s policies shall take precedence.