MUSIC - DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PhD)

The doctor of philosophy (PhD) in music degree is offered through the Graduate School for students who seek a terminal degree with an emphasis on research.

Areas of Emphasis

The two principal areas of study are music education and musicology (including ethnomusicology).

Music Education Emphasis

The Doctor of Philosophy degree in music, with music education as a field of specialization, is offered through the Graduate School for students who demonstrate both scholarly potential and a superior commitment to the music education profession.

This degree program requires that individuals think abstractly, generalize knowledge, apply research results to areas of specialization, and communicate effectively in both oral and written forms.

Course work emphasizes the study of historical, philosophical, psychological and sociological foundations of music education; the theoretical and pedagogical principles of music teaching and learning; curriculum development; testing and assessment; and research techniques.

Graduates typically pursue careers in music education at the college level or supervisory positions in elementary and secondary schools.

Musicology Emphasis

For the musicology student, the Doctor of Philosophy in music degree is intended to emphasize research in music history, music theory, ethnomusicology or some other aspect of music in culture.

The musicology faculty encourage students entering the graduate program, whether from the bachelor’s or master’s level, to pursue the PhD, the benchmark of professional education within the field.

Requirements

Prerequisites

Students applying to the PhD program should have a bachelor’s degree or equivalent in a music field related to their intended area of study. Applicants for the PhD with an emphasis in music education should hold an MME degree.

Letters of recommendation, representative research papers and satisfactory scores on the GRE (the general test) are required elements of the student’s application for the degree.

Upon entrance to the degree program, students must pass the preliminary examinations and begin working toward basic requirements.

Degree Requirements

Music Education Emphasis

Course Requirements

Students must complete a minimum of 45 credit hours of courses numbered 5000 or above, 15 of which may be transferred from the master’s degree, and a minimum of 30 credit hours of doctoral dissertation credit.

Dissertation Requirements

Each candidate must complete a dissertation based on original investigation that demonstrates mature scholarship. Following successful completion of the comprehensive examination, the student designates a dissertation committee, develops a dissertation prospectus and presents it to the committee for approval. After the dissertation has been accepted, a final oral examination on the dissertation and related topics is conducted by the student’s dissertation committee.

Musicology Emphasis

Course Requirements

Students must complete a minimum of 30 credit hours of courses numbered 5000 or above, although the minimum number is almost always exceeded. At least four doctoral seminars (7000 level) in musicology and music theory (3 plus 1, 1 plus 3, or 2 plus 2) must be taken at CU Boulder as part of this course work.

Students must also complete at least 30 credit hours of dissertation credit, with not more than 10 of those credit hours in any one semester. Furthermore, not more than 10 credit hours of dissertation credit earned prior to a student’s advancement to candidacy may be applied toward the required 30 credit hours.

Up to 21 credit hours of graduate work taken at another institution may be considered for transfer.

The College of Music requires proficiency in two foreign languages appropriate to the student’s program of study. Normally, the language requirement is met by a translation examination scheduled twice a semester through the graduate music office.

Dissertation Requirements

The dissertation should be an original and worthwhile contribution to knowledge in the field of musicology. It is expected that the student work closely with a major professor who will serve as the first reader and critic before the dissertation is submitted to the other dissertation committee members.