

HONORS IN MUSIC 2009-10

Brown University shall, at graduation, grant honors to students whose work in a field of concentration has demonstrated superior quality and culminated in an honors thesis of distinction.

In order to apply for Honors in Music a student must fulfill the following criteria:

1. The student must have acquired a 3.5 cumulative grade point average overall.
2. The student must also present evidence of a 3.5 cumulative grade point average in course that count toward the concentration, including MUSC0550-0560. (We equate “S with distinction” with A.) Grades of “S” are not computed in the grade point average.

DEPARTMENTAL PROCEDURES:

The department designates three kinds of projects leading to honors in music.

- (a) Research project in history, theory, or ethnomusicology
- (b) Composition project
- (c) Performance project accompanied by pertinent research of lesser scope than (a).

A student wishing to propose a project should proceed as follows:

1. The student must secure a faculty member willing to serve as sponsor for the project sometime during the junior year. During the break before the seventh semester, the student will begin work. At the beginning of the seventh semester, the student will complete a proposal describing the project, sending the proposal in advance to the sponsor for approval. The proposal must be completed and approved by the second Friday of the seventh semester. In addition, the student must find a second member of the faculty (and a third, if desired) to serve with the sponsor as the honors committee for the project. The full committee need not be determined by the time the honors proposal is submitted, however.
2. The proposal will be given immediately to the Student Affairs Coordinator, Kathleen Nelson, who will arrange to distribute copies to the full faculty, who must vote to approve the project. Decisions will be based on the student’s overall performance in music and the quality of the proposal. The sponsor will notify the student of the faculty’s decision.
3. It is expected that honors projects will normally take two semesters to complete. Approved students may choose, then, to sign up for MUSC1970 in the Fall and/or in the Spring. More importantly, they will establish a series of regular meetings with the project sponsor. By finals week of the first semester, students must demonstrate substantial progress by submitting to the sponsor a partial draft of a paper or composition or, for performance projects, by playing a significant portion of the programmed repertoire. Failure to make sufficient progress may result in the termination of the honors project.
4. Spring semester deadlines: The student must submit a complete draft to the sponsor and to the other members of the honors committee by the Monday following the Spring break. The student’s honors committee will then comment on the project, and suggest revisions. Revisions must be completed, and the final product submitted to the honors committee by the Monday two weeks later (see table below for 2009-10 dates). In the case of performance projects, this means that both the public performance and the scholarly component should have been completed by this date. In the case of research projects, it means that all figures, notes, bibliography, and other critical apparatus, will be in place by this date. Failure to

make the deadline will result in the forfeiting of honors by the candidate, though the student may complete the project as an independent study.

5. Faculty sponsors will confer with the other members of the honors committee to determine their views on the project. If the second reader is outside Music, the sponsor will solicit a written recommendation about the merits of the project.
6. Faculty sponsors will place a copy of the completed thesis on reserve in the Music Library by the middle of the third week of April, so that it may be reviewed by colleagues. The sponsor will then present a report on the project to the full faculty, and the faculty will vote, on the fourth Tuesday of April. Students will be notified by the concentration adviser immediately after the meeting.

Deadlines FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2009-10

Proposal due to project advisor	Sept 18
Faculty meeting to approve proposals	Sept 29
Partial draft due	Dec 10
Complete draft due	April 5
Final revisions/concerts due	April 19
Theses to library	April 22
Faculty meeting to vote	April 27