UNDERGRADUATE CONCENTRATIONS AND THE CONFERRAL OF HONORS
IN MUSIC HISTORY, ETHNOGRAPHY, AND THEORY

The following guidelines are designed to be read by the student and made public.

A. The nature and process of concentrations.

In addition to required coursework, the history/theory concentration consists of a senior thesis based on original research and/or analysis. The topic, scope, methodology, and evidence of the thesis are to be determined by the concentration advisor in consultation with the student.

The thesis represents a year’s worth of research, analysis, and writing, and the completed work should be equivalent in length and substance to three WIM seminar papers (a total of 10,000 - 15,000 words). The thesis may include a combination of historical research, field research, musical analysis, and musical edition/transcription with commentary.

B. The meaning of honors; the criteria and standards by which honors cases are to be evaluated.

Honors will be reserved for senior theses that demonstrate research, grounding in secondary literature, command of methodology, and writing at a level that exceeds Stanford’s already high expectations for undergraduates. The thesis must, in itself, be a sufficient representation of this high standard.

C. The process for concentrations and the conferral of honors.

1. The student and advisor will recruit at least one other faculty member to serve on an ad hoc thesis committee by February 15 of the thesis year. A third member from Music or another department may be added as appropriate.

2. The student will distribute a semi-final draft of the thesis to the concentration advisor and committee for comments and suggestions by April 30 of the thesis year.

3. The student will revise the thesis in response to the committee’s comments, and submit the final draft by May 15 of the thesis year. The committee will review the final draft and vote on recommendation for Honors.

4. The undergraduate committee will determine if the grade point average is sufficient for honors, and will check to see that there are no outstanding incompletes, missing courses, or other blemishes on the student’s transcript. Except for this perfunctory check, it is assumed that the undergraduate committee will approve the recommendation of the ad hoc concentration committee.

5. Unless the student hears otherwise, he or she may assume two things:
   - The concentration project was successfully completed; and
   - Honors was not awarded.