

Swarthmore College Music Program Research Goals

The Music Program engages students in the research process in a number of ways:

At a basic level, musicians taking lessons and performing in ensembles need to be able to find performing scores to the pieces they want to study. They may also wish to experience other musicians' interpretations of composers' works by listening to recorded performances. In addition, some ensemble directors post sound files, scores, and readings in Moodle for students to access. A list of [department ensembles](#) is available through the music department webpage.

At an intermediate level, students taking chamber music for credit must submit program notes about the work they are performing and students taking lessons for credit are required to do a research project and write a one to two page paper on the composition they intend to play for juries. Details about the [Music 48 paper](#) are available through the music department webpage.

At the advanced level, students in many music history classes and in the highest level music theory class are assigned final research papers. [Course descriptions and requirements for the music major](#) are available through the college catalog.

Performance

Student should be able to:

Access required course materials through course management systems.

Intelligently browse the physical collection. Have an understanding of the library's classification systems.

Search a variety of discovery tools such as the library catalog, WorldCat, and online score resources (ISMLP, for example).

Interpret search results.

Determine if an item is held locally. Find items on library shelves.

Evaluate scores for accuracy and authority. Understand the concept of the urtext edition.

Know when to request sources through interlibrary loan services.

Know when to ask for help from an instructor or librarian.

Have an understanding of how intellectual property, copyright, and fair use are applied to music materials.

Research for Music 47: Fetter Chamber Music Program Notes

In addition to the skills above, students should be able to:

Explore general information sources to increase familiarity with the topic such as music encyclopedias and dictionaries, music histories, and composer biographies.

Correctly interpret bibliographic citations.

Research for the Music 48: Lessons for Credit Writing Assignment

In addition to the skills above, students should be able to:

Identify a topic and formulate research questions.

Refine a topic to a manageable focus.

Identify key concepts and terms that describe the topic.

Navigate the subject portal to identify appropriate bibliographic tools for their topic.

Search a variety of specialized discovery tools in the field of music such as *Oxford Music Online* and the *RILM Abstracts* to gather together a working bibliography.

Identify a variety of types and formats of sources of information such as books; articles; scholarly, critical and performance editions; sound and video recordings and accompanying notes; websites by scholarly organizations and subject experts.

Recognize that in addition to writings and interviews, primary sources in music include recordings and scores.

Evaluate resources for reliability, validity, accuracy, authority, timeliness, and point of view or bias. Be aware of the danger of relying on sources that may not be vetted.

Create consistently formatted references and citations for sources including scores, recordings, and their accompanying notes.

Research for Final Papers in Music History and Theory

In addition to the skills above, students should be able to:

Understand the process of how to identify a thesis statement.

Develop a research plan.

Find a score within a composer's collected works.

Consider conference proceedings, dissertations, and archives when gathering sources.

Know how to trace references to their sources.

Preparation for Public Presentation of Research

Be comfortable with presentation software such as PowerPoint.

Be comfortable with presentation hardware such as the classroom computers and the projection system.

Be aware of your physical appearance and presence within the space with attention to vocal projection and eye contact.

Be able to stay within the stated presentation time limit.