The Music History major is a designated capstone major. Undergraduate students who are not pursing departmental honors must complete a senior thesis that demonstrates the skills and expertise they have acquired in earlier coursework. Students completing the capstone should be able to:

- demonstrate, within the context of a specialized topic in music history, specific skills and expertise acquired in earlier coursework, including research, analysis, writing, and general knowledge of music and music history.
- identify and analyze appropriate primary sources and musical scores.
- acquire a working knowledge of scholarly discourse relative to a specialized topic.
- conceive and execute a project that identifies and engages with a problem within a specialized topic.
- engage with a community of scholars, presenting one’s own work to peers and helping to further the work of those peers through discussion and critique.