

Graduate Placement Exams in Music Theory and Music History Description

These graduate placement examinations will help assess your background knowledge of music theory and history. It will allow your advisor to assist you in the selection of courses.

Music Theory

The exam will involve these skills:

- Reading in treble, bass, and alto clefs
- Identifying and writing key signatures, chords, and scales
- Harmonizing a melody
- Realizing a figured bass in 4-part SATB chorale style
- Harmonic and formal analysis

Review and study the following:

- Major and minor scales
- Key signatures
- Modes (Dorian, Phrygian, Lydian, Mixolydian, Aeolian)
- Whole tone and pentatonic scales
- Augmented sixth chords (French, German, Italian)
- Neapolitan chord
- Secondary dominants and secondary leading-tone chords (a.k.a applied chords)
- Parallel and contrasting periods
- Sentences
- Perfect authentic, imperfect authentic, and half cadences
- Sequences (Descending 5th, Ascending 5th, Descending 3rd, Ascending 2nd)
- Form: simple binary, rounded binary, ternary, sonatina
- Omnibus progression
- Borrowed chords from the parallel major or minor
- Non-chord tones: passing tones, neighboring tones, suspensions, appoggiaturas, escape tones, pedal tone

Music History

- Multiple choice questions
- Covers western music history from the middle ages through the 20th century
- Listening portion in which you must identify the style periods of the musical excerpts

Any undergraduate music theory and history textbooks will serve as good resources