

Graduate Music Diagnostic Exams

Diagnostic Exams

First-year students in all MM (except MM-Opera), DMA, and PhD-Theory and Musicology programs are required to take the School's graduate diagnostic exams **immediately before the first semester of enrollment**. **Students' enrollment in School of Music course work will be cancelled if the diagnostic exams are not taken.** *A student who received a bachelor's or master's degree from KU within the last 4 years is exempt from this requirement.*

Diagnostic exams that are failed can be retaken only once, and only immediately before the **second semester** of admission. Extenuating circumstances will be considered.

Musicology (Music History):

Diagnostic exams will cover 6 historical periods:

Medieval	Classical
Renaissance	Romantic
Baroque	20 th -21 st Century

Incoming students are encouraged to review their undergraduate Music History texts in preparation for these exams. The examination includes essay questions; identification of terms, titles, and names; and identification of stylistic traits in recorded examples.

Theory:

Diagnostic exams will cover four areas:

Harmony
Aural Skills
Form
20th Century

A practice theory diagnostic exam can be found here: <http://music.ku.edu/grad-music-theory-diagnostic-exam-practice>

Review of undergraduate theory texts is encouraged.

Remediation of deficiencies

If a student fails one or more of the diagnostic areas on the first administration of the diagnostic exam, the student must either a) pass the diagnostic exam in the failed areas on the second administration, or b) earn a grade of C or better in the appropriate courses below to clear deficiencies.

Deficiencies must be remediated as soon as possible, preferably by the end of the second semester of enrollment and at the latest by the end of the third semester. **If a student has not cleared all deficiencies by the end of the third semester of enrollment, enrollment in subsequent course work will not be allowed.**

The above two methods are the only avenues for students to satisfy deficiencies. Independent study credits are not permissible, nor will diagnostic exams be made available to students outside of the opportunities scheduled before each fall and spring semester.

Theory:

Four independent review courses (400-level, undergraduate) will be offered each academic year.

Fall:

MTHC 400: Graduate Review: Written Theory (1 credit; offered first 8 weeks)

MTHC 402: Graduate Review: Aural Skills (1 credit; offered second 8 weeks)

Spring:

MTHC 404: Graduate Review: Form (1 credit; offered first 8 weeks)

MTHC 406: Graduate Review: 20th Century (1 credit; offered second 8 weeks)

Musicology:

Six independent review courses (400-level, undergraduate) will be offered each academic year.

Fall:

MUSC 474: Graduate Review: Medieval (1 credit; offered 1st third of the semester)

MUSC 475: Graduate Review: Renaissance (1 credit; offered 2nd third of the semester)

MUSC 476: Graduate Review: Baroque (1 credit; offered 3rd third of the semester)

Spring:

MUSC 477: Graduate Review: Classic (1 credit; offered 1st third of the semester)

MUSC 478: Graduate Review: Romantic (1 credit; offered 2nd third of the semester)

MUSC 479: Graduate Review: 20th-21st Century (1 credit; offered 3rd third of the semester)

PLEASE NOTE:

Musicology diagnostic exams are given online through Blackboard. Once you are admitted and have a student ID, you can log into Blackboard. Go to the main KU website, www.ku.edu, and click on “Blackboard” at the top of the page (in the blue ribbon). New student names will be entered into the database for this exam approximately 1 week before the exam. The exam can only be taken on the date and times published in the School of Music Graduate Calendar.

Piano

All new piano graduate students must take a piano literature diagnostic exam assessing knowledge of keyboard literature from 1300 to the present day. *A student who received a bachelor's or master's degree in piano from KU within the last 4 years is exempt from this requirement.* Students who do not pass this exam are required to satisfy the deficiency by enrolling in PIAN 643 and PIAN 644, Piano Literature I and II, as recommended by the faculty of the Piano Division. These deficiencies must be satisfied before the piano student can enroll in PIAN 921 seminars. If a piano student has further questions regarding this diagnostic exam, he or she should contact the director of the piano division for more information.

Textbooks appropriate for review include:

Musicology

Bond, Mark Evan, *A History of Music In Western Culture*

Crocker, Richard L., *A History of Musical Style*

Grout, Donald J. and Claude V. Palisca, *A History of Western Music*

Poultney, David, *Studying Music History; Learning, Reasoning, and Writing about Music History and Literature*

Seaton, Douglass, *Ideas and Styles in the Western Musical Tradition*

Stolba, K. Marie, *The Development of Western Music: A History*

Music Theory

Aural Skills

Phillips, Joe, Jane Piper Clendinning, and Elizabeth West Marvin. 2012. *The Musician's Guide to Aural Skills, Second Edition. Volumes 1 & 2.* New York: W.W. Norton.

Free website: www.teoria.com has ear training practice tests

Tonal Theory

Clendinning, Jane Pipe and Elizabeth West Marvin. 2010. *The Musician's Guide to Theory and Analysis, Second Edition.* New York: W.W. Norton.

Post-tonal Theory

Kostka, Stefan. 2005. *Materials and Techniques of Twentieth-Century Music, Third Edition.* Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall.

Straus, Joseph. 2004. *Introduction to Post-Tonal Theory, Third Edition.*

Form

Caplin, William. 1998. *Classical Form: A Theory of Formal Functions for the Instrumental Music of Haydn, Mozart, and Beethoven.* Oxford: Oxford University Press.

18th Century Counterpoint

Gauldin, Robert. 1990. *A Practical Approach to 18th Century Counterpoint.* Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall. Reprinted by Waveland Press.