

Brass Comprehensive Exam Guide
School of Music
University of Missouri
(last update: March 2018)

I. Goals and Purpose of the Exam

- The purpose of this exam is to test your knowledge in the history, pedagogy and literature (solo and pedagogical) of your instrument.
- This exam is normally taken during the fourth semester of full-time study, before a panel of all the brass area faculty. The exam will be scheduled in advance, during convocation hours in March or April (Tuesday or Thursday at 3:00 PM). Fall exams will be scheduled as necessary.
- Exams will be graded Pass/Fail, and no follow-up projects to remedy weaknesses exhibited during the exam will be permitted. If the student does not pass the exam, he/she will be allowed one retake the following semester.

II. Advance Assignments

- 12-20 page double-spaced summary research paper on the history of your instrument. This paper should summarize changes in the instrument and usage in solo and ensemble roles, with examples of significant musical works or performers that illustrate your arguments. This paper should have a bibliography with at least ten sources and footnotes. Be judicious in your editing and discussion so that you can cover all areas equally. Your primary applied teacher will be your resource and advisor for this document. The final document will be distributed for review to brass area faculty at least seven days prior to examination date.
- An annotated bibliography of significant pedagogical books and texts about their instrument and brass playing. A minimum of twelve sources should be annotated. Each annotation should consist of a paragraph that details the content of each resource. Your primary applied teacher will serve as your resource and advisor on this document. The final document will be distributed to the brass area faculty at least seven days prior to the examination date.
- All of these materials should have been previously prepared the earlier in the program of study during the Brass Pedagogy and Literature course. Review of all course materials from Brass Pedagogy and Literature is important for the preparation for this exam.

III. 30 minutes before the Exam

Score Excerpts: You will be provided ten score identification examples. You will be able to take the scores to a practice room piano, and you may make notes on the scores to bring with you to the exam. You may not access the internet, library, mobile devices, or other reference sources. (Your cell phone and laptop will be collected when scores are given to you).

IV. Oral Exam (60 Minutes)

Exam will consist of two portions:

- Discussion items and questions from the history paper and pedagogical bibliography, and the solo and pedagogical literature for your instrument.
- Score identification: You will be asked to identify the type of piece, historical period of the piece, and a likely composer with rationale for the identification. Score examples will be selected by the major applied teacher and consists of excerpts from standard solo, chamber, band, and orchestral literature.

V. Results

Exams will be graded pass/fail, and no follow-up projects to remedy weaknesses exhibited during the exam will be permitted. If a student does not pass the exam, he/she will be allowed one retake the next semester (not including summer).