

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

I. Goals and Purpose of the Exam

The goal of this comprehensive exam is to demonstrate the knowledge and skills that you amassed during coursework in your degree program. These questions are meant to (a) stimulate your thinking about wind band composers, conductor rehearsal strategies, and music programming at the secondary and collegiate levels, and (b) promote the intelligent discussion of issues related to wind band conducting.

II. Take-Home Assignments

None

III. Before the Exam

No preparation

IV. Oral Exam (60 min)

A. Score Identification: You will be given three scores. After viewing each score, please attempt to name the composer. Provide supporting evidence such as instrumentation, compositional techniques, and score markings to support your choices. (15 minutes)

B. Wind Band History and Development: Please trace the development of the wind band genre through the 20th Century. (15 minutes)

C. Wind Band Repertoire: Please suggest appropriate literature for middle school, high school, and university bands. Think in terms of what masterworks should be performed at each of these levels. (15 minutes)

D. Rehearsal Strategies: Given a specific performance problem (e.g., technique, intonation, articulation) that may occur when rehearsing one of the pieces that you saw during the Score Identification portion of the exam, be prepared to describe possible rehearsal solutions that would help ameliorate the issue(s). (15 minutes)

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).