

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

I. Goals and Purpose of the Exam

The oral comprehensive examination provides a forum for MM students in woodwind performance to demonstrate:

- A command of content in the major area of study, particularly in areas of performance and pedagogy
- An ability to apply appropriate historical knowledge and theoretical skills to the major area of study

II. Advance Assignments

Your instructor may require additional assignments or written components of the comprehensive exam. Consult your instructor at the beginning of your course of study regarding the specific requirements for your instrument.

III. 60 minutes before the Exam

The oral examination will consist of responding to a small selection of score excerpts (3-5), which students will receive one hour before the exam. These excerpts may consist of selections from the solo, orchestral, or chamber music repertoire. Students may take any notes but will not be permitted to use outside sources, including the Internet, to assist in their study of the score excerpts.

IV. Oral Exam (60 minutes)

Questions regarding the above excerpts may consist of:

- Identification of title, composer, compositional genre, or historical era/style with rationale for identification
- Melodic, harmonic, or structural analysis
- Pedagogical issues
- Performance practice issues
- General questions regarding pedagogy and 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).