

# Orchestral Conducting Comprehensive Exam Guide

## School of Music

**University of Missouri**  
(last update: March 2024)

### I. Goals and Purpose of the Exam

This exam gives students the opportunity to demonstrate what they know and also to demonstrate that they have successfully addressed areas they need to improve during their graduate studies.

### II. One Week Before the Exam

Students will receive scores and a mock program for a standard university level ensemble 1 week before the exam. Students must then study the program and develop a 6-week rehearsal plan for a university orchestra that meets M/W/F from 3-5 pm to get from sight reading to concert.

### III. Oral Exam (60 min)

A. **Conducting Preparation:** Identify the challenges this program presents to a conductor from a technical, musical, and practical point of view. Identify the challenges this program presents to a university orchestra from a technical and musical point of view.

B. **Rehearsal Preparation:** Present your 6-week rehearsal plan for the program.

C. **Score Identification:** The student will receive excerpts from 5 unidentified orchestral scores. Talk through what you see and take an educated guess at the style/composer.

### IV. 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, they will be allowed one retake.