

Choral Conducting Comprehensive Exam Guide
School of Music
University of Missouri
(Last update: April 2025)

I. Goals and Purpose of the Exam

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

II. Advance Assignments

Conducting Score Preparation
List of Selected Repertoire

III. One Week Before the
Exam

Students will receive the score one week before the exam.

IV. Oral Exam (60 min)

A. Conducting Preparation: Explain how you determine conducting meters and appropriate beat groupings. Provide marked scores for the committee and be prepared to discuss the process of score preparation.

B. Score Identification: The student will receive an unidentified choral score *and* an unidentified choral/orchestral score. Analyze the score, describe your observations, and make an informed guess about the style and composer.

C. Stylistic Approaches (as discussed in the advanced choral conducting class): Be prepared to discuss how you can use basic score analysis and key stylistic features to help identify the time period and style of a choral piece. How do gesture and score preparation vary across historical periods?

D. Appropriate Repertoire: Provide a selection of suitable choral works from the Renaissance, Baroque, Folk traditions, and Romantic periods for a well-rounded high school or early college-level mixed choir. Also feel free to include repertoire options for TB and SA choirs (divisi optional).

E. Identifying Styles: Can you recognize a musical style upon first hearing? Prepare for aural analysis and be ready to describe what you hear. You will be asked to identify the composer and period.

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).