

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

I. Goals and Purpose of the Exam

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

II. Advance Assignments

None

III. One Week Before the Exam

Students will receive the score 1 week before the exam

IV. Oral Exam (60 min)

A. Conducting Preparation: Explain how you'd decide conducting the meters and appropriate groupings. Be ready to explain how one prepares a score

B. Score Identification: The student will receive an unidentified choral score and an unidentified choral/orchestral score. Talk through what you see and take an educated guess at the style/composer.

C. Style Approaches (such as we discussed/studied in choral conducting class): How might one interpret (apply stylistic considerations) a Bach score differently from a Schumann score? Can you look at a score and classify by period/style? How does gesture and score preparation vary from one historical period to the next?

D. Appropriate Repertoire: list some appropriate repertoire (Renaissance, Baroque, Romantic) for a good high school/young college mixed choir. Some good pieces for TTBB/SSAA choirs should be included.

E. Identifying Styles: Can you identify style on first hearing? Prepare for blind listening and explain what you hear. You will be asked to guess the composer/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).