

MU School of Music
Theory Advisory Examination
For Incoming Graduate Students

Incoming master's students will be required to take a diagnostic exam in order to determine placement in graduate-level theory courses. Based on the results of the exam, students will be placed either in a non-credit review course in theory, or will be able to enroll in any graduate-level theory course. The exam will be offered at the beginning of the fall semester.

The exam will cover the following material:

- Standard forms, including but not limited to: Binary, Ternary, Sonata, Rondo, and Variations.
- Diatonic and Chromatic harmony (analysis and partwriting)
- Post-tonal techniques, including Set Theory and Twelve-tone Theory

Textbooks currently used at the University of Missouri-Columbia in the basic music theory courses are:

- *A Concise Introduction to Tonal Harmony*, Burstein & Straus (W. W. Norton & Company, 2016)
- *Introduction to Post-tonal Theory*, Straus (Prentice-Hall, Fourth Edition, 2016)
- *Graduate Review of Tonal Theory*, Laitz/Bartlette (Oxford University Press, 2009)

Some other books that the student might find helpful for review of music theory are:

- *Form in Tonal Music*, Douglass Green (Holt, Rinehart & Winston, second edition, 1979)
- *The Complete Musician*, Steven Laitz (Oxford University Press, fourth edition, 2015)

Music Theory Courses Offered at the University of Missouri-Columbia

- Fundamentals of Music I and II (undergraduate non-majors)
- Undergraduate Music Theory Core:
 - Tonal Theory (Two years: four semesters “written” theory and four semesters aural skills)
 - Post-Tonal Theory (One semester)
- Rhythmic Analysis of Tonal Music
- Choral Arranging
- Band Arranging
- Orchestration
- Keyboard Harmony and Score Reading
- 18th Century Counterpoint
- 16th Century Counterpoint
- Introduction to Schenkerian Analysis
- Pedagogy of Music Theory
- Seminars in Music Theory, including:
 - Sonata Form
 - Math and Psychology
 - Schenkerian Analysis
- Research (thesis course for theory majors)

Questions may be directed to Dr. Neil Minturn, Area Coordinator of Music Theory, University of Missouri.

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