Graduate Diagnostic Exam in Music Theory:
Study Guide
University of Missouri, School of Music

Incoming master’s students will be required to take a diagnostic exam 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, advised to take Post-Tonal Music Theory, and/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 (a template of the exam is available online):

- Standard Western European art music and popular forms, including but not limited to binary, ternary, sonata, rondo, variation, strophic, AABA, and verse-chorus forms
- Diatonic and chromatic harmony (analysis and part writing)
- Post-tonal analytic techniques, including set theory and twelve-tone serialism
- Score reading

Textbooks currently used at the University of Missouri are:


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


If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact Peter Lea at leap@missouri.edu.