

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:

- Burstein and Straus, *A Concise Introduction to Tonal Harmony* (W. W. Norton & Company, second edition, 2020), <https://wwnorton.com/books/9780393417180>.
- Straus, *Introduction to Post-tonal Theory* (Prentice-Hall, fourth edition, 2016), <https://wwnorton.com/books/9780393938838>.
- Laitz and Bartlette, *Graduate Review of Tonal Theory* (Oxford University Press, 2009), <https://global.oup.com/ushe/product/graduate-review-of-tonal-theory-9780195376982>.
- Shaffer, Hughes, and Moseley, *Open Music Theory* (Hybrid Pedagogy Publishing, 2018), <http://openmusictheory.com/contents.html>.

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

- Green, *Form in Tonal Music* (Holt, Rinehart & Winston, second edition, 1979), <https://www.worldcat.org/title/form-in-tonal-music-an-introduction-to-analysis/oclc/387835>.
- Laitz, *The Complete Musician*, (Oxford University Press, fourth edition, 2015), <https://global.oup.com/ushe/product/the-complete-musician-9780199347094>.

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