

# Graduate Music Theory Assessment

## Study Guide

University of Missouri, School of Music

Incoming master's students will be required to take a music theory assessment to ensure success in graduate-level music theory courses. Based on the results, 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 assessment will be offered at the beginning of the fall semester.

The assessment will cover the following material (a template 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>.
- Mark Gotham, Kyle Gullings, Chelsey Hamm, Bryn Hughes, Brian Jarvis, Megan Lavengood, and John Peterson, *Open Music Theory*, v. 2. <https://viva.pressbooks.pub/openmusictheory/front-matter/introduction/>.

Some other resources that you may find helpful for review of music theory are:

- Craig Wright, *Yale Music Theory Course*, Recorded Lectures, Yale University <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL9LXrs9vCXXK56qyK4qcqwHrbfoem81r>.
- Adam Ricci, *musictheory.net*, <http://www.musictheory.net/>.
- EarMaster, *Understanding Music Theory*, <https://www.earmaster.com/music-theory-online/course-introduction.html>.
- Laitz and Bartlette, *Graduate Review of Tonal Theory* (Oxford University Press, 2009), <https://global.oup.com/ushe/product/graduate-review-of-tonal-theory-9780195376982>.

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