

Music Theory Undergraduate Diagnostic Exam

State law requires that The University of Mississippi accept freshman music theory transfer credits from community colleges. Sophomore music theory credits, however, are not automatically transferred. In order for students from community colleges to receive sophomore music theory credit at The University of Mississippi two requirements must be met:

1. Students must have received a grade of C or higher for sophomore theory at their community college.
2. Students must pass a diagnostic exam for Music Theory III (Mus 205) and Music Theory IV (Mus 206) given by the theory area at The University of Mississippi.

For those students who meet the first requirement and wish to take the diagnostic exam, below is a study guide detailing what is on the exam. An email will be sent stating the day and time of the exam.

Music Theory Undergraduate Diagnostic Exam Study Guide

The exam is comprised of two parts, written and sight singing. Students must pass both parts to receive transfer credits. The textbooks we use for our theory classes are *The Complete Musician* by Steven Laitz (Textbook and Workbook vol. 1) and *Progressive Sight Singing* by Carol Krueger.

Written Part:

The written exam focuses on harmonic score analysis. Below are the materials to review:

- Diatonic Harmonies (Major and Minor) with all inversions
I, ii, iii, IV, V, vi vii⁰
I, ii⁰, III, iv, V, VI, vii⁰
- Chromatic Harmonies with all inversions

Applied or Secondary chords (V/V, V/vi, etc..)
Modal Mixture (C/c, A/a, etc...)
Neapolitan Chord (bII⁶ or N⁶)
Augmented 6th chords (It⁶, Fr⁶, Gr⁶)
Chromatic Mediant chords (III, VI)
- Cadences (PAC, IAC, HC, DC, PC)
- Tonicization and modulation

Sight Singing Part:

The sight singing diagnostic exam tests students on both melody and rhythm. We use moveable Do, Do minor for pitch solfege and the Ta-Ka-Di-Mi system for rhythm solfege, but for this exam students may use any system they wish. Topics covered for the melodic part of the sight singing exam include:

Chromatic alterations to major and minor scales including:

Neapolitan 6th

Augmented 6th

Applied/Secondary Dominants

Semitonal voice-leading

And for the rhythmic part of the exam:

Simple and Compound Meter

Sixteenth notes, eighth notes, triplets

Quintuplets

Sextuplets

Hemiola

If you have any questions please contact Dr. John Latartara, jlatarta@olemiss.edu.