

Aural Skills Placement Test Guidelines

Information for Incoming Freshmen, Transfer Students, and Advanced Standing Tests

Aural Skills Placement

I. Incoming Freshmen

Studies in aural skills begin with either Aural Skills I (MUSI 1111) or Intensive Aural Skills I (MUSI 1112), which are taken during the first semester of the freshman year. Your placement is determined by a required Aural Skills Placement Test, which typically occurs the week before Fall semester classes begin. The test covers interval comparison, rhythmic identification, and pitch comparison. For study materials, please see the end of this document.

Please note that being placed into the intensive section of Aural Skills I will not delay your date of graduation, but will require a greater time commitment and workload than a regular Aural Skills I section to ensure future success.

Freshmen are also invited to continue the Aural Skills Placement Test for Advanced Standing, which occurs immediately after the freshmen placement portion of the exam.

II. Advanced Standing

If you have mastered the content of an aural skills class through high school study, private study, or self-study, you may take the Aural Skills Placement Test to attempt to receive college credit for aural skills courses. The placement exam typically occurs the week before Spring or Fall semester classes begin. The placement exam is divided into various sections that correspond to different aural skills courses. If you receive an **80% or better** on a section of the placement exam, you will receive credit for the corresponding class. The material covered in each aural skills class is given in the table below.

A student may not take the Aural Skills Placement Test if they have already attempted the course unless they dropped the course before the Drop/Add date, which is typically during the first two weeks of the semester.

III. Transfer Students

If you are transferring aural skills courses to Kennesaw State University from your previous institution(s) and wish to apply this credit towards your degree, you are required to take our Aural Skills Placement Test in order to verify your level of competency in the content of those courses (see the table below). The placement exam typically occurs the week before Spring or Fall semester classes begin. The placement exam is divided into various sections that correspond to different aural skills courses. If you receive a **70% or better** on a section of the placement exam, you will receive credit for the corresponding class. The material covered in each aural skills class is given in the table below.

Course	Content
MUSI 1111/1112: Aural Skills I (intensive and regular)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major and minor scales and melodies • Identification of meter, mode, and starting scale degree ($\hat{1}$, $\hat{3}$, or $\hat{5}$) • Solfège and interval identification: all ascending intervals • Rhythms in simple and compound meters • Error detection and correction of single-line melodies • Dictation of major and minor single-line melodies with skips within I and V⁷
MUSI 1112: Aural Skills II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Melodic dictation including leaps of subdominant, dominant seventh, and other diatonic harmonies • Identification of all intervals (ascending, descending, and harmonic) • Two-part dictation (and interval analysis between the two parts) • Error detection of two-part compositions • Melodies having beat subdivisions and syncopation • Harmonic dictation of root-position diatonic harmonies and ii⁶ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Transcribe bass and soprano voices - Analyze the chords with Roman numerals (including inversions)
MUSI 2211: Aural Skills III	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Melodic dictation with seventh chord arpeggiations, embellishing chromaticism, and applied chords • Harmonic dictations including inversions of triads, seventh chords, and applied chords • Error detection and correction of harmonic progressions incorporating applied chords • Triad and seventh chord dictation (including all inversions) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Both in isolation and within a tonal context
MUSI 2212: Aural Skills IV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harmonic and melodic dictations including mixture chords, Neapolitan, and augmented sixth chords • Harmonic dictations having sequences and modulations to closely related keys • Error detection and correction of harmonic progressions containing chromatic chords

Resources to prepare for the Aural Skills Placement Test

We suggest using the following resources to prepare for your exam:

- Web-based (free: good for chord and interval ID, but have little materials for dictation)
 - <http://www.musictheory.net/>
 - <http://www.good-ear.com/>
- CD-based (paid: have basic melodic dictation, as well as chord ID, interval ID, and much more)
 - MacGamut 6
 - Auralia (the Cloud version is used by KSU)

For additional information please contact:

Aural Skills Coordinator

Dr. Jeff Yunek

(320) 224-3463

jyunek@kennesaw.edu