Aural Skills Placement Test Guidelines
Information for All Students

Aural Skills Placement

All music majors will take a progressive Aural Skills Placement Test before the beginning of their first term at KSU. This test ensures that students are put in the proper course according to their skill level. The five-section test, given on Placement Test Day, has the ability to place students in six different ways: Aural Skills I (intensive), Aural Skills I (regular), Aural Skills II, Aural Skills III, Aural Skills IV, or completely pass out of the aural skills sequence. Accordingly, students who demonstrate advanced levels of competency may be placed further along in the Aural Skills sequence. A score of 75% or higher constitutes a passing grade for each course.

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

The Aural Skills Placement Test involves dictation exercises, such as comparing intervals and identifying and notating various elements of short melodies (contour, pitches, durations, and meter). The content covered in each course is shown in the table below:

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<th>Course</th>
<th>Content</th>
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| MUSI 1111: Aural Skills I (intensive and regular) | Major and minor scales and melodies  
Identification of meter, mode, and starting scale degree (I, 3, or 5)  
Solfége and interval identification: all ascending intervals from tonic  
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 | Melodic dictation including leaps of subdominant, dominant seventh, and other diatonic harmonies  
Identification of all intervals (ascending and descending)  
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  
  - Transcribe bass and soprano voices  
  - Analyze the chords with Roman numerals (including inversions) |
| MUSI 2211: Aural Skills III | Melodic dictation with seventh chord arpeggiations, decorative 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)  
  - Both in isolation and within a tonal context |
| MUSI 2212: Aural Skills IV | 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:

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