

Music Theory Placement Test Guidelines

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

I. Incoming Freshmen

Studies in music theory begin with either Music Theory I (MUSI 1121) or Intensive Music Theory I (MUSI 1120), taken during the first semester of your freshman year. Thereafter, all students take Theory II (MUSI 1122).

Freshman Music Theory Placement

All music majors entering Music Theory I in the fall are expected to demonstrate competency in the fundamentals of music theory and notation on an online Freshman Music Theory Placement Test. Test content includes:

- Pitch identification in treble and bass clefs
- Major and minor scales and key signatures
- Interval identification (distance between two pitches)
- Major and minor chord construction
- Basic identification of figured bass and inversion symbols

You will take the **Freshman Music Theory Placement Test** between the dates of May 16 and June 1 to confirm your readiness to take Music Theory I. This test will be available to admitted music students on the Learning Annex (Moodle) in the course **MUSI 0099: Rudiments for Music Majors**. A passing grade on this test is required to pass directly into Music Theory I. Students who do not pass this entrance exam are required to take and pass **Intensive Music Theory I (MUSI 1120)** before being admitted into **Music Theory II (MUSI 1122)**. Students entering the music program in the spring semester instead take a paper test. Please contact Dr. Ben Wadsworth (bwadsw2@kennesaw.edu) for more information if you are entering in the spring.

How to Prepare for the Freshman Music Theory Placement Test

Use the web resources below to gain a thorough understanding of the fundamentals of music:

1. Notation of pitch and rhythm in treble and bass clefs
2. Intervals
3. Scales
4. Key Signatures
5. Chords

Here are two self-contained FREE online resources:

Music Theory Flashcards www.musicards.net

Online Music Reference www.teoria.com

Music Theory.Net <http://www.musictheory.net/exercises>

II. Transfer Students

If you are transferring music theory or aural skills courses to KSU from your previous institution(s) and wish to apply this credit towards your degree, you must take our placement tests in order to verify your level of competency in the content of those courses. The placement tests will be administered **ONLY** on the Placement Test day. Placement tests are similar to the final exams for the courses they are testing.

A grade of 'C' (70%) or higher constitutes a passing grade for a placement test when you have previously taken a college course on that level. If you score below 70% on any exam, you will be

required to retake the course at KSU. Specific content and expectations for theory courses are shown below. More information is available in the KSU course catalog online.

III. Advanced Standing

If you have mastered the content of college courses through high school study, private study, or self-study, you may be awarded credit for theory or aural skills courses through a university-wide procedure known as the Advanced Standing Examination. This procedure allows the student to take a test comparable to the final examination for any university course. Successful completion of the test—80% score or higher for examinations delivered on the School of Music Placement Testing Days in August and January—allows a KSU student to be awarded degree credit for that course without actually taking it.

KSU regulations for Advanced Standing Examinations are listed on the Advanced Standing Examination forms available online from the Registrar’s Office:

<http://registrar.kennesaw.edu/forms.php>

Music Theory Test-out Guidelines: Knowledge Requirement by Semester

Last updated January 2017: Drs. Jeffrey Yunek and Ben Wadsworth

Course	Content
MUSI 1121 and 1120: Music Theory and Intensive Theory I	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • basic elements of pitch and rhythm • construction and analysis of triads and seventh chords • principles of voice leading • part writing with root position triads • construction and analysis of non-chord tones
MUSI 1122: Music Theory II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • part writing with diatonic chords up to 6/4 chords, predominant and dominant sevenths, and iii and vi • construction and analysis of normative harmonic progressions: T-PD-D-T and descending fifths • analysis of tonic expansions, cadences, phrases, and periods
MUSI 2221: Music Theory III	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • secondary chord functions • sequences • Neapolitan chords • modal mixture • modulation techniques using pivot (common) chords and other means • binary and ternary forms
MUSI 2222: Music Theory IV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • augmented sixth chords • enharmonic spellings and enharmonic modulations • expanded elements of harmonic vocabulary such as common-tone chords • late 19th-century tonal practices • introduction to 20th-century techniques

Music Theory Coordinator

Dr. Ben Wadsworth

470-578-4375

bwadsw2@kennesaw.edu