

SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY DIVISION OF MUSIC
ENTERING UNDERGRADUATE EXAMINATIONS IN MUSIC THEORY

ALL entering undergraduate students (except transfer students from 4-year, NASM schools) are REQUIRED to take entrance examinations in written theory and musicianship BEFORE classes begin. The date and time for these examinations is listed in the “Orientation Schedule” published by the Division of Music each year and emailed to students. Students are advised to make appropriate end-of-summer plans to be present and on time for these exams.

STUDENTS MUST BE AVAILABLE FOR THE ENTIRE TESTING PERIOD,
AND THESE EXAMS WILL NOT BE MADE UP.

Since the exams are used for section placement, **ALL STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO TAKE THE EXAMS, WHETHER OR NOT THEY ARE SEEKING COURSE CREDIT BY EXAMINATION.** Students who pass the exams with a 90% or better earn CREDIT in the course. Students who do not pass the exams will be required to enroll in and attend MUTH 1129: Musicianship I and MUTH 1229: Music Theory I.

Entering students who will be taking Theory and Musicianship courses **SHOULD NOT** purchase textbooks for these courses before the first day of class. Different sections of the same course may require different textbooks. Section placements are based on the results of testing that are not generally available until classes begin.

WRITTEN THEORY PROFICIENCIES

Here are some suggested online study/practice resources:

1. **MT = MusicTheory.net** – Excellent for visual learners, but coverage is limited. **DO NOT RELY SOLELY ON THIS SITE.** For instance, alto and tenor clef are not included.
2. **T = Teoria.com** – Also great for visual learners and better overall coverage than MusicTheory.net.
3. **LMT = LearnMusicTheory.net** – Dr. Feezell’s site. Concise, detailed explanations, but few musical examples and some students may need lengthier explanations.

| Unit | Skill | Fluency Standard | Online Readings |
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| 1. NOTATION SYMBOLS | A. Identify pitches in treble, bass, alto, and tenor clefs. | 1 note every 3 seconds | LMT 1.1.1 MT lesson 1 T “Reading Music” |
| | B. Identify the names and relationships for all rhythmic duration symbols for both pitches and rests. | 10 seconds for each question | LMT 1.1.4 MT lessons 2, 4, 5 T “Reading Music” |
| 2. METER AND TIME SIGNATURES | A. Distinguish between simple and compound meters and classify meters as duple, triple, or quadruple. | 1 meter identification every 10 seconds | LMT 1.1.5, 1.1.6 MT lessons 3, 7, 8 T “Reading Music” |
| | B. Add barlines and beaming as needed to make a given series of rhythmic durations (like eighth, quarter, eighth, etc.) fit into a given time signature. | 3 measures within 1 minute and 15 seconds | LMT 1.1.5, 1.1.6 MT lessons 3, 7, 8 T “Reading Music” |
| 3. INTERVALS | A. Identify and write all intervals above and below given notes. | 1 interval every 10 seconds | LMT 1.3.1—1.3.3 MT “Intervals” Unit T “Intervals” |

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| | B. Classify an interval as consonant or dissonant. | 1 classification every 3 seconds | LMT 1.3.1 MT “Intervals” Unit T “Intervals” |
| 4. CHORDS | A. Identify and notate all types of triads. | 1 chord every 10 seconds | LMT 1.4.1—1.4.3 MT “Chords” Unit T “Chords” Unit |
| | B. Identify and notate the five core types of seventh chords. | 1 chord every 10 seconds | LMT 1.4.4 MT “Chords” Unit T “Chords” Unit |
| 5. KEYS & SCALES | A. Write the key signatures for all major and minor keys on bass and treble clef. | 1 key signature every 12 seconds | LMT 1.2.3, 1.2.5 MT “Scales and Key Signatures” Unit |
| | B. Write major and all forms of minor scales using accidentals. | 1 scale every 30 seconds | LMT 1.2.1, 1.2.4 MT “Scales and Key Signatures” Unit |
| 6. FUNDAMENTAL ANALYTICAL SKILLS | A. Identify melodic motives and basic phrase combinations (repeated phrases, varied phrases, simple periods). | | LMT 5.3 MT “Phrases and Cadences” in the “Chord Progressions” Unit |
| | B. Analyze chords using roman numerals and figures (inversion symbols). | | LMT 1.5.2, 1.5.4 MT “Diatonic Chords” Unit T “Harmonic Functions” Unit, first 8 topics only |
| | C. Identify cadence types (authentic, half, plagal, deceptive) in short musical excerpts. | | LMT 5.1, 5.2 MT “Phrases and Cadences” in the “Chord Progressions” Unit T “Phrases, Periods, and Motives” section under the “Musical Forms” Unit |

MUSICIANSHIP PROFICIENCIES

A: LISTENING PROFICIENCIES

1. Identify whether a scale is major or minor.
2. Identify whether a short melody is in the major or minor mode.
3. Identify errors in a short rhythmic passage
4. Identify and notate in treble and bass clefs all simple intervals.
5. Identify all root-position triad types.
6. Notate a short diatonic melody

7. Notate bass/soprano lines and chord symbols of a short diatonic harmonic progression using tonic, dominant, supertonic, and subdominant chords.

B: SINGING PROFICIENCIES

1. Sing any interval up or down from a given note.
2. Sing in arpeggiated form all root-position triad types.
3. Sing major and all forms of minor scales.
4. Sight-sing a melody that includes leaps in the tonic and/or dominant triad.
5. Sing or clap a compound meter rhythmic example.

C: KEYBOARD PROFICIENCIES

1. Play any written note in treble and bass clefs
2. Play major and minor scales in one octave starting on any note.
3. Play all simple intervals above or below any note.
4. Play all triad types in root position, one hand, using any note as root.
5. Play and transpose a short melody, one hand.

POLICIES FOR ASSIGNING SECTIONS

The procedure for assigning sections is as follows:

- Students who **pass both** the theory exams and the listening/keyboard/singing exams are not required to take MUTH 1229 nor MUTH 1129 in the fall. They will enroll in the advanced placement sections of 1130/1230 in the fall instead.
- Students who **pass** the theory exams with a score of 90% but **DO NOT pass** the listening/keyboard/singing exams are not required to take MUTH 1229 (Theory I) but ARE required to enroll in and attend MUTH 1129 (Musicianship I). They will enroll in the corresponding section number of MUTH 1230 (Theory II) the following spring. They are not eligible for the advanced placement section.
- All other students (i.e., those who **do not pass** written theory) are assigned to MUTH 1229 (Theory 1) and MUTH 1129 (Musicianship 1).
- Musicianship sections are assigned based on listening (dictation) exam scores and singing/keyboard scores. Only students who **pass** the written theory exams are allowed to take the singing/keyboard entrance exams; all other students are ranked solely based on the listening (dictation) exam.

POLICIES REGARDING RETAKES

- Students who miss the official testing time during the orientation week announced by the Division of Music will NOT be allowed to take any exams prior to the start of classes, nor will they be eligible to earn course credit prior to the start of the semester. Instead, they are required to enroll in assigned sections of MUTH 1129 and MUTH 1229.
- There are no retakes for the listening, keyboard, and singing entrance exams. These are used solely for consideration of granting course credit and for section placement.
- Students who do not pass the entrance exam in August are required to enroll in and attend MUTH 1229 (Music Theory I), a CREDIT/NO CREDIT course, with credit determined solely by passing the exams.
- Students who do not pass the MUTH 1229 course are allowed to retake the entrance examinations the following August at the time announced in the official Division of Music orientation schedule. If they pass the entrance examination at that time, the official grade for MUTH 1229 will be changed to “CREDIT” on the transcript. Otherwise, students will be required to enroll in and attend MUTH 1229 a second time, retaking the exam according to the announced schedule for the semester.
- Students who receive a grade of “NO CREDIT” on their second enrollment in a course in the Division of Music are not allowed to retake the course a third time, and the entrance examinations in written theory will not be administered to such students.