

GRADUATE MUSIC THEORY PLACEMENT EXAM (Fall, 2016)

The Graduate Music Theory Placement Exam is required for all incoming graduate students in music (except for Music Therapy majors). The exam is offered in a fully computerized format. The four sections of the exam cover topics from the first three semesters of undergraduate theory: (1) realization of figured bass, (2) identification of partwriting errors (see list on next page), (3) the proper identification and resolution of chromatic harmonies (secondary dominant and leading tone chords, modal mixture, Neapolitan and augmented sixths), and (4) form and analysis (formal type, phrase structure, motivic process, cadence identification, chromatic chord identification). The exam does NOT cover ear training, sight singing, or post-tonal music. Any mainstream undergraduate theory textbook can be used to review for this exam.

1. **Location:** The exam will be administered at the Assessment and Testing Facility, University Center, Building C, 296 Champions Way (in the stadium complex). To see the location on a university map, please visit this link: <http://campus.map.fsu.edu/index.aspx?UCC#campusmap>. You will take the exam at a computer terminal in a proctored room in the Testing Facility.
2. **Time:** You may take the exam on **Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday, August 22nd, 23rd, or 24th**; seating for the exam begins at 8:20 AM and continues until 2:20 PM (but not later than 2:20). In other words, you may BEGIN the exam any time between 8:30 AM and 2:30 PM. Although the test is designed for completion in 90 minutes, you may have a maximum of **two hours** to complete it; after the two-hour limit is reached, the computer will automatically submit your answers. The test will be administered via Blackboard on terminals that are LOCKED to the Blackboard website; access to any other websites during the exam is impossible.
3. **Registration:** During your initial check-in on Monday morning, August 22nd, you will be given the opportunity to sign up for an administration. (You do NOT need to do this online, as the Testing Center Web site stipulates.) YOUR CHOSEN DATE CANNOT BE CHANGED. Only forty people can report to the Testing Facility per day, so be thinking about your first and second choices for a day when you have a two-hour time slot free between 8:30 AM and 4:30 PM on Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday. **You will need to know your FSUID username on Monday morning**, and have your new FSUCard with you when you report to the Testing Center.
4. **Materials:** You are only allowed to take a **pencil** and a blank sheet of **staff paper** with you into the examination room. This staff paper can be used for spelling chords, partwriting resolutions, and so forth. The Testing Facility will NOT supply any staff paper—please bring it with you! Lockers are available for the storing of other personal belongings during the examination period. (At the end of the exam, you will be asked to surrender your staff paper to the exam proctor.)
5. **Results:** As soon as you complete your exam, you will be given your score, and you will know immediately if you have passed the exam and can sign up for a theory course. You can only take the exam *one time* during the week of August 22nd. **A PASSING score is 55 out of 88 points; no exceptions.** If you have not passed, you should either take MUT5051 (the Graduate Theory Survey course, offered in both the fall and spring semesters) or review on your own and try the exam for a second time in early January. You may NOT register for a theory course until you have passed either the exam or the review course. Please do not jeopardize your graduation by postponing the fulfillment of this requirement!

POSSIBLE ERRORS IN FOUR-VOICE WRITING

- (A) Parallel 5ths
- (B) Parallel 8ves
- (C) Missing Root
- (D) Missing Third
- (E) Retrogression or Nonfunctional Chord Progression
- (F) Unresolved Dissonance (seventh, etc.)
- (G) Doubled Dissonance
- (H) Direct 5th (Hidden 5th)
- (I) Direct 8ve (Hidden 8ve)
- (J) Improperly Resolved Leading Tone
- (K) Doubled Leading Tone
- (L) Unraised Scale Degree 7 in Minor
- (M) Incomplete Inverted Chord
- (N) Voice Crossing
- (O) Voice Overlap
- (P) Unprepared Dissonance
- (Q) Bad Melodic Interval (e.g., A4th or +4th)
- (R) Root Position Diminished Triad
- (S) Voice Out of Range
- (T) Bad Spacing
- (U) No Error