

MSMU MUSIC PLACEMENT EXAMS

All incoming students are required to complete music placement exams as part of the music application process. The purpose of the exam is to evaluate your music theory knowledge. Our music majors and minors come from many different backgrounds of music theory and many of our students have never had any theory instruction. That is OK! By taking this exam, we will be better able to help you succeed when you arrive on campus.

Results

After you have taken this exam, your results will determine whether or not you are prepared to register for MUSI 1/101A & B: Harmony I and Solfege I. Both classes are taken during the Fall semester. You will receive your results when you visit with the Music Department Chair for advising.

Exam Dates

Music Theory Placement Exam (50 minutes)

Ear Training Placement Exam (30 minutes)

All in Pacific Standard Time (PST)

December 4, Friday: 9am – 12pm

December 5, Saturday: 9am – 12pm

December 11, Friday: 9am – 12pm

January 23, Saturday: 12pm – 3pm

January 29, Friday: 9am – 12pm

February 20, Saturday: 12pm – 3pm

After you have submitted your Music Application, please sign up for the theory placement exams [here: https://forms.gle/6f8PYSggQA6EPWb39](https://forms.gle/6f8PYSggQA6EPWb39)

Music Theory Placement Exam

This is a 50-minute exam administered online. No additional materials may be used during this exam.

The theory exam includes:

Treble & Bass Clef notation

Simple and Compound Meters

Accidentals (Sharp, Flat, Natural signs)

Note Value Equivalencies (and how Dotted Values work)

Scales: Major, Minor (Natural, Harmonic & Melodic), Chromatic, Modes

Key Signatures for Major & Minor Keys

Intervals: Numbers and Qualities for Simple and Compound Intervals (analyzing and notating)

Triads: Major, Minor, Augmented, Diminished

Ear Training Placement Exam

The Ear Training Placement exam is a 30-min in-person exam held via Zoom.

The Music Departments' Ear Training covers simple rhythm dictation; interval recognition, and simple melodic dictation.

Simple rhythm dictation (quarter, eighth, sixteenth note and syncopation)
Interval recognition within an octave
Simple melodic dictation (no chromaticism)

If you have any questions about the Ear Training Exam please contact Dr. Fassnacht
tfassnacht@msmu.edu

AP Music Theory Credit

Credit may be awarded for a score of 4 or above on the AP Music Theory exam for our Music Fundamentals course at the University of Montana. However, you are still required to take the placement exam to demonstrate your proficiency of this content.

RESOURCES TO HELP YOU PREPARE

There are many resources for studying music fundamentals. We highly recommend understanding the following elements:

Music notation
Clefs
Major scales
Minor scales
Key signatures
Meter/Time signatures
Triads
Intervals

Here are a few FREE resources online for practicing:

<http://www.teoria.com/>
<http://www.musictheory.net/>
<http://www.guitarland.com/Music10/MusFund/toc.htm>